

# **MOVE CONTRAVENES AGENDA OF GOVERNMENT, SAYS AL-MEDLEJ MPs-elect slam CSC 'merger' decision**



Employees of the Employment Monitoring Department are seen during a sit-in outside the Civil Service Commission building on Thursday demanding for cancellation of the decision to merge the Employment Monitoring Department with the Legal Affairs Department.

#### **Opinion**

Your Highness PM... 'Where there's a will, there's a way'

**By Ahmed Al-Jarallah** Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times IT was expected that His Highness Kuwaiti envoy assures pilgrims

## \$11.1bn more for Syria: UN

BRUSSELS, June 15, (AP): Donor nations from across the globe were scrambling Thursday to find billions of dollars to extend their aid commitment to millions of Syrians who have been battered by hunger, poverty, civil war and a massive earthquake.

Call to quiz officials

**By Saeed Mahmoud Saleh** Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, June 15: The newly-elected MPs have reacted sharply to the decision of the Civil Service Commission (CSC) to merge the Employment Monitoring Department with the Legal Affairs Department.

MPs-elect Osama Al-Shaeen, Shuaib Shaaban, Hamad Al-Medlej, Muhammad Al-Hewaila, Hamdan Al-Azmi and Badr Sayyar Al-Shemmari expressed their objection to the decision.

Al-Shemmari argued that the decision is unacceptable, stressing the Employment Monitoring Department is supposed to be affiliated with the Bureau of Financial Controllers (BFC) to strengthen oversight and monitoring. Al-Medlej called for questioning the senior officials who

issued the decision, because it contravenes the agenda of the government. He pointed out that the previous government submitted a proposal to put the Employment Monitoring Department under BFC.

He also urged HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah to adhere to the program of his government, which includes intensifying efforts to combat corruption.

Al-Azmi said the caretaker government has been taking many destructive decisions; such as the abovementioned decision and the referral of senior pilots for retirement. He stressed the need for HH the Prime Minister to interfere in order to stop such steps.

Al-Hewaila underscored the need to cancel the decision, which he considers suspicious as it was issued at a critical time. He confirmed support for the program of the government, because it is keen on combating corruption. He added the Employment Monitoring Department is one of the tools for implementing the program of the government.

Shaaban believes that administrative corruption is one of the major obstacles to national progress and development. He then called for cancellation of the decision in question in order to

#### **Continued on Page 4**

UNSC tackles 'human fraternity'

# Pope, imam call for peace ahead of vote

UNITED NATIONS, June 15, (AP): Pope Francis and a leading Sunni imam made calls for peace as the U.N. Security Council (UNSC) met Wednesday to discuss the importance of "human fratemity" and academent to be been do that him the second state fraternity" and condemn the hatreds that kindle conflicts.

The pope, who is in hospital recovering from abdominal surgery, sent a statement saying that a third world war is being fought "piecemeal" and with the potentially catastrophic effects of nuclear weapons "the time has come to say an emphatic 'no' to war.'

Sheikh Ahmed al-Tayeb, the grand imam of Al-Azhar, the 1,000-year-old seat of Sunni learning in Cairo, said in a virtual briefing that human fraternity was the key to global peace, a point he and the pope had made in a joint document released in 2019. The United Arab Emirates chose the importance of human fraternity in bringing peace as a centerpiece of its presidency

Sheikh Ahmad Al-Nawaf would be reap pointed as the Prime Minister once again, based on his past experience. What he presented in the absence of the National Assembly indicates a high level of supervision by the leadership over the work of the government, and the possibility to solve problems.

However, without cooperation between the two authorities - the legislative and the executive - which is necessary, it would mean returning to square one. This is what no one in the country needs.

There is no doubt that there are ministers who played a major role in some of the achievements that need to be realized. For this reason, it is expected that they will return to their positions.

There are some who have proven their inability to carry out their responsibilities. There are also those who announced their reluctance to take up the position, and requested to appoint others who perhaps are highly qualified. This is a test of whether it would be a success or failure.

Nevertheless, we are yet to benefit from past experiences, build on positive factors, and be aware of mistakes in order to avoid them. Kuwait is no longer able to afford the luxury of experiments. Today it is more in need of working a way out of its crises.

It is a known fact that there are many problems awaiting the new Cabinet. His Highness the Prime Minister is well aware of the fact that the opportunity is available in light of the broad parliamentary consensus on the general lines, and the hope to start putting logical solutions into practice, especially those that have been pending for years.

In this regard, what is required is a ministerial team with the capability to work and achieve, and to take into account the experiences of other countries that have managed to get rid of their problems with skill, and relied on two things - the first is to strive to turn problems into opportunities, and the second is to benefit from the available capabilities, devote itself to investing money in stimulating its economy and enhancing the financial cycle, and get out of the tunnel of deficit.

In all of this, it is necessary to be convinced that there is no problem without a solution. Any of it, irrespective of whether or not it is based on personal interests or the influence of a deep state or the opinion of opportunists, will be a disaster for the people. This specifically applies to the housing file that we talked about so much.

We have said over and over again that

**Continued on Page 4** Email: ahmed@aljarallah.com Follow me on:



All Hajj services ready

RIYADH, June 15, (Agencies): Kuwaiti Ambassador to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Sheikh Sabah Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah on Wednesday said all services and preparations have been arranged for the Hajj pilgrims heading from Kuwait.

The Kuwaiti Ambassador also added the embassy is very ardent on making sure the pilgrims have all the amenities needed to make their hajj experience more fitting, as propped by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

While also mentioning the Foreign Ministry represented by Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah is also on alert and continues communications to have their diplomatic mission prepared for the Hajj season.

All Kuwaiti's in Saudi Arabia should not get hesitant to contact the Embassy or consulate in Jeddah for emergencies, mentioned Sheikh Sabah Nasser.

He also presented gratitude and thanks to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud and Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman Al-Saud for what their nation has prepared for the Hajj season.

The Kuwaiti Consul General of the OIC in Jeddah, Mohammad Al-Mutairi assured the Kuwaiti Consulate in Jeddah are highly prepared for this year's season.

In his statement to KUNA, Al-Mutairi mentioned the efforts put forth by all committees devising the Hajj mission, headed by the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs have prepared all necessary measures and facilities needed for the pilgrims, with an additional service commission available 24-hour.

The consulate has also set-up an office in Makkah and another at the King Abdulaziz International Airport to help facilitate a post for those facing any difficulties during their Hajj ceremony coinciding with the consulates services.

Al-Mutairi also mentioned the need for Pilgrims to follow Local laws and guidelines issued by the Kingdom and to only adhere to the Hajj rituals during their travel.

The Consulate service number for all emergencies that pilgrims my face during the Hajj season is 00966535571133.

Meanwhile, the Superintendent of the Affairs of the Supreme Committee for Hajj and Umrah, Muhammad Shabab Al-Saeedi, announced the closure of the registration platform for bedoun pilgrims yesterday, saying a total of 4,400 pilgrims have registered to perform the Hajj, reports Al-Qabas daily.

Al-Saeedi said the names of those who will be granted visas to perform the pilgrimage is being sorted out and that priority will be given for the elderly and their companions, and those who have not previously performed Hajj

He added text messages are being sent to those who are accepted and whoever receives the acceptance message must complete the procedures with the Kuwaiti Hajj caravans, explaining that only 1,000 bedoun pilgrims will be accepted, and they must complete the procedures within 48 hours.

Al-Saeedi revealed that the Kuwaiti Hajj caravans have begun issuing permits for pilgrims after linking the permit to all services provided through the Saudi Path Program.

Earlier, The Director of the Hajj and Umrah Department at the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, Sattam Al-Muzayen, said until yesterday 4,000 bedoun had registered through the Ministry of Awqaf's website to perform Hajj out of whom only 1,000 will be issued visas, reports Al-Jarida daily.



Huda Zaqqout reads from a large copy of the Muslim holy book at her home a few weeks before she is slated to travel to Makkah for the Muslim pilgrimage in Gaza City on May 31, 2023. (AP)

Amid pressing needs across the globe from Ukraine to Sudan, the annual donor conference

Assad

hosted by the European Union in Brussels has even more political overtones as Svrian President Bashar is slowly carving his way back from being an international pariah to the regional

of the council this month. After the appeals by the pope and grand imam and council speeches, members adopted a resolution recognizing that hate speech, racism, xenophobia, intolerance, gender discrimination and acts of extremism "can contribute to driving the outbreak, escalation and recurrence of conflict.' The resolution, co-sponsored by the UAE and the United

Kingdom, urges all countries and organizations to condemn these acts and work to prevent them. It was adopted unanimously even though some of the council's 15 members have been accused of some of the same actions they are condemning.

UAE Ambassador Lana Nusseibeh told The Associated Press after the vote that it was a "landmark" resolution that for the first time brings together previous council resolutions addressing hate speech, racism, incitement and extremism in different ways. She said it promotes tolerance, equality, coexistence and dialogue.

Pope Francis lamented that the world is going backward from the dream when the United Nations was founded in 1945 on the ashes of two world wars that countries would move toward a more stable peace and "become at last a family of nations."

Instead, he said, the world is seeing "the rise of myopic, extremist, resentful and aggressive nationalisms that have kindled conflicts which are not only anachronistic and outdated but even more violent."



RIYADH: Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia Mohammad bin Salman is set to meet with French President Emmanuel Macron tomorrow, Friday, while on official visit to the capital, Paris.

Saudi Press Agency (SPA) mentioned the Bin Salman is heading Saudi's delegation to participate in New Global Financial Pact Summit slated to take place on the 22nd and 23rd of this month. The Crown Prince will also be taking part in official reception

celebrating Riyadh running to host 2030 Expo on June 19. As per the directives of King Salman bin Abdulaziz, the

Crown Prince headed to the French capitol yesterday. (KUNA)

BAGHDAD: Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammad Al-Sudani voiced Wednesday keenness on having American corporations in the country, adding that Iraq is currently in state of security and political and social stability, qualifying it to become an attractive environment for foreign investments.

This came when Al-Sudani received delegation of US-Iraq business council headed by vice president of Middle East Affairs at the US Chamber of Commerce, Steve Lutes. (KUNA)

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NEW YORK: A US Army soldier duped into thinking he was communicating online with a terrorist when it was really an FBI employee pleaded guilty Wednesday to seeking to tell terrorists how to ambush US soldiers in the Middle East.

Cole Bridges, 22, entered pleas in Manhattan federal court to trying to provide material support to terrorists and trying to murder US military service members. He could face up to 20 years in prison on each of the two charges at a Nov 2 sentencing. (AP)

WASHINGTON: The United States expressed concerns Wednesday over wasting more time by the Lebanese parliament to elect a president.

US State Department Spokesperson Matthew Miller said in a briefing he do not want to comment on any future actions they may or may not take, but "we welcome the vote, but are concerned that members of Parliament left the chamber to prevent further rounds of voting to deny a quorum." (KUNA)

Borrell

mainstream. Finding hard cash,

"My appeal is simple: Help us help the Syrian people. We are

asking for \$11.1 billion, our larg-

est appeal worldwide," U.N. Sec-

retary-General Antonio Guterres said. "We have no time to spare."

Funding from the conference

will help provide aid to Syrians

in the war-torn country and to

some 5.7 million Syrian refugees

living in neighboring countries, particularly Turkey, Lebanon

But for nations hit by eco-

nomic difficulties, a surge in in-

flation that has hurt the poor in

even the wealthiest nations and

the seemingly hopeless situation

that drags on in Syria's 13-year

conflict, money is increasingly

funding crisis, there would need to

be drastic aid cuts for the 5.5 mil-

lion people in Syria who have been

"Our cash assistance will run

out for two and a half million

Syrians next month alone," Gu-

terres said, calling it "priority

However, Josep Borrell, for-

eign policy chief of the 27-nation

EU, insisted that the bloc would

not change its policies toward

Assad, including maintaining

sanctions against his regime. "We are not on the same line as

the Arab League. That's clear,"

Borrell said. He added, however,

that he would be interested in

what the league could achieve

The conference comes after a

deadly 7.8 magnitude earthquake

rocked large swaths of Syria in February, further compounding

its misery. The World Bank esti-

mated over \$5 billion in damage

s as the quake destroyed homes

and hospitals and further crippled

Syria's poor power and water in-

with its new position.

frastructure.

receiving food assistance.

Guterres said that because of the

though, remains key.

and Jordan.

hard to come by.

number one.

#### **Prayer Timings** Fajr ...... 03:13 Asr ..... 15:22 Maghrib .. 18:49 Sunrise .. 04:48 Zohr ..... 11:48 Isha ...... 20:21



Expected weather for the next 24 hours:

By Day: Hot with light to moderate freshening at times northwesterly wind with speeds of 15-45 km/h with a chance for rising dust over open areas.

#### By Night: Rather hot with Abdaly light to moderate northwest-Jahra Salmiyah erly wind with Ahmadi km/h. Nuwaisib Station Wafra Kuwait City Kuwait Airpor

Weather

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

#### Ahmadi Governorate potential target of hackers

# Personal data of Kuwaitis, expats for sale online for as low as KD 50

KUWAIT CITY, June 15: Do not be surprised if an unknown person suddenly calls you and tells you private information about yourself such as your name, your marital status, the number of children you have, the place you work, and so on. The data of citizens and residents in the country has become a commodity offered for sale at the lowest prices on social media, which is being exploited by international gangs for extortion or siphoning of bank accounts, reports Al-Qabas daily.

In this context, the daily monitored a group of accounts through communication sites such as Facebook, Twitter and WhatsApp, which offer to sell a large amount of information and private data in exchange for KD 50. Some of the secret

methods used by individuals and gangs to access personal phone numbers of citizens or residents in Kuwait using local numbers, were revealed. It was found that the largest percentage of these gangs operate in Arab or Asian countries.

Dr. Zaman

One of the of-

ficials in those groups, who resides in an Arab country, revealed that the data available to him was originally leaked from the Facebook application, especially in Kuwait, and it contains 4.5 million phone numbers of citizens and residents.

He said, "This data can be filtered using Excel or a special program, such that the phone numbers are divided according to the job, address, account names on Twitter and Facebook, email address, and the marital status of the person.'

He admitted that the aim behind selling this data was to provide marketing companies with it to target these people, and to carry out marketing campaigns based on specialization.

The official revealed a surprising fact, which is the data of Kuwait residents is currently discounted by up to 70 percent.

However, the most dangerous aspect in the issue of data leakage is the announcement by some pages specialized in data provision via Facebook about the availability of Kuwaiti phone numbers, which can be used to activate WhatsApp or Telegram, and thus making it possible to communicate with their owners inside Kuwait. This is what is actually happening now whereby citizens and residents receive frequent fake calls with the aim of stealing from their bank accounts.

One of the networks selling local numbers abroad was contacted in order to activate them in the applications. The person in charge said the volume of demand for them is high, and that the value of one number is 70 fils only.

Meanwhile, other accounts on Face-

in a number of files, whereby each file contained the names of people according to professions and sectors such as oil or banking. There were a total of 46 thousand phone numbers in each file within the Excel software. Another file was also present with the numbers of major companies and their employees.

For KD 49, you can buy 4.5 million Kuwaiti phone numbers. For 70 fils, you can activate a Kuwaiti "WhatsApp" number abroad. For KD 41,000 you get numbers for important personalities and companies.

Head of the Kuwait Society for Information Security Dr. Safaa Zaman stressed the need to take a number of measures to stop data leakage, and warned citizens and residents against interacting with fake communications.

In a press statement, Dr. Zaman called for "amending legislation by adding articles criminalizing data leakage in any form, and obligating various state institutions to use data and privacy protection methods and programs such as encryption, tracking programs and other programs that limit data leakage, as well as the use of artificial intelligence to carry out the process of monitoring the systems and warning in the event of suspicions of infiltration or illegal entry into the systems (IDS: Intrusion Detection System).

She highlighted the importance of conducting security tests on all government applications, such as evaluating security loopholes and hack testing, before using them, due to the data contained in these applications and systems, and the frequent use of security analysis and security testing techniques to identify weaknesses and backdoor outlets in all electronic systems used in all state institutions. She insisted on the need to conduct investigations and periodic analyzes of cyber attacks and benefit from the results to strengthen the electronic systems of state agencies.

Dr. Zaman affirmed the importance of ensuring the availability of risk management systems (Disaster Recovery) in various state institutions, the availability of appropriate security and privacy policies for various state institutions, and commitment to apply them, hold violators accountable, and apply Kuwaitization in sensitive sectors that deal with cybersecurity and data analysis in all state institutions.

She called for a reformulation of contracts with companies that deal with the various sectors of the state, so that a clause related to the intellectual rights of data is added.

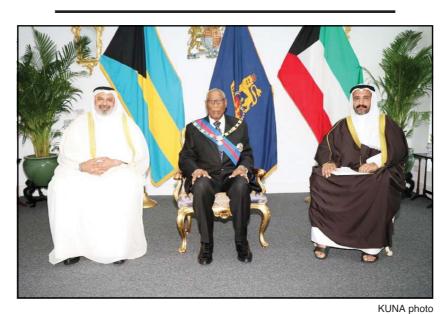
#### Forbidden

Dr. Zaman explained that it is forbidden to store it outside the institution or to specify its locations so that it does not go outside the borders of the state, in addition to obliging the contractors to have the intellectual rights of the systems and their codes.

She highlighted the need to spread security awareness among the various seg-

# **'Over KD 4b spent on travel'**

Expat remittances witness decline



Ambassador Tariq Al-Bannai with the Governor General of the Bahamas and Counselor Abdulaziz Ammash.

#### Al-Bannai non-resident Bahamas envoy

Kuwait's Permanent Representative to the UN headquarters in New York Ambassador Tareq Al-Bannai presented his credentials to the Bahamas as the non-resident Ambassador of his country to the Island nation, said a statement late Wednesday.

A statement by the Kuwaiti mission to the UN indicated that Al-Bannai presented his credentials to the Governor-General Sir Cornelius Smith during a ceremony

in the capital of the Bahamas Nassau. Al-Bannai conveyed greetings from the leadership of Kuwait to the Bahamas's Governor-General, lauding during the occasion, the strong ties be-tween Kuwait and the Bahamas.

Al-Bannai also noted that Kuwait was one of the first Arab countries to form a diplomatic relation with the Island nation, reflecting the special nature of ties. (KUNA)

#### **Co-ops press Kuwaitization**

### 150 citizens to replace residents

KUWAIT CITY, June 15: As part of the ongoing measures to accelerate the Kuwaitization plan in cooperative societies, the concerned authorities are in the process of discussing a mechanism for overcoming obstacles that were recently identified by the Demographics Amendment Committee, reports Al-Qabas daily. The same sources said about 150 citizens

will be appointed in supervisory positions to replace foreigners in cooperative socie-

The sources told the daily that during the meeting, the officials of the two institutions discussed "the extent to which licenses can be transferred in the names of investors permanently from the main file of cooperative societies," as the Ministry of Social Affairs continues to determine the proportions of employment within the coops to keep in check the expenses.

The sources added, the names of workers in the invested shops are currently being vially sin are registered in the files of cooperative societies and unions, and the ministry in cooperation with PAM is developing action plans to solve problems related to employment to arrange their conditions and address their problems within 3 months from the date of issuance of the decision to form the demographics committee.

KUWAIT CITY, June 15: Spending on travel in Kuwait during the year 2022 had witnessed a huge jump by 69.5 percent, bringing the total spending in this regard to more than KD 4 billion, compared to KD 2.36 billion in 2021 as per the preliminary data issued by the Central Bank of Kuwait, reports Al-Anba daily.

This big boom in spending comes after the Kuwait International Airport was fully opened to travelers, and the return of summer flights, more than two years after the closure of the airport and the tightening of travel procedures to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

The amount spent by citizens for travel during the past year is considered the highest since the COVID-19 outbreak. The total spending during the first quarter of last year amounted to KD 1.13 billion, KD 835.8 million in the second quarter, KD 1.1 billion in the third quarter, and KD 935 million in the fourth quarter.

Also, there was an increase in the rate of spending by tourists inside Kuwait, as their total spending amounted to KD 333 million in 2022.

Meanwhile, the Central Bank of Kuwait's data revealed that remittances of expatriates during the past year amounted to KD 5.4 billion, declining by 2.17 percent compared to the total remittances of KD 5.5 billion in 2021.

Expatriate remittances in the first quarter of 2022 recorded a value of KD 1.47 billion, KD 1.49 billion in the second quarter, KD 1.26 billion in the third quarter, and KD 1.1 billion in the fourth quarter of 2022.

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Nod to PAAAFR budget: Director-General of the Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources (PAAAFR) Eng. Meshal Al-Quraifa announced the Ministry of Finance's approval to increase PAAAFR's budget from KD eight million to KD ten million, reports Al-Qabas daily.

On the sidelines of an inspection tour he carried out last month in Wafra farms, during which he met a number of farmers and listened to their demands and was reassured about the agricultural crops, he affirmed that the farmers' dues will be paid in full as soon as the budget is approved.

Eng. Al-Quraifa promised them that the agricultural calendar will be implemented soon to control the seasonal cultivation process, diversity in varieties and their continuity, and to ensure high-quality products.

He stressed that the application of the agricultural calendar would determine the quantities of local production and the balance between production and import, and thus stop the import of some products at times of peak national production, which contributes to enhancing food security and implementing the directives of the wise leadership. Eng. Al-Quraifa revealed that there are three marketing out-

lets for state-owned farmers, which are in Jahra, Andalus, and Fahad Al-Ahmad, adding that the authority has provided stores for them in Ardiva.

He called for providing an appropriate environment for marketing the local product and offloading it in the outlets instead

book announced the sale of Kuwaitis' data for Facebook users who registered until October for an amount not exceeding 50 fils. The data includes the person's name, phone number and account link.

Data brokers own more sensitive files with the names of individuals, companies, personal data, and phone numbers. They are provided to customers after obtaining the amount transferred via Paypal, Wise Transfer or bank transfer.

By spending only KD 50, the daily obtained an integrated file of the leaked local data, which includes information of about 4.5 million phone numbers, their owners and links to their Facebook accounts. It also included another section for sorting the data according to the residential areas of the owners of the phone numbers. There were a total of 27 thousand files with data about citizens living in different areas such as Abu Al-Hassaniya, Abu Halifa, Ahmadi, Raqqa, Sabahiya, Dhahr, Adan, Egaila, Fahaheel, and even Hadiya.

In the third file, the data was distributed

ments of society, assign an authority to receive complaints in this field and deal with them confidentially, hold the defaulters and fraudsters accountable, and sign international agreements with other countries and major companies for data protection and confidentiality such as the European General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) by focusing on the protection of persons in relation to the processing of personal data and the rules regarding the free movement of personal data.

Dr. Zaman said sensitive data must be stored in places that are not connected to the Internet, especially in the military and oil sectors, to be supervised and followed up by citizens, and to limit the use of public and commercial applications (such as: WhatsApp) to complete the tasks of state institutions or transfer data or official letters.

She stressed the need to use local applications and replace the commercial applications in circulation with them, especially with regard to social networking applications.

#### Kuwait backs UN efforts

# **Bid to curtail climate change**

State of Kuwait reaffirmed support to the UN-led efforts to address the climate crisis which "a clear and direct adverse impact on international peace and security.'

In his address to the UN Security Council Open Debate on Climate and Security, Counsellor Faisal Al-Enezi, Kuwait's Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN, highlighted the linkage between regional stability and climate

"Since the beginning of the 1970s, the world has witnessed more than 11,000 climate crises, mostly in countries that are underdeveloped

economically or infrastructure-wise.

"This has claimed the lives of millions, injured tens of millions and displaced countless," he recalled. Noting the direct

and indirect impact of climate change on small island de-

veloping States, he said that their economic development slows down and they sustain major development losses.

Al-Enezi

"Climate events have impeded the development of countries around the world, including unprecedented cyclones in South-East Asia and South-East Africa.

"In recent history, Europe has experienced destructive floods and drought has affected the livelihood of people in the

NEW YORK, June 15, (KUNA): The Horn of Africa," Counsellor El-Enezi pointed out.

Stressing the need to ensure adaptation to help countries in need alleviate the impact of climate change, he spotlighted regional initiatives, especially the Middle East Green Initiative launched by Saudi Arabia.

Detailing numerous infrastructure projects implemented by the Kuwaiti gov-ernment, Counsellor El-Enezi said, "The processes of oil extraction in Kuwait are the lowest-carbon emitting processes in the world."

He reiterated Kuwait's commitment to ensuring carbon neutrality in the energy sector by 2050 and in all sectors by 2060.

Dealing with the political and security challenges in the Middle East and the water scarcity in the Arab region, he urged scaling up cooperation and the countries of the region and support from the international community to address these challenges.

He cited a recent report by the UN Environment Program (UNEP) as saying that 13 out of the world's 19 countries most-vulnerable to water insecurity are located in the Arab region.

Since 2018, the Climate Security Mechanism - a joint initiative between the UNEP and the UN Development Program (UNDP), has provided multidisciplinary support to Member States, regional organizations and UN entities to better understand the linkages between climate, peace and security.

The sources explained the team tasked with appointing Kuwaitis in senior and supervisory positions s in cooperative societies held a meeting recently, in the presence of representatives of the Ministry of Social Affairs, the Public Authority for Manpower and other concerned parties to complete some of the procedures in this regard.

**Other Voices** 

# Hijab, auto authentication

#### **By Ahmad alsarraf**

The United Arab Emirates UAE has enforced the online vehicle selling machinery without the need of the seller and buyer to come in person to the office. All needed of both parties is to dial a specific telephone number and follow the instructions to complete the

transaction after verifying the identity of both of them before the relevant official through WhatsApp. Soon, the au-

thenticator will be a robot. The entire transaction is accomplished through the com-

puter screen, the

price will be transferred from the buyer to the seller and the vehicle's book will be issued while both parties are in their own offices or homes

As for the system of verifying identity, whether the fingerprint or the eye, Dubai has implemented it for decades, and we wrote about it, and there was, during its implementation, no waiting in queues, but "because we are backward we do not master such methods, and this is a foregone conclusion!

In 1990, when I was in Dubai, I received a shipment of special blades for cutting meat, coming by air from America. The entire process, until the package was put in the back of the trunk of the car took no more than one hour; but today in Kuwait after 33 years similar shipments take more than two to three days to clear!

A friend of mine went to Dubai representing a major company to accomplish the real estate sale transaction. The chairman of the company was supposed to arrive a few days later to sign the contract.

My friend was shocked when the transaction was accomplished so early and the Emirati worker told him that the chairman can come later to sign the document. My friend apologized pointing out that the chairman was in Kuwait and he would come on the following day. The official smiled and said there was no need for the chairman to come. All was needed is to go to the Justice automation office where a video call was made to verify the identity of the chairman

and issue authorization to my friend to sign on his behalf. The price was paid and transmitted while both parties are in their homelands and they did not need to move to Dubai. It may seem that such procedure is against the touristic and economic purposes for Dubai as it would be more beneficial to host the parties who will spend time in the hotels and spend money there.

Nevertheless, the UAE sacrificed some financial benefits for upholding its reputation and adopting the most advanced procedures.

In Kuwait, an elementary school organized a festival to honor the girls who accepted to wear the hijab. The festival was recorded and published on the social media. The rest of students who did not wear the hijab looked embarrassed and suffered stress for unjustified reasons. The event passed without objections or even inquiries about its target or the institution backing it. Such queries are part of freedom of speech concerning the opinion of parents in making their very young girls wear hijab.

The silence of the official institutions towards such annoying event led that school and others to organize similar festivals to honor the students who passed the prayer course in school.

Some people may not consider such actions strange. However, the question is why they are widely circulated globally on the media while we suffer a big deal of moral, administrative and scientific backwardness. Perhaps this backwardness is part of the reason.

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of carrying out destruction operations

Eng. Al-Quraifa concluded by emphasizing the continuation of farm tours, listening to farmers' problems and demands, studying them extensively, and ensuring to solve them according to the available capabilities.

He affirmed that the local product is of high quality, and deserves support from PAAAFR and the concerned authorities to continue production and control prices.

Cash for army personnel: First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Interior and acting Minister of Defense Sheikh Talal Khalid Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah has instructed the concerned authorities in the Ministry of Defense to immediately complete the administrative and financial procedures for the disbursement of cash leave allowance for the Kuwait Army personnel -- officers, non-commissioned officers and civilians, reports Al-Qabas daily.

In a press statement, the Defense Ministry revealed that Sheikh Talal Al-Khalid issued a directive on the payment of the allowance in accordance with the regulations; indicating this move is in appreciation of the efforts exerted by the protectors of the homeland to guarantee its security, stability and territorial integrity.

# Minister decorates new group of 'army officers'

KUWAIT CITY, June 15, (KUNA): First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Interior and Acting Minister of Defense Sheikh Talal Khaled Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah decorated today, Thursday, a new group of officers, who were ranked after the issuance of the Amiri Decree assuming them as officers in the Kuwaiti army.

The Army General Staff said in a press statement that the inauguration ceremony began with the reading of the Amiri decree, and then the new officers took the legal oath.

The Staff added that Sheikh Talal Al-Khaled congratulated the officers on gaining the confidence of His Highness the Amir of the country, Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, assuring them that defending and protecting the homeland and defending its precious soil is a great honor, great trust and a huge responsibility.

He also called on them to be worthy of the political leadership's confidence in them and to harness all their efforts and capabilities to serve Kuwait by arming them with science, knowledge, training and cooperation with their superiors and subordinates.

He called on them to be role models in their dealings and an example to follow in their behavior and discipline, asking God Almighty to guide them to what is good, success, and to "perpetuate the blessing of security, safety, honor and prestige on our beloved country and its honorable people under the wise leadership.' The ceremony was attended by



Sheikh Talal

Defense Sheikh Dr. Abdullah Meshaal Al-Sabah, Chief of the General Staff of the Army by delegation, Major General Staff Engineer Dr. Ghazi Al-Shammari, and Assistant Chief of the General Staff of the Administration and Human Resources Authority Major General Staff Dr. Khaled Al-Kandari.



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# LOCAL

# ديوانية 🔿 diwaniya

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

# 'National identity essential pillar for integrity, sovereignty of state'

"MANY people think - with erroneous premises - that bringing up the issue of identity and citizenship and emphasizing its centrality to the state - any state - involves a kind of discrimination, racism, or condescension to people. The natural building of the state throughout the ages is based on the three elements that make up any state, the land, the people, and the authority," columnist Dr Muhammad Al-Maqati wrote for Al-Jarida daily.

The concept of a regional state has been humanely, realistically, and legally endorsed, that is, one that is established on a specific geographical territory (i.e.

the land), and its population com-ponent is determined at a specific time and moment (the people), and the government (the authority) undertakes the management of its affairs and its responsibilities.

"Nations and peoples have established different states, without these states deviating from their national or international affiliation, despite being a regional state according to what we have shown above.

"The state may accept the in-

troduction of new groups within the people or subjects, but it should be systematically and in a specific way, to prevent their tyranny over the basic people of the state, which is logical and natural, and those new organizers of the people and subjects do not necessarily have to be citizens who enjoy a full citizenship bond with the state, as there may be citizens with restricted rights or just expatriate residents within the country, whether they have permanent or temporary residency.

"Citizenship, which is expressed today in the official document (which is the nationality), or (the national identity), is obtained automatically and firmly only by the original people of the state who enjoy all the rights and bear all the duties, and they are the citizens, and other citizens may join them in a limited number and with specific characteristics and restricted rights and these are the naturalized ones.

"Accordingly, the contemporary state, including Kuwait, determines who can obtain its citizenship (i.e. nationality), with a known and prior numerical ceiling, and this is followed by defining their rights, which are not identical to the rights of the original people of the coun-try, in order to preserve the state's sovereignty, security and supreme national interests.

"We find that this approach has been adopted by the Kuwaiti legal system, whose foundations were laid by the constitution, and its nature and limits were regulated by several laws, namely the nationality law, the election law, the laws of the army, the police, and the national guard, as well as the law of public mobilization and the law of martial law, and others in an integrated legal system

"In the context of this, the Kuwaiti nationality law specified the founder and the Kuwaiti in an original manner, and he is the son of the founder only, and the constitution adopted this approach and made it an essential pillar for building the state, and it did not extend that capacity to the naturalized person or his children.

'The context of (citizenship), and this is how the rest of the above-mentioned laws worked. It is self-evident that the naturalized person and his children are only in the capacity, on the basis of which he or his ancestors acquired the nationality, and then the affiliation of the offspring is to the ancestor, and he does not possess a better trait or description that the ancestor does not en-

"There is no doubt that some were completely happy with the new faces, and happier with the rejection of failed and suspicious faces, while others were shocked by the absence of his deputies affiliated with him, and a humiliating retreat for others. Excluding old faces and replacing them with others was inevitable after their true face was revealed over the years.

"The result of the elections was fair and impartial but in some regions those who won the seats are without political or scientific backgrounds, not even commendable competence.

"Their flags are not the flags of Kuwait. This, in fact, raises suspicions and apprehension, as it indicates that these deputies who were produced by this environment will be in the service of their groups, not the Kuwaiti na-tion, and will legislate for their own interests, and their main concern will be draining more of Kuwait's wealth and the future of its people as soon as possible, as if they are in a hurry, as some of them I am confident that their life and that of this council are short, and they may be the ones who will drive the last nail in their coffin.

'What we say will happen, this is what happened in the previous councils that successively struggled to suck the blood of Kuwait to the last drop, and what we say is not pessimism but rather a fact that will be revealed in the next few days.

"Undoubtedly, the "deputies" will rally against Ku-wait and they will bite deep into its flesh, and they will gnaw at what remains of our personal freedoms although until now we are still blessed with each other.

"Will this council complete its life span? Or will this obstructive, boring and costly series continue? Or will it be the last? May God protect Kuwait, its people, and its ruling family from all harm, and from all those who wish our country bad.

"Kuwait is the original. It is loyal and generous. Anything other than it is just a branch. If the original disappears or destroyed, the branches would not remain. The lesson of the cruel 1990 invasion, when pure blood was spilled and the enormous wealth was burnt, was supposed to prove this to every person with a mind that matters," columnist Sami Al-Nisf wrote for Annahar daily.

"Everything disappears with the disappearance of Kuwait -- no security, safety, wealth, housing, democracy, freedom or constitution. Even those who enjoyed the hospitality of other countries and did not limit their loved ones with us should remember that the Palestinian brothers enjoyed such treatment at the beginning of their emigration, but the duration of the hospitality changed the equation and treatment.

"The State failed big time in the past. It failed even today when it accepted and rewarded those who raised slogans on alternative loyalty to what is below the homeland -- family, tribe and sect, or above the homeland -- limited transient states and parties. It accepted the replacement of the name of the homeland with an idol, in which patriotism is associated with paganism. They said the flag of Kuwait is just a piece of cloth that has no value. They refused to stand while the national anthem is being played or sung. Through the camps and farms, they instilled loyalty for those other than Kuwait in the hearts and minds of youths. They rewarded those who opted to be loyal to others, and imposed punishment on those who remained loyal to Kuwait and its system.

"Therefore, let us preserve the original, which is Kuwait, so that the branches, gains and bounties are preserved for us. The absence of the original means the death of the branches. Ask the people of Iraq, Lebanon, Libya and other countries that have been distressed and

# 4 security guards held for helping staff in fingerprinting attendance

Nepali bootlegger faces deportation

KUWAIT CITY, June 15: The Jahra Investigation men have referred to the **Public Prosecution 4** expatriates working as security guards at the old Jahra Hospital, for helping the nursing staff to mark attendance using plastic fingerprints, reports Al-Anba daily.

The daily added, the four men received cash for their help.

A security source said the arrest came after one of the employees reported the incident to the security authorities and the latter set a trap for the men and caught one of them red-handed and during interrogation he gave the names of three of his colleagues.

The daily added, dozens of fingerprints of the hospital employees have been seized by the CID men.

The source said all the names of the beneficiaries of this forgery process have been submitted to the Public Prosecution. 

Bootlegger held: Personnel from the Directorate-General of Drugs Control said the Ahmadi Security Directorate has referred a Nepali man to the Deportation Department, after he was caught selling locallymade booze in the Umm Al-Hayman, reports Al-Anba daily. Police have seized from

the man 29 bottles of booze. 

1 acquitted of charge: The Criminal Court has acquitted a citizen of the charge of shooting at a citizen's vehicle while it was parked in front of her house in the Mubarak Al-Kabeer Governorate, following a dispute between them citing lack of evidence, reports Al-Anba daily.

The accused was referred to trial after the Public Prosecution charged him with four charges, namely: shooting in a residential area, possession of a weapon, possession of ammunition without a permit, and willful destruction of others' property. According to the complainant there were financial disputes between the plaintiff and the defendant. The Criminal Evidence Department had examined the site and found three bullet marks on the body of the vehicle. Before the court, the defendant's representative, lawyer Muhammad Al-Otaibi, confirmed that the technical reports proved that the bullets were fired from two firearms, which confirms two or more people had fired the shots. Al-Otaibi added that the home surveillance cameras did not monitor the license plate numbers of his client, who continually denied the accusations, which indicates that there is no evidence to prove the accusations against his client.



Indian envoy with Chief of Diwan of HH the Crown Prince.

#### Indian envoy calls on Sheikh Ahmed Abdullah

The Indian Ambassador to Kuwait HE Dr Adarsh Swaika called on HE Sheikh Ahmed Abdullah Jaber Al-Sabah, Chief of the Diwan of His Highness the Crown Prince, today.

The Indian envoy apprised the high-ranking Kuwaiti official of the current state and future prospects of India-Kuwait bilateral relations, including opportunities for strengthening cooperation.



Acting on information firefighters from Mina Abdullah and Al-Kut Central rushed to Wafra and put out fire to fodder, reports Al-Anba daily. The fodder was stored in an open area. The cause of the fire is not known. No casualties have been reported.

#### Extensive study done

NSCP justifies decision to stop scholarships in Cairo, Amman

KUWAIT CITY, June 15: The National Society for Child Protection (NSCP) considers the decision of the Ministry of Higher Education to stop scholarships in medical specializations (human medicine, dentistry, doctor of pharmacy) in Egyptian and Jordanian universities as the first important step to provide effective, practical and painful solutions as well, to amend the deviation of the path of higher education abroad, especially in medical specialties because at stake are the lives and health of citizens and residents, reports Al-Jarida daily.

The society said the attack launched by

The two delegations submitted their reports, as it came on the recommendation of the "Committee for Setting Standards and Determining Institutions of Higher Education in Medical Specialties Outside Kuwait", and with the approval of the Board of Directors of the "National Agency for Academic Accreditation and Education Ouality Assurance", on June 4 of this year.

This decision did not come out of the blue or without a thorough study as some tried to portray and challenge it. The reports concluded that there is a large number of students that do not correspond to the capa-



"It is necessary not to include dual nationals among the citizens, because duality is prohibited and criminalized by law, and whoever is in this situation is considered a violator.

"He must correct his status within a specific period of time in some cases, and less than that period in other cases since his duality results in his lack of eligibility for the Kuwaiti nationality and its dropping or withdrawing from him according to adverbs of necessity, the forgers obtained the nationality, unjustly, by forgery, fraud, impersonation, or by changing the data and information, immediate measures should be taken against them by revoking or withdrawing the nationality.

"Today, national identity is an essential pillar for the integrity and sovereignty of the state, and citizenship can only be in accordance with the legal determinants on which Kuwait was established.

"Therefore, there is no escape from the establishment of the General Authority for Nationality to purify this file. Is it possible that the number of voters in my country, Kuwait, is more than the original Kuwaitis?

"It is a unique case that only exists in a country whose sovereignty has been tampered with, its identity forged, its security has been lost, and the path of the state has been disrupted. Restoring things to normal is an urgent, sovereign and national decision."

#### Also:

"The result of the elections was fair and impartial in some regions, while in other regions it produced deputies, as usual, who will represent their group, not the nation, and the only reason for their success is their affiliation with groups, some of which showed clear loyalty to other than Kuwait," columnist Talal Abdul Karim Al-Arab wrote for Al-Jarida daily.

"Some of them raised their flags, not the flags of Kuwait, and this is a strange phenomenon that rings the alarm bell.

"The date of 6/6/2023 was difficult, disastrous, and even shocking to some. The results of the elections that day indicated that the continuation of the beautiful situation is impossible.

"Those who were happy with the results of the 2020 and 2022 elections should have considered and known that the impressive success of some of the winners was not what was expected.

"It was only due to purely political circumstances, and the dust of the 2023 elections revealed ignoble defeats for some, progress and retreat for some, and the entry of new young faces, for whom we fear because of their inclusion and of being swallowed by whales, as those before them were swallowed.

destroyed.'

"There is nothing worse than making a decision only to retract it later due to public or political pressure... The Minister of Education and Higher Education did well in insisting on implementing his decision to stop scholarships for those studying Medicine in some Arab universities!" columnist Dr Naji Al-Zaid wrote for Al-Jarida daily.

"A physician holds a special license to work on the patient's recovery. It is not easy to obtain this license, because if it is given to someone who is not qualified to hold it, patients could be harmed. Perhaps, it will lead to death instead of recovery ... For these reasons, it is difficult to obtain admission to study Medicine! If we look at the figures, we will find that the number of Kuwaiti students in these universities is more than 5,000.

"Their admission is based on a success rate in general secondary school that is lower than that of their counterparts in those countries. This is an extremely dangerous phenomenon. It is as if a medical degree is a license to kill, not heal!"

#### 

"The parliamentary election has ended and some of the candidates have succeeded. The electoral programs and promises made to attract voters and harvest their votes have ended as well. Advertisements and pictures of candidates were removed from the streets, and the electoral headquarters closed their doors," columnist Jasseem Al-Houmar wrote for Al-Anba daily.

"Parliamentary life will not stop due to any of the previous or upcoming obstacles. The fate of the Parliament will not be determined by a person or persons. Perhaps, the memory of the voters was good as their choices are appropriate for their aspirations and demands. The electoral base is a supporter in the next elections.

"Running for elections is an integrated political project. Some managed their electoral campaign professionally. What happens after the election? We wait for the first parliamentary session, formation of the next government, and proving the effectiveness of the role of this legislature as an urgent matter.

"Here, we must point out that many proposals were announced during the campaign period. I think it is more appropriate to set three priorities and accomplish them before the parliamentary break, including the strategic alternative to increasing the salary of employees and pension of retirees, and establishment of the Higher Commission for Elections.

- Compiled by Mai Elsoukary

### PADA's chief issues decisions for internal transfers

KUWAIT CITY, June 15: The Director General of the Public Authority for Disability Affairs, Bibi Al-Amiri, has issued a set of decisions for internal transfer of personnel, which includes the transfer of the Director of the Medical and Psychological Services Department, Hadeel Al-Khader, to work as Director of the Medical Services Department, and transfer of the Director of Planning and Research, Wafa'a Al-Mahna, to work as Director of the Psychological and Social Services Department

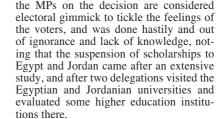
The Director of the Office of the Director General of the Authority,

Afnan Al-Husseini has been transferred to work as Director of the Planning and Research Department, the head of the stores department, Ali Al-Sharji will now head the Financial Coordination Department, reports Al-Qabas daily.

The head of the Programs and Activities Department, Maha Al-Misbah will head the guest services department and the supervisor of administrative development and training, Shaher Edwish will take charge of administrative affairs.

The Administrative Affairs Controller, Salal Al-Otaibi has been transferred to the observer for administrative development and training, and the observer for the followup of prosthetic services and devices, Saleh Al-Ghaddouri as observer for medical records and services, and the supervisor of supply and stores in the finance, Hussein Al-Ajmi, to the supervisor of follow-up, services and prosthetic devices.

The decisions include delegating Maryam Al-Ajmi to work as Head of the Conformities and Standards Department, and delegate Dr. Khalifa Al Khalea to work as head of the medical clinics department.



bilities of the Egyptian and Jordanian university facilities, and it was found that there is a "special path" for students coming from Kuwait without adequately training, which put pressure on the staff.

The medical staff then has to train these students again in Kuwait, as the number of such students has reached five thousand and this situation drains the resources of the Ministry of Health.

# Second coordination meeting of GCC ambassadors set for Sunday

KUWAIT CITY, June 15: The second coordination meeting of the GCC ambassadors to Kuwait will be held at the Oman Embassy next Sunday, reports Al-Rai daily.

This was disclosed by the Omani Ambassador to Kuwait, HE Dr. Saleh Al-Kharousi, while at the same time pointing out that the meeting comes from the premise of the Sultanate of Oman presiding over the current session of the GCC summit, and aims to coordinate efforts to strengthen bilateral relations between GCC countries and their missions overseas.

Al-Kharousi was speaking on the sidelines of his participation in a blood donation campaign organized by the embassy for its employees and members of the Omani community as part of celebrations of the International Blood Donation Day.

He explained the embassy's participation in the event comes as an affirmation of the embassy's societal role, and to spread awareness of the importance of blood donation.

He pointed out that the Sultanate attaches great importance to this day, and the Omani Foreign Ministry is keen to urge all its missions abroad to participate positively in various community events, pointing out that blood donation is a great work that contributes to saving lives.

He added that diplomacy is not limited to political matters and participation in conferences and meetings, but also includes humanitarian and societal aspects, praising the efforts of those in charge of the Kuwait Blood Bank, for the facilities they provided for the success of the event.



**MoSA receives** some buildings

KUWAIT CITY, June 15: The Ministry of Social Affairs recently received some of its buildings in Mutlaa Residential City (Sector N11), including the Community Development Center and Social Unit buildings; in the presence of engineers from the Planning and Follow-up Department and the Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW), reports Al-Rai daily.

Director of the Planning and Follow-up Department Dr Sayed Issa disclosed that the partial handover coincided with the submission of certain notifications. He said the keys to the buildings will be handed over after connecting the electricity and fresh water services within two weeks, according to the statement of the representative of PAHW and a letter from the Ministry of Electricity and Water.

# LOCAL



Nisreen Rbaiaan, the UNHCR representative in Kuwait honors competition winners.

### KRCS signs agreement to renovate Lebanese Hospital maternity ward

BEIRUT, June 15, (KUNA): Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) on Thursday inked an agreement with Al-Makased association to renovate the society's hospital maternity ward -- with funding from the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development.

The accord was inked at a ceremony held at the hospital by the KRCS Secretary General, Maha Al-Barjas, and the hospital deputy director general Dr. Mohammad Hamandi. It was attended the society president Faisal Sinno and the KRCS delegate to Lebanon, Dr. Musaed al-Enezi.

Al-Barjas said in a statement to

KUNA that the support came as part of the Kuwaiti aid for the Lebanese hospitals and repairing damage in-flicted in the August 2020 port bomb-

ing. The KRCS will oversee renovation and equipping the maternity ward with generous financial allocations from the fund.

For his part, Dr. Sinno said Al-Makased Hospital was under pressure, particularly in the maternity ward, due to its location close to the Palestinian refugee camp, Sabra, mounting numbers of Syrian refugee patients in addition to Lebanese in need for treatment.

# UNHCR holds competition for designing refugees' shelters

KUWAIT CITY, June 15, (KUNA): United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees has wrapped up a competition in architectural designs of shelters for Bangladeshi refugees engaging young Kuwaiti architects and freshly graduated engineers.

The competition was held in coordination with the Kuwait University College of Architecture, Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development and the Arab Consulting Engineering Office.

Nisreen Rbaiaan, the UNHCR representative in Kuwait, said in a statement that the holding of the competition, capped with awards' distribution to winners, coincided with the forthcoming World Refugee Day (June 20), indicating that the UNHCR report, regularly issued on this occasion, revealed that number of compulsory refugees worldwide exceeded 110 million.

Rbaiaan said the competition was held for engaging the youth for innovating solutions for mounting and complex challenges facing stakeholders seeking to secure housing for people who had to flee their homes.

Walid Al-Bahr, KFAED acting director general, affirmed support for the young Kuwaitis, praising the distinctive partnership bond-ing the fund with the UNHCR, indicating at joint efforts for overhauling refugee camps' infrastructures and backing up host communities.

Al-Bahr has added that the fund participation in the contest has come in line with its belief that the Kuwait youngsters are the basis for sustainable development.

For her part, Dr. Sheikha Al-Mubaraki, the acting dean of the KU Architecture faculty, said the college participation in the activities was intended to boost engagement in architecture and merge the sector with humanitarian tasks.

CEO of Pace Architecture Engineering and Planning (Pan Arab Consulting Engineers) Tareq Shuaib said the competition constituted an opportunity to present new ideas for drawing sketches of the refugees' dwellings.

# **Agreement with US Federal Highway** Authority to supervise road projects

Bidding extended from June 15 to July 3

KUWAIT CITY, June 15: At a time when attention is drawn to the Ministry of Public Works' plan to maintain and radically rehabilitate roads, sources revealed a tendency to sign an agreement with the US Federal Highway Authority to supervise contracts expected to be signed with international companies, reports Al-Qabas daily.

The sources explained that this step is aimed to ensure efficient supervision and oversight of projects by a global expert. This authority had previously worked in the country in 1968 under the name "Office of Public Roads in the US Department of Transportation". During that period, the country's roads were of a high level of quality. The closing date for road mainte-

nance tenders for international companies has been extended from June 15 to July 3 based on the request of the bidding companies for further study and scrutiny.

The ministry insisted on closing the door for submitting bids immediately after the Eid al-Adha holidavs in order to ensure the implementation based on the previously announced timetable, and to start road maintenance work in early August.

Starting during that period allows the ministry to take advantage of the summer vacation period and the travel of many citizens and residents, which facilitates the closure of some highway roads when working on them, especially during night times, as was the norm during the previous laying works.



Ministry of Public Works plans to maintain and radically rehabilitate roads.

A total of 11 international companies have acquired the documents, including four Chinese companies, two Indian companies, and one each from Japan, Turkey, Germany, America and South Korea.

The technical committee composed of five government agencies will start examining the offers after the closing of the door for submission.

Regarding the expected signing of an agreement with the Federal Highway Administration in the United States (FHWA) to supervise road maintenance contracts, the sources said the step that is currently being worked on is based on the guidance of Minister Dr. Amani Bouqmaz. It is aimed to ensure efficient supervision and oversight of projects from an international body that enjoys experience and a good reputation in particular. The Federal Authority had previously worked in the country from 1968 under the name "Office Public Roads in the US Department of Transportation. In 2005, the Ministry of Public Works tried to re-cooperate with the authority and an agreement was already signed, but it was not activated for unknown reasons. The ministry considers the presence of an international consultant to supervise tenders as necessary to ensure the efficiency and quality of implementation. Regarding the submission extension, the extension came at the request of international companies, during the preliminary meeting that was held with the companies on June 1. Some companies requested an extension of up to two additional months for further technical study so that they could submit offers optimally. Some others submitted proposals that are currently being studied. The sources also highlighted the great positive interaction by the companies, rep-resented in submitting inquiries within the legal period specified for that, as the ministry in turn responded to them.

The ministry insisted that the door for bidding be closed immediately after the Eid holidays, based on its keenness on the timetable which was previously announced, provided that the implementation of the contracts will start in early August.

The sources affirmed the ministry's full keenness to follow up with transparency and clarity, and keep the public informed of the new plan, as it is committed to what was previously announced regarding signing practices with the parent company and dealing directly with it.

They said the authorities scheduled to participate in the technical committee to examine the offers submitted by the companies include the Ministry of Electricity and Water, Ministry of Finance, the Public Authority for Housing Welfare and the



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Queen Cabana (2 persons inclusive of breakfast) per night.	BHD 61.000/-net
2 Bedroom Chalet (4 persons inclusive of breakfast) per night.	BHD 136.198/-net
Weekends (Thursday & Friday)	Price
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#### Fatwa and Legislation Department, and the Ministry of Public Works.

They informed the ministry of their nominations, and the committee is scheduled to start its work to vet offers right after clos-

ing. The sources indicated that the ministry, during the coming period, will allocate offices for the companies that will be signed with inside the headquarters of the Ministry of Public Works in order to facilitate the process of finalizing all procedures and correspondences related to tenders with the various state agencies under the direct supervision of the ministry.

They revealed that the ministry had addressed the Municipal Council to allocate sites in the six governorates of the country to establish offices and housing for workers of global road maintenance contracts, adding that the request was referred to the technical committees in the council, which are currently working in coordination with the governorates to allocate those sites.

#### **Your Highness**

solved quickly is the Bedoun issue, which,

as we mentioned yesterday, continues to

snowball. Neighboring countries, such as the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, managed to

quickly resolve this issue. Others did the

same, and turned it from a threat into a de-

As for loans, this is a problem that is easy to solve. All you need is a decision, as it is possible to extend the repayment period,

drop interests, and stop physical coercion. These are some of the problems; the rest

of them will be discussed at length. How-

ever, where there's a will, there's a way, and

most of the crises can then be solved, But if

personal interests continue to be prioritized, Kuwait will continue to revolve in a vicious

This is why the will and determination

to make decisions are important. We say

it again - a government that was able to

achieve in the absence of the National As-

sembly is able to work under the most dif-

ficult circumstances. This is what Kuwaitis

velopment opportunity.

are waiting for today.

circle.

**Continued from Page 1** 

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

guarantee integrity and address administrative shortcomings.

**MPs-elect** 

Al-Shaheen asserted that the Employment Monitoring Department must be autonomous to be more effective, instead of merging it with another department.

In a related development, employees of the Employment Monitoring Department organized a sit-in on Thursday; demanding for cancellation of the decision.

Head of the department Sabaa Al-Sajari pointed out that the department plays a major role in the appointment, delegation and reshuffling of employees in public institutions. She confirmed that many violations were uncovered due to the tremendous efforts exerted by the department. She added the sit-in will continue until the decision is cancelled.

On the other hand, Constitutional expert Professor Ibrahim Al-Homoud clarified that in case none of the MPs-elect accepts any ministerial post; HH the Prime Minister will submit a letter to the political leadership to take a decision in this regard. He disclosed that the options stipulated in Article 56 of the Constitution include replacing HH the Prime Minister for the lawmakers to accept ministerial posts or dissolution of the Parliament.

So far, none of the newly elected MPs have affirmed willingness to accept ministerial positions.

Meanwhile, former MP and 2023 parliamentary election candidate Saadoun Hammad has appealed to the Constitutional Court; claiming that the election result is wrong. He said he should be in 10th place in his constituency, instead of MPelect Jarrah Al-Fawzan. He added that the result of his team's vote counting showed he got 441 votes - higher than that of Al-Fawzan.

What's On



Group photo of the 10 years of service awardees.

Group photo of the 5 years of service awardees.

Event celebrates the 5, 10, and 15 years of service awards

# AUK hosts Annual Dinner, marks its administrative achievements

KUWAIT CITY, June 15: The American University of Kuwait (AUK) hosted its Annual Dinner at the Regency Kuwait to celebrate the University's administrative achievements and accomplishments. The event—organized by the University's Human Resources Department—was attended by staff, faculty, and members of the president's cabinet.

The event marked the 5, 10, and 15 years of service awards that were presented to employees who completed the respective years at AUK. This year's annual dinner was significant as it also marked the inaugural celebration of the 20 years' service award.

AUK president, Dr. Rawda Awwad, conveyed her gratitude towards AUK employees in her opening state-



AUK president, Dr. Rawda Awwad giving her speech.

ment, "None of our accomplishments would be possible without the support



AUK executive vice president, Ms. Amal Al-Binali giving her speech.

and recognition for your tireless efforts. Therefore, I would like to take

a moment to acknowledge and celebrate the dedication and perseverance that you have exhibited throughout your journey. So, let us continue to support and uplift one another, daring ourselves to embrace new challenges and fully embody the uniqueness that defines AUK. Let us carry the memory of evenings such as this one, cherishing the community we are part of, the togetherness we share, and the care we have for each other as we continue to grow and leave our mark on the world."

AUK executive vice president, Ms. Amal Al-Binali, is one such awardee that served AUK for an impressive span of 20 years. Reflecting on this significant milestone, Ms. Al-Binali shared her profound sentiments, stating, "I am grateful for the past 20 years at AUK, where I found not just a workplace but a second home. Together, we overcame challenges, celebrated triumphs, and formed lifelong connections. My heartfelt thanks to the exceptional teams at AUK who supported me throughout the journey. Let us continue striving for greatness and building on our success."

HR senior director, Paul Bassil, highlighted the theme of this year's annual dinner and its significance, "It is with great pleasure that I extend a warm welcome to you, gathered here today for this occasion where we will delve into the concept of 'we are a book.' In the same way that books hold captivating stories that touch our hearts and engage our minds, we, too, possess narratives that define us as individuals and as a collective. Each one of us represents a page, eager to be opened, read, and shared. Our stories are distinct, filled with unique twists and turns, moments of joy and sorrow, and instances of triumph and defeat. However, by exchanging our stories with one another, we can discover common ground, foster empathy, and cultivate understanding. Through the sharing of these individual narratives, we collectively contribute to the tale of our institution, AUK."

The Annual Dinner also offered attendees enjoyable entertainment, including musical performances, magic shows, and a raffle draw to conclude the festivities.

AUK's strong culture of employee recognition is regularly expressed through events such as the annual dinner that highlight the contributions of faculty and staff.

TINUM GOLD JWELL



#### Play brings legendary poet to life

# Future Eye Theatre presents 'Kathakalkkappuram' drama

KUWAIT CITY, June 15: Future Eye Theatre (FET) Kuwait, a well known theatre group in Kuwait, successfully performed their drama "Kathakalk-kappuram - Mizhavu Paranja Katha" (Beyond Stories) on June 2, at Hawally Boy's Scout Hall. The play was based on the life of legendary poet "Kalakkath Kunjan Nambiar" who died a tragic death caused by rabies. The play is a mix of both fiction and real life, drawing inspiration from the events that took place in Nambiar's life. The play was written and directed by FET Patron Shemej Kumar K.K., his fourteeth directorial venture.

In the play Nambiar was portrayed as a social reformer and activist who was against the social norms of that time. The play progresses to show the love and affection Nambiar had for a lady who was an ardent admirer of his writings and art. She drew his attention to the fact that the usage of Sanskrit for classical arts made it inaccessible for the vast majority of common people. The play portrays how Nambiar used Malayalam to write his poems and the difficulties he had to overcome during this processes.

Many Indian classical art forms such a as "Koodiyattam", "Chakayar Koothu", Ottanthulal were used to convey the story.Jayakrishnan and Drishya played Koodiyattam and Theertha played Ottanthulal.

The main character of Kunjan Nambiar was played by Unni Kaimal, the role of Vasundhara, his lover was played by Remya Ratheesh and that of Chakayar by Jyothish P. G. Other characters, King Marthadnda Varma was played by Krishna Kumar. Unnayi warrior, Naadu vazhi were played by Leo and Dr Abraham respectively. Dr Pramod and Noushad Mangalathope enacted the supporting roles. Characters of Nalan and Riituparnan were presented by Sarath and Girish. Bipin played the role of Chakayar interacting with the audience prior to the start of both the shows. The chorus for the play were supported by Chandra Mohan, Suresh, Sunil, Ravichandran, Jijuna, Dr.Prasanthi, Anupama, Shabla, Bindu, Divya Rajeev and, Aneesh. The technical crew included Priyan, Shaju, Rajesh and Naveen. The properties and make up were handled by Dr. Santhosh and Rajeev Devanandhanam.

The official function was inaugurated by Ms Alison Shan Price MBE from One World Actors Organization along with Peter Mulley, Deputy Principal Fahaheel English School. Ms Prabhitha was the anchor for the event which was held at Boys scout hall Hawally on June 2. Lighting design with projection was executed by Shymon Chelad from the school of drama.

Souvenir release was done by Peter Mulley along with the FET Treasurer Sarath Nair. Santhosh Kuttath delivered welcome speech along with the presidential address by Vattiyor Kaavu Krishna Kumar, president of Future Eye Theatre. Dr Pramod Menon delivered the vote of thanks. A group photo from the event.



Photo from the event.

#### IFL-25 a thundering success

# Indian Frontliners celebrates its Silver Jubilee

KUWAIT CITY, June 15: Indian Frontliers (IFL), a service organization started with the motto of "United to Serve -United We Serve" is celebrating its 25th year Silver Jubilee and the special event held at Innova International School, Mahboula-Kuwait on May 26, 2023. Thousands of Indians gathered to make this event a grand success.

S. Thirunavukkarasar M.P. (Former Union Minister), Dr. Fouzia Khan M.P. (Former Maharashtra Minister), H.E. Dr. AdarshSwaika, Indian Ambassador to Kuwait, and Ms. Priyadarshini, Supreme Court Lawyer were present as special guests for the function.

It was celebrated as National Integration Cultural Show and the function started with the traditional lighting of Kuthuvilakku followed by National Anthem. IFL President Ramadoss presented the welcome address with brief of IFL Services. The cultural feast with variety of dance programs by young children covering dances with various language mix, sequences, medley, cinematic etc., and many more adding traditional flavor to the show.

In this most spectacular show, the IFL released its 23rdvolume of book on the theme of "Enticing India" - prepared by NCM-Subbu-Hari-Anand team, covering articles on special Touristic places in India.

IFL-23 book was released by Chief Guest Thirunavukkarasar and received by H.E. Dr. Adarsh Swaika. The Function Souvenir magazine was released by Dr. Fouzia Khan and received by Adv. Priyadharshni. Also a book written by famous Tamil writer Dinamalar "Anthumani" was released by Ambassador and received by Dr. S.M. Hyder Ali.

Mathi, the welfare secretary of IFL was felicitated by Thirunavukarasar

MP for his continuous and tireless social services. Mementoes were presented to the well-wishers as a token of acknowledgement, love and honor for their all-time support.

Ambassador Dr. AdarshSwaika's message extending congratulations and appreciations to IFL community was cheered by the crowd.

In her keynote address, Dr. Fouzia Khan praised the intellect and virtue of Indians and advised on the importance of education. She praised and congratulated the IFL organization for helping the needy. Priyadhrshni spoke about women's rights and the responsibility of parents to their children.

Dr. S. M. Hythar Ali, touched the heart of each and every audience & guests present over there with his powerful and inspiring speech marking history of achievements and services rendered to the society. Thirunavukkarasar addressed the audience by sharing his experience and knowledge. He praised the service of IFL and honored IFL Founder & Coordinator NC Mohandoss's continuous coordination of IFL for the past 25 years. Also, he had a Q&A session with audience and inspired the gathering with his answers.

It was joyous colorful and made the crowd enjoys every bit of it. The national integration was well exhibited throughout the 4 hours' event. Playback Singers Deepak Blue along with Soundarya gave a splendid musical night for the enthralled crowd.

The entire event was well organized with good performances by the artists. Good ambience of the hall added more flavor by making the evening an enjoyable and pleasant one. The program was compiled by Mrs. Rajalakshmi Balaji and Mrs. Rajeevi Raja.

#### Kuwait oil up

The price of Kuwaiti oil went up by USD 2.59 to USD 76.27 per barrel on Wednesday from USD 73.68 per barrel the day before, said the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) on Thursday.

The prices of both the Brent crude and the West Texas Intermediate in the global markets, went down by USD 1.09 and USD 1.15 each, to settle on USD 73.20 pb and USD 68.27 pb respectively. (KUNA)

#### Kuwait, Japan trade surplus down

Kuwait's trade surplus with Japan nar-rowed 28 percent from a year earlier to JPY 80.9 billion (USD 572 million) in May, for the second month due to weak exports, according to government data on Thursday.

The Finance Ministry said in a preliminary report that Kuwait stayed in black ink with Japan for 15 years and four months as exports still offset imports in value.

It added that overall Kuwaiti exports to Japan plunged 22 percent year-on-year to JPY 98.8 billion (USD 699 mil-lion) for the first decline in three months,

#### Market Movements 15-06-2023

#### Change Closing pts Change Closing pts UAE DFM +0.46 3,734.26 JAPAN - Nikkei -0.05 33,485.49 PAKISTAN PHILIPPINES - PSFi +0.43 - KSE 100 41,404.50 6.461.42 -0.32 EGX 30 +0.05 17,881.52 - Tadawul 11,516.14 EGYPT SAUDI -0.15



Middle East's trade surplus narrowed 33.5 percent to JPY 712.0 billion (USD 5.0 billion) last month, with Japan-bound exports from the region falling 23.3 percent from a year earlier, the report said. Crude oil, refined products, liquefied natural gas and other natural resources, which accounted for 95.5 percent of the region's total exports to Japan, shrank 22.5 percent, resulting to 9.9 percent drop in imports. (KUNA)

#### USD hits 7-month high of mid-JPY 141 level

The US dollar hit a seven-month high against the Japanese yen into the mid-JPY 141 range on Thursday in Tokyo on speculation of widening interest rate differentials between the US and Japan, said a media source.

According to Japan's nationwide newspaper Nikkei Business Daily, the dollar strengthened as the US Federal Reserve on Wednesday hinted rate hikes later in the year after it left the rates unchanged.

On the other hand, the Bank of Ja-

Business

pan is expected to maintain its ultralow interest rate policy in its two-day board meeting through Friday, which prompt-ed investors to buy the dollar and sell the yen.

The dollar rose to JPY 141.30-32 at one point in the afternoon, its highest level since November.

At 5 p.m. (0800 GMT), the green-back fetched JPY 141.26-28, compared with JPY 140.05-15 in New York and JPY 139.98-140.00 in Tokyo at 5 p.m. Wednesday. (KUNA)

# 'Controlling inflation will take months longer'

# ECB hikes rates again and vows more after US Fed hits pause

FRANKFURT, Germany, June 15, (AP): The European Central Bank pressed ahead with another interest rate hike Thursday and made clear more are on the way, aiming to crush inflation that is driving up the cost of groceries even after the U.S. Federal Reserve took a break from its own string of increases.

The quarter-point rate boost, to 3.5%, is the eighth straight increase since July 2022 for the 20 countries that use the euro currency. That is an unprecedentedly swift campaign to tighten the flow of credit to the economy as the bank seeks to return inflation to its target of 2% from 6.1%.

ECB President Christine Lagarde said more hikes, including at the bank's next meeting on July 27, are in the cards. ECB projections acknowledge that controlling inflation will take months longer, even after the rate has fallen from a double-digit peak late last vear

"Åre we done? Have we finished the journey? No, we're not at destination," she said at a news conference. "Do we still have ground to cover? Yes, we have ground to cover.

Lagarde said the bank "will continue to hike at our next meeting. So we are not thinking about pausing, as you can tell."

Central banks around the world are trying to wrestle down price spikes that have been squeezing households and businesses with higher bills for basics like food and rent but some are starting to diverge in their decisions to avoid plunging their economies into further trouble

The U.S. Federal Reserve suspended its series of rate hikes Wednesday as it assesses the impact of higher rates on economic growth and jobs. It takes months for rate hikes to work their way through to the economy, and a pause can be a chance to see if the medicine is working

Nonetheless, Fed projections indi-cate two more rate hikes are possible this year. Central banks in Australia and Canada resumed rate increases last week after a pause - one sign of how widespread high inflation has become ingrained in the global economy.

In Europe, higher rates "are gradually having an impact across the economy," Lagarde said, noting that the outlook for inflation and growth is "highly uncertain" because of risks like Russia's war in Ukraine and pay agreements that could worsen inflation.

"Economic growth is likely to remain weak in the short run, but strengthened in the course of the year as inflation comes down and supply disruptions continue to ease," she said. Higher rates fight inflation by raising the cost of borrowing for auto loans, mortgages and credit cards, reducing demand for goods that drives prices higher. But they also can weaken the economy and raise the risk of throwing the economy into recession.

That is a concern in Europe, where the economy contracted slightly in the last months of 2022 and the first three months of this year. Two straight quarters of falling output is one definition of recession.

But the job market is very strong,

with unemployment at its lowest since the euro currency was introduced in 1999 - at 6.5% - and hardly consistent with a real recession.

The Euro Area Business Cycle Dating Committee, which uses employment as well as economic growth data in determining when a recession has occurred, found no recession at its last assessment March 27 and will revisit the question in November.

Carsten Brzeski, global head of macro for ING bank, said the ECB is "increasingly taking the risk of worsening the economic outlook."

"Still, despite good arguments against further rate hikes, the ECB simply cannot afford to be wrong on inflation," he said in a research note. The bank wants and has to be sure that it has slayed the inflation dragon

The Conversation

before considering a policy change."

Consumer prices started rising as the global economy bounced back from the COVID-19 pandemic and created supply chain bottlenecks. Oil and natural gas prices also spiked due to Russia's threats against Ukraine and after its February 2022 invasion. That also sent food and fertilizer prices soaring amid disruption to supplies from the warring countries, both major agricultural exporters.

Those pressures are starting to ease, but the initial burst of inflation is being reflected in higher wage demands and prices for services, even as energy prices have fallen in Europe in recent months.

"Labor and wages, in particular, is playing a significant role as a driver of inflation," Lagarde said.

# Wall Street gains ground to extend winning streak Why Fed's fight against inflation might be over

Asia shares mixed after Fed holds rates steady

NEW YORK, June 15, (AP): Wall Street turned solidly higher Thursday following a weak start as a messy mix of economic reports vielded no clear sign about where the economy and inflation are heading.

The S&P 500 was 0.7% higher in midday trading, coming off its highest level since April 2022. The Dow Jones Industrial Average was up 337 points, or 1%, at 34,317, as of 11:49 a.m. Eastern time, while the Nasdaq composite was 0.6% higher. Homebuilder Lennar helped lead the S&P 500 with a gain of 3.9% after reporting stronger profit and revenue for the latest quarter than expected. It also gave a stronger-than-expected forecast for upcoming deliveries, saying customers are accepting the "new normal" of higher interest rates. Kroger, meanwhile, sank to one of the market's sharper losses after reporting slightly weaker revenue for the latest quarter than expected. It fell 4% despite also reporting stronger profit than expected and reaffirming many of its financial forecasts for the year. The stock market is still absorbing the Federal Reserve's warning from a day earlier that it could raise interest rates two more times this year in its battle against inflation. It's already hiked its benchmark overnight rate to the highest level since 2007, which has helped slow inflation somewhat but has also caused sharp pain in several areas of the economy. The Fed is trying to find the right level for rates where it can slow spending by Americans enough to get inflation under control but not so much that it causes a deep recession. Reports on Thursday offered a mixed picture of how it's going. Uncertainty is high after the Fed's warning from Wednesday shook investors who had been expecting just one more increase to rates this year, if any. But on the upside for financial markets, the Fed also decided to hold rates steady Wednesday, the first time it hasn't raised rates at a meeting in more than a year. It also said that it hasn't made any final decision yet on whether to keep raising rates. "The Fed remains data and event dependent, so investors globally will need to be so as well," said John Vail, chief global strategist at Nikko Asset Management. Meanwhile, the trend in markets has been solidly upward. The S&P 500 is on pace for a sixth straight gain, which would mark its longest winning streak since late 2021. It's up nearly 23% since hitting a bottom last October, as the economy has so far avoided a recession and inflation has come down from its peak last summer. Thursday's headline economic report showed that sales at U.S. retailers unexpectedly strengthened last month, when economists were forecasting a drop. That could be a sign that spending by consumers overall is holding up despite more expensive rates on credit cards and other loans.



#### **By Ryan Herzog**

Data suggests it's time for a full stop

Gonzaga University

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

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The Federal Reserve's decision to hold rates steady signals that central bankers believe it is time to hit pause, at least temporarily, on their aggressive campaign to tame runaway inflation. The latest data, not to mention sev-

eral other factors, however, suggests it's time for a full stop. On June 14, 2023, the Fed chose not

to lift rates

current market rents is the Zillow Observed Rent Index. That index suggests rates are declining - rents rose 4.8% year over year in May, aligning with pre-pandemic rates.

Comparing the two measures suggests the official consumer price index data lags behind the market by four to six months. Using current rents would put inflation much closer to where the Fed wants it to be. Jason Furman, former chair of the government's Council of Economic Advisors, created a modified version of core inflation - which uses a market-based measure of shelter prices - at 2.6%.

Moreover it is likely that further rate hikes will do more harm than good - particularly to the banking sector - and without helping lower inflation below its current trajectory.

But underneath the surface, the

A currency trader walks by the screens showing the Korea Composite Stock Price Index (KOSPI), left, and the foreign exchange rate between U.S. dollar and South Korean won at a foreign exchange dealing room in Seoul, South Korea. (AP)

# Kuwait's bourse holds gathering with financial conglomerates Boursa Kuwait to 'complete' central mediator system by next year - CEO

LONDON, June 15, (KUNA): Chief Executive Officer of Boursa Kuwait Mohammad Saud Al-Osaimi said the Kuwaiti stock exchange will complete launching the central mediator system in early 2024 in collaboration with the Capital Markets Authority (CMA) and Kuwait Clearing Company (KCC).

"Boursa Kuwait is also set to launch index funds or exchange-traded fund (ETF) and trade bonds market which will also make available the longawaited financial derivatives," he told KUNA on Wednesday.

Al-Osaimi made the comments on the fringes of the "10th Corporate Day" of Boursa Kuwait and the Gulf Exchanges Conference being organized by the HSBC in London on June 12-16.

The ongoing events focus on ways

numbers were a touch weaker than expected after ignoring sales of autos, fuel and some other areas. Those numbers feed into the U.S. government's estimates for the overall economy's growth.

#### Europe

France's increase or keep high rates for a significantly long time. Such scenarios are quite possible and might obviously disappoint financial market CAC 40 declined 0.4% in early trading to 7,298.37. Germany's DAX shed 0.2% to 16,277.36. Britain's FTSE 100 slipped nearly 0.1% to 7,596.28.

#### Asia

Asian shares were mixed Thursday after the U.S. Federal Reserve held inof opening up new opportunities for local and foreign investors, he noted. Kuwait stock exchange is work-

ing out new rules and guidelines that will improve the pre-, and post, trading environment, including the rules of listing the new companies and the quantity of stocks available for trading, Al-Osaimi revealed.

The new initiatives are being developed in cooperation with CMA and the Kuwaiti government in keeping with the world's latest standards, he went on.

Boursa Kuwait has set up a working team assigned to visit the family businesses and commercial companies inside and outside Kuwait to convince them of getting listed, he said, voicing hope for seeing a growing number of listings in the coming months.

terest rates steady.

Data from China showed consumer and factory activity weakened in May and record-breaking unemployment among young people in cities rose as an economic rebound following the end of anti-virus controls slowed. Consumers, uneasy about possible job losses, have returned to shops and restaurants less quickly than expected.

In Japan, machinery orders for April, released Thursday, showed the first growth in three months. Trade figures for May showed a deficit for 22months in a row, as import costs rose with the rising energy and other prices. Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 erased morning gains to finish little changed, down less than 0.1% at 33,485.49. Australia's S&P/ASX 200

Since 2017, Boursa Kuwait has successfully conducted 10 Corporate Days in collaboration with leading multinational financial services firms. which allow listed companies to present their business developments and outlook to international investors.

"These events aim at promoting local corporations to regional and international asset managers by elevating the standards of local investor relation (IR) functions through transparency and attracting foreign inflows into Boursa Kuwait," Al-Osaimi added.

On his part, Abdulaziz Al-Mulla, representative of Kuwait's Ministry of Finance, said his ministry is working to improve the management of the local debt in consistency with the 2030 New Kuwait vision

added 0.2% to 7,175.30. South Ko-rea's Kospi shed 0.4% to 2,608.54. Hong Kong's Hang Seng gained 1.6% to 19,723.65, while the Shanghai Composite edged up nearly 0.7% to 3,250.06.

#### Oil

In energy trading, benchmark U.S. crude added 33 cents to \$68.60 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. It gave up \$1.15 on Wednesday to \$68.27 a barrel.

Brent crude, the international standard, rose 35 cents to \$73.55 a barrel.

#### Currencies

In currency trading, the U.S. dollar cost 141.31 Japanese yen, up from 140.07 yen. The euro cost \$1.0808, down from \$1.0833.

for the first time in 11 meetings, leaving its target interest rate - a benchmark for borrowing costs across the global economy - at a range of 5% to 5.25%. Over 10 consecutive hikes beginning in March 2022, the Fed had raised rates a whopping 5 percentage points.

"Holding the target range steady at this meeting allows the committee to assess additional information and its implications for monetary policy," the central bank said in a statement. The Fed indicated it still expects to raise rates two more times by the end of the year.

As an economist who follows the central bank's actions closely, I believe there's good reason to think the Fed's brief hiatus is likely to turn into a permanent vacation.

The fastest rate of inflation since the 1980s is what prompted the Fed to hike interest rates so much. So it makes sense that inflation would be a key indicator of when its job is complete.

The latest consumer price index data, released on June 13, showed core inflation - the Fed's preferred measure, which excludes volatile food and energy prices - falling to an annual rate of 5.3% in May 2023, the slowest pace since November 2021. That's down from a peak of 6.6% in September 2022.

While the data shows inflation remains well above the Fed's target of around 2%, there's good reason to believe that it will continue to fall regardless of what the Fed does.

Shelter, a measure of the cost of owning or renting a home, is the largest component of the consumer price index, accounting for more than one-third of the total. In its latest report, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported shelter costs rose 8% from a year ago. After stripping that out, inflation was up just 2.1%.

The thing is, the data reported by the bureau doesn't reflect the reality of what's happening in the current housing market.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics relies on a survey that gauges rental prices from 50,000 leases, many of which were signed during the rental bubble in 2021 and 2022. A better measure of

#### OPEC celebrates 60th anniversary

VIENNA, June 15, (KUNA): Secre-tary General of Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), Haitham Al-Ghais, hailed Thursday the historic role of the five founding member states on occasion of the organization's 60th anniversary

Al-Ghais spoke to KUNA about the momentous establishing meeting that took place in Baghdad, where the founding members' sagacity laid the foundations for an organization that went on to be a pillar of the energy market.

This, stated Al-Ghais, is an oppor-

Several regional lenders, including Silicon Valley Bank and First Republic, collapsed earlier this year following bank runs. Combined, they had over a half-trillion dollars in assets.

While there were several factors behind the banks' demise, an important one was the Fed's aggressive rate hikes, which caused the value of many of their assets to fall. The banks catered to depositors with accounts that exceeded the US\$250,000 threshold protected by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. These depositors ran for the hills when they learned about the extent of the bank losses

This turmoil, in tandem with higher rates, is also cooling business activity. This means the Fed doesn't need to go as high on rates as it otherwise would have.

Further troubles loom over the banking sector. In recent days, notable figures in the finance industry, such as Goldman Sachs CEO David Solomon and former U.S. Treasury Secretary Larry Summers, have warned that nearly \$1.5 trillion in commercial real estate loans will require refinancing over the next three years.

The combination of already high interest rates and low office occupancy rates will likely force banks to absorb hundreds of billions of dollars in loan losses, inevitably putting more banks on the brink of failure.

And if the Fed keeps raising rates, the situation is likely to get a lot worse.

The Fed was behind the curve in 2021 and 2022 in realizing inflation was getting out of control, and it has been historically slow in recognizing the impact of rental rates on inflation.

The June pause in raising rates should give the Fed time to take a break, look at the data and, I hope, realize inflation is closer to its target than it appears.

But if it continues to raise rates, I believe the central bank will be repeating the same mistakes it made in the past.

tunity for all members to reflect upon OPEC's exceptional journey and celebrate its successful endeavors.

The Secretary General spoke of the virtues of collaborative work saying that unity is a source of power. The organization's main objective is to stabilize the oil market, benefit both oil producing and consuming countries alike, and support global economic growth, clarified Al-Ghais.

He went on to say that the organization's 60th anniversary is an opportunity to renew commitment to principles, and recall its inspiring history.

### **INVESTMENT STRATEGY & RESEARCH**

# **KANCO** INVEST

# GCC Banking Sector Report – Q1-2023 ..... June 2023

#### Higher non-interest income and lower LLPs drive profits to a new high

A ggregate net profit for listed banks in the GCC reached a new record high during Q1-2023 mainly led by a steep q-o-q increase in non-interest income that more than offset a sequential decline in interest income in Qatar and Kuwait. In addition, lower provisions booked by banks in the region also supported bottom-line performance during the quarter. As a result, aggregate net profits saw the biggest q-o-q growth since the pandemic at 17.0% to reach USD 13.4 Bn during Q1-2023 from USD 11.5 Bn recorded in Q4-2022. The sequential increase in net profit was broad-based and was seen across the GCC.

Total quarterly net interest income declined for the first time in five quarters during Q1-2023 mainly led by a decline reported by banks in Qatar and Kuwait. On the other hand, banks in UAE reported a growth of 1.2% whereas for Saudilisted banks the growth was flattish. Non-interest income, meanwhile, increased by a strong 17.2% during the quarter with growth seen across the GCC, barring in Bahrain. Kuwait, Saudi and Qatari banks reported strong double-digit growth in non-interest income during the quarter.

The trend in provisions was mixed during the quarter, although aggregate provisions declined by 6.2% q-o-q to reach USD 3.1 Bn in Q1-2023 as compared to USD 3.3 Bn in Q4-2022. The decline mainly came as a result of a steep drop in provisions booked by banks in the UAE, Qatar and Oman that more than offset higher provisions booked by banks in Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Bahrain.

Aggregate lending in the GCC continued to see growth during the quarter although the trend remained mixed at the country level with growth in three out of six countries in the GCC offsetting declines in the remaining countries. Moreover, the q-o-q growth in gross loans fell to a five-quarter low level of 1.2% to reach USD 1.9 Trillion at the end of Q1-2023. The growth in net loans was slightly better at 1.7% to reach USD 1.8 Trillion. On the other hand, growth in customer deposit was at a three-quarter high of 2.9% to reach USD 2.3 Trillion at the end of Q1-2023. The trend once again remained mixed across the GCC countries. The net impact of a stronger growth in customer deposits vs. lending resulted in a decline in loan-to-deposit ratio for the GCC banking sector that reached 78.5%, one of the lowest levels in several quarters.

Central bank data showed Kuwaiti banks seeing double digit growth in outstanding credit facilities during the quarter while Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and Omani banks registered low single-digit growths. The Credit survey from UAE central banks also showed strong lending during the quarter. On the other hand, the Qatari banking sector was an exception showing a marginal decline in lending during the quarter. Data on listed banks also showed growth with aggregate GCC gross loans reaching a new record of USD 1.93 Trillion, increasing by 1.2% or USD 23.5 Bn during the quarter. Outstanding net loan witnessed a slightly smaller growth of 1.1% during the quarter as a result of higher provisions booked during the quarter.

#### **Highlights - GCC Banking Sector**

This report analyzes financials reported by 57 listed banks in the GCC for the quarter ended Q1-2023. Data for individual banks have been aggregated to the country level. Some of the key observations from the most recent financial quarter for the GCC Banking Sector includes the following: Net interest income declines for the first time in five

quarters Aggregate net income reported by banks listed in the GCC witnessed its first decline in five quarters. Total net interest income reached USD 20.0 Bn during Q1-2023 from USD 20.2 Bn in Q4-2022, although when compared to Q1-2022 net interest income of USD 15.6 Bn, the y-o-y growth was a strong 27.7%. The q-o-q decline was mainly led by fall in

set strong growth in Bahrain coupled with marginal growth in net interest income reported by banks in Oman, UAE and Saudi Arabia. Moreover, cost of funds for the aggregate GCC banking sector saw a sharp increase from 1.9% in the previous quarter to reach a multi-quarter high of 2.5% during Q1-2023.

Net interest income reported by banks in Kuwait dropped by 11.0% q-o-q to reach USD 2.1 Bn as compared to USD .3 Bn during Q4-2022. The USD 259 Mn decline was mainly led by a decline in net interest income in five out of 10 listed banks while the remaining five banks reported marginal growth. The decline was mainly led by exposure to currencies via subsidiaries and associates in other countries. Similarly in Qatar, four out of 7 listed banks reported a decline in interest incomes during the quarter. On the growth side, net interest income reported by Saudi-listed banks increased marginally by 0.1% q-o-q to USD 6.8 Bn after growth in net interest come for six out of 10 banks was offset by declines reported by the remaining four that include Al Rajhi Bank, Bank Aljazira, Banque Saudi Fransi and SNB. Amongst the prominent ones, the net interest income for Al Rajhi Bank declined mainly due to higher interest expenses that more than offset a relatively smaller growth in interest income. The aggregate for the UAE banking sector showed net interest income growth of 1.2% after higher interest income in most banks in the UAE was partially offset mainly by a steep q-o-q drop in net interest income reported by Emirates NBD due to the exposure to DenizBank.

#### Topline surges to a new record high led by non-interest income

Total bank revenue for GCC banks registered a healthy q-o-q growth of 3.9% during Q1-2023 to reach a new record high of USD 29.1 Bn as compared to USD 28.0 Bn during Q4-2022. The q-o-q increase was led by a broad-based improvement in revenues across the GCC during the quarter. The increase was mainly led by a strong growth in noninterest income in all GCC countries, barring in Bahrain, that was further supported by higher net interest income in Saudi, UAE, Bahrain and Oman.

Aggregate non-interest income witnessed growth for the second consecutive quarter and reached USD 9.1 Bn during Q1-2023, registering a q-o-q increase of 17.2%. Banks in Kuwait witnessed the strongest q-o-q growth of 41.3% mainly on the back of higher non-interest income reported by KFH. According to the bank, the increase of USD 230.2 Mn was led by gain on sale and increase in market value of investments along with increase in fees and commissions on consolidation with AUB. Saudi Arabia and Qatari banks also registered strong double-digit growth in non-interest income at 31.4% and 20.7%, respectively.

#### Operating expenses remain largely under control

GCC banks showed positive performance on the cost front and these efforts were reflected in the aggregate operating expenses during Q1-2023. Total operating expenses registered a decline of 3.1% to reach USD 11.2 Bn during Q1-2023 after seeing consistent growth during the three previous quarters. Bahrani banks reported the biggest q-o-q decline in operating expenses at -12.3% followed by Kuwait and UAE banks with cost declines of 9.8% and 8.9%, respectively. On the other hand, Saudi banks reported higher operating expenses that reached USD 3.5 Bn with a q-o-q increase of 1.1% while Qatari banks also reported a smaller increase of 1.3% with total operating expenses reaching USD 1.6 Bn.

Aggregate LLP declined but remains higher than prepandemic levels

After two consecutive quarters of growth, aggregate loan loss provisions (LLP) declined during Q1-2023 to reach USD 3.1 Bn as compared to USD 3.3 Bn during Q4-2022. The USD 0.2 Bn or 6.2% q-o-q decline was led by lower aggregate provisions for UAE, Qatar and Omani banks that more than offset an increase in Kuwait. Saudi Arabia and Bahrain. Kuwaiti banks once again booked the biggest absolute increase in provisions during the quarter with a growth of USD other hand, UAE and Qatar-listed banks reported the biggest absolute declines when compared to Q4-2022. Out of the 57 banks we analyzed, 33 banks reported a q-o-q decline in provisions whereas 24 banks reported higher provisions. In terms of specific banks, Emirates NBD reported the biggest decline in provisions booked during the quarter after reporting the biggest provisions during Q4-2022. On the other hand, banks such as NBK, Al Baraka Banking and SNB reported the biggest provisions during Q1-2023, according to data from Refinitiv Eikon.

#### NIM continues to improve on higher yield

The improvement in net interest margin reported by GCC banks continued during Q1-2023 as net interest income remained elevated vs. Q1-2022 coupled with a relatively smaller increase in earning assets. NIM reached a multi-quarter high level of 3.1%, also benefitting from the recent rate hikes. This was also reflected at the country-level with banks in all the GCC countries showing improving margins during the quarter. UAE-listed banks showed the biggest improvement in NIMs during the quarter with an increase of 26 bps to reach 3.28% followed by marginal single bps increase in the rest of the GCC countries. With the improvement, UAE now ranked first in the GCC in terms of NIMs followed by Saudi Arabian banks at 3.22% and 3.05% in the case of Qatari banks during Q1-2023.

Meanwhile, the aggressive rate hikes by the US Fed that is largely replicated by banks in the GCC, NIMs for GCC banks are expected to see growth in the near term with a lag of three to four quarters. However, elevated cost of funding is also expected to partially dent the overall growth in margins, and we can expect to see only a marginal impact if lending sees a slowdown.

#### Lending growth slows during the quarter

GCC banks continued to record growth in lending during Q1-2023 although lending growth slowed down to a 5-quarter low of 1.2%. Aggregate gross loans reached a new record high of USD 1.89 Trillion, up 1.2% q-o-q and 7.9% y-o-y, mainly led by strong growth in banks in Saudi Arabia and UAE. Saudi-listed banks reported the strongest q-o-q growth in lending at 3.2% to reach USD 623 Bn at the end of Q1-2023. UAE-listed banks were next with a growth of 1.6% in gross loans that reached USD 518 Bn followed by Oman with a marginal growth of 0.4%. On the other hand, banks in Kuwait, Bahrain and Qatar reported decline in gross loans during the quarter.

The trend in net loans was slightly better with listed banks in all GCC countries reporting higher q-o-q net loans at the end of Q1-2023, barring Bahraini banks that reported a 1.1% decline. Aggregate net loans at the end of the quarter reached USD 1.80 Trillion registering a growth of 1.7% or USD 30.1 Bn.

#### Deposit growth continues with mixed trend in the GCC

Total customer deposits reported by listed-GCC banks continued to show growth for the eighth consecutive quarter during Q1-2023 to reach a new record high of USD 2.3 Trillion as compared to USD 2.2 Trillion during Q4-2022, registering a q-o-q growth of 2.9%. Higher deposits reflected higher income seeking depositors as interest rates offered by GCC banks increased after the central banks followed US Fed monetary tightening policy aimed at taming inflation. However, the trend remained mixed at the country level. UAE banks reported the biggest absolute increase in deposits with a growth of USD 41 Bn or 6.2% to reach USD 705 Bn followed by Saudi Banks with a growth of 3.7% or USD 26 Bn to reach USD 717 Bn. Omani banks also reported growth of USD 4 Bn or 6.8% q-o-q to reach USD 67 Bn at the end of Q1-2023. On the other hand, banks in Qatar, Bahrain and Kuwait reported declines in customer deposits. Loan-to-deposit witnessed a steep decline

The aggregate loan-to-deposit ratio for the GCC banking sector remained below the 80% mark for the fourth consecutive quarter at the end of Q1-2023 to reach 78.5%, one of the

the quarter saw strong growth in customer deposits as compared to marginal growth in lending. At the country level, the decline was mainly led by a fall in the ratio for UAE and Omani banks and a marginal decline in the ratio for Saudilisted banks. Omani banks reported the biggest drop in the ratio that reached 90.1% at the end of Q1-2023 as compared to 93.9% at the end of last year. Nevertheless, Oman banks continued to boast the highest loan-to-deposit ratio in the GCC during the quarter. UAE-listed banks were next with the second-biggest drop in loan-to-deposit ratio which fell by more than 300 bps to reach 67.6%, one of the lowest over the last several years for the UAE banking sector. On the other hand, Qatari banks showed the biggest improvement in the ratio that reached 87.5% at the end of Q1-2023 vs. 86.2% at the end of Q4-2022 followed by banks in Kuwait and Bahrain that showed growth in the loan-to-deposit ratio by 60 bps each to reach 76.3% and 69.9%, respectively.

#### Central bank data showed continued credit growth in the GCC

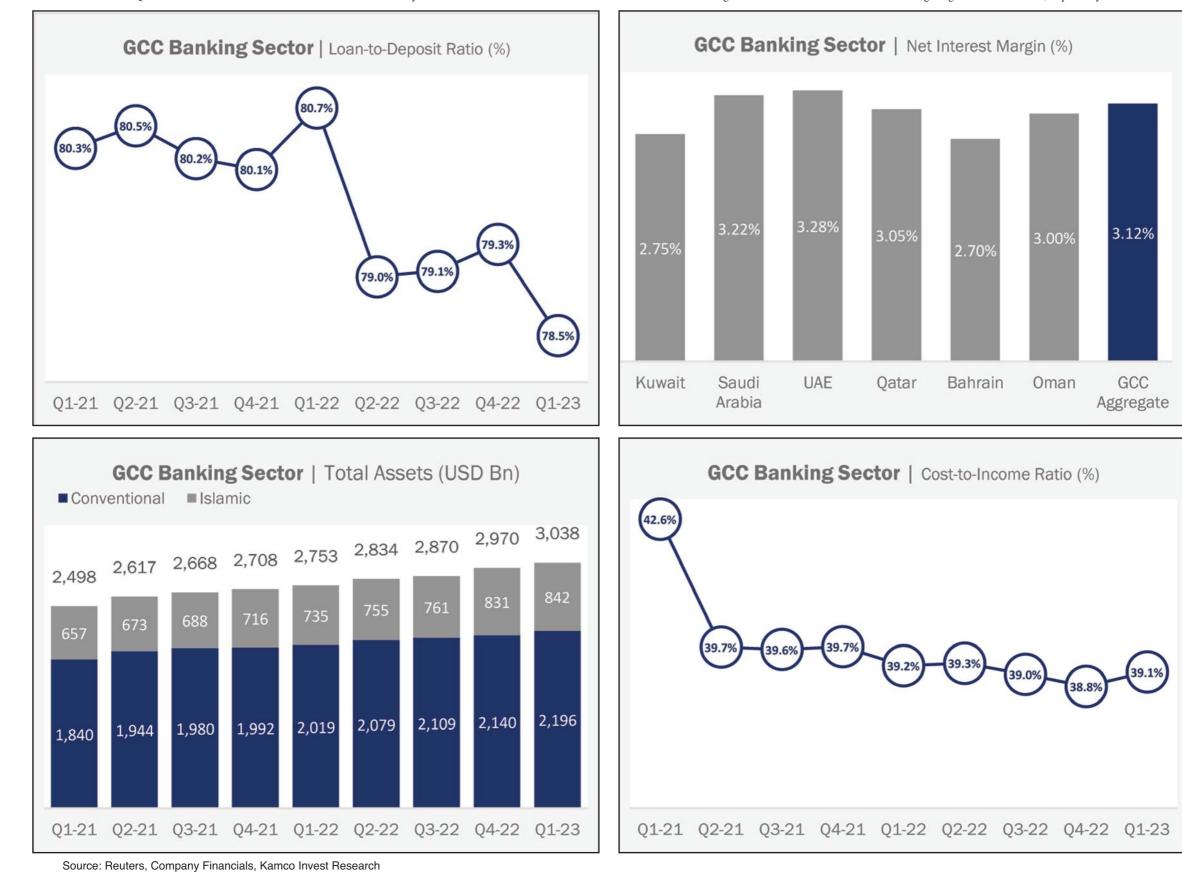
Credit growth in the GCC remained strong during Q1-2023 despite higher interest rates, indicating strong economic activ-ity and business confidence in the region. Manufacturing activity data from Bloomberg (Markit Whole Economy Surveys) showed PMI figures well above the growth mark of 50 for Dubai, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and whole UAE. The manufacturing activity in Saudi Arabia remained robust with PMI at 58.7 points during March-2023 and remained elevated at around the same levels during the next two months. Qatar showed significant gains during March-2023 after remaining subdued during late last year and in the first two months of this year.

Data from GCC central banks showed a growth in lending activity across the region, barring a marginal q-o-q decline of 0.1% in Qatar. In addition, there were some signs of a slowdown in credit offtake in Kuwait. Outstanding credit facilities increased by one of the slowest paces in the last nine quarters by 0.6% q-o-q in Q1-2023. The slowdown was led by a decline in Consumer Loans for the first time in eight quarters by 0.8% while total Personal Facilities dropped by 0.1%. Nevertheless, lending to Industry, Construction and NBFC groups continued to show healthy growth during the quarter. Meanwhile, Saudi Arabia showed the biggest growth in lending during Q1-2023 with aggregate credit facilities increasing by 2.6% as compared to Q4-2022. Data from Saudi Central Bank also showed double digit growth in lending to Finance at +12.7% in addition to healthy growth in lending to Mining & Quarrying, Building & Construction and to Utilities sectors. Data from UAE central bank showed lending growth of 1.4% q-o-q during Q1-2023 that came after two consecutive quarters of declines. The increase was led by an increase in lending to Financial Institutions, Trade, Personal Loans and Government that more than offset declines in other sectors.

#### GCC banking RoE continues to surge on higher interest rates

Aggregate return on equity (RoE) for the GCC banking sector continued to show improvement during Q1-2023 reaching one of the highest levels over the last few years at 12.7% as compared to 12.3% at the end of Q4-2022, reaching almost pre-pandemic levels. The ratio also improved in terms of y-o-y comparison by strong 180 bps supported by an increase in aggregate 12-month profitability coupled with a decline in shareholders' equity. Total shareholder equity declined for the first time in eight quarters, albeit marginally by 0.2%, to reach USD 388.2 Bn. On the other hand, net income improved y-o-y and q-o-q for all countries in the GCC.

At the country level, UAE-listed banks once again topped in the region with the highest RoE at the end of Q1-2023 at 14.8% closely followed by Saudi Arabian and Qatari banks with RoEs of 12.7% and 12.3%, respectively. The biggest q-o-q growth in RoE was also seen for UAE-listed banks at +90 bps which was mainly led by elevated profits as well as a decline in total shareholders' equity. ROEs for Kuwaiti banks also reached double digit level of 10.1% while Bahraini and Omani banks were in



# **BUSINESS**

Al-Has-

sad Press

Release



#### AUB congratulates the Winners of Al-Hassad Weekly Draw

Ahli United Bank (AUB) Congratulates the Winners of Al-Hassad Weekly Draw of Al-Hassad Islamic account, , which was held on 14 June at the bank's head office in the presence of a representative of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

ative of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. The Bank Announced 10 Winners Of KD 1,000 As Follows: Jasem M S Al-Dikan, Abdul Kader Ahmad Awad, Tahani Turki Rubah Al-Mutairii, Mohammad Ahmad Abdulaziz, Meshal Ali Saad Al-Rasheedi, Khaznah Maayouf Abdulrazzaq Al-Hendal, Abdullah Nawaf Aziz Alenezi, Mohamad Ibrahim Khalil, Khawthar Mohammad Ahmad Habeeb and Laila Abdulhussain Al-Khabbaz. In its new package, Al-Hassad Islamic Saving Account presents a broader variety of rewards. Customers could now participate in the draw to win a monthly KD 100,000 prize, in addition to 10 weekly prizes of KD 1,000 each. The grand quarterly prize of KD 250,000 in cash for the winner remains the most important aspiration of customers. It is a real chance for them to realize their life dreams. In addition to this attractive package, there will be the annual expected profits on the basis of a Wakala contract that increases the attractiveness of the Al-Hassad Islamic Saving Account to customers. Al-Hassad Account provides a suite of unique features, including the simplest and easiest savings program and a unique account-opening feature online with all ease with an instant deposit option.

To be eligible to participate in the draw, the customer should have a minimum balance of KD 100, whereby the customer has two chances to participate, with up to 30,000 chances per draw, in addition to rewarding annual profits. Every KD 50 invested entitles the customer to one chance in the draws, provided that to maintain his balance for at least fifteen days before the draw date.

Chairman inks deal on behalf of Fund

# SFD signs 3 loan agreements with SIDS worth \$61 million

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia, June 15, (Business Wire): In implementation of the directives of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz, and HRH Crown Prince and Prime Minister, Mohammed bin Salman, the Saudi Fund for Development (SFD) Board of Directors Chairman, H.E. Ahmed Al Khateeb, recently signed three development loan agreements worth \$61 million with two Small Island Developing States (SIDS) - Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Belize.

This press release features multimedia. View the full release here: https://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20230614127128/en/

Image (from left to right): The Prime Minister of Belize, Hon. John Briceño & The Saudi Fund for Development (SFD) Board of Directors Chairman, H.E. Ahmed Al Khateeb (Photo: AETOSWire)

The signings reflect the efforts undertaken by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, through the SFD, to support sustainable development in developing countries and Small Island Developing States (SIDS). Since its establishment in 1974, SFD has implemented over 700 development projects across 85 countries worldwide.

The first two loan agreements, worth \$16 million, were signed with the Honorable Prime Minister of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Dr. Ralph Gonsalves, for constructing a primary care center, and a cultural and artistic hub and market for craft and agricultural products. SFD continued its support of enhancing the healthcare infrastructure across the SIDS, signing a loan agreement worth \$45 million with the Honorable Prime Minister of Belize, John Briceño, for the construction of a tertiary hospital in Belmopan.

H.E. Ahmed Al-Khateeb, the SFD Board of Directors Chairman, said: "The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is deeply committed to promoting sustainable socioeconomic development in developing countries and Small Island Developing

### UK to invest 54m pounds to develop secure, trustworthy AI research

LONDON, June 15, (KUNA): UK Secretary of State for Science, Innovation and Technology Chloe Smith announced on Wednesday a series of investments to develop trustworthy artificial intelligence (AI) research.

"Universities across the UK are set to benefit from a substantial Pound 54 million investment in their work to develop innovative artificial intelligence (AI) technology," Smith said in a press release.

Smith added, "delivered through UK Research and Innovation (UKRI), Pond 31 million of the funding will be used to back groundbreaking research at the University of Southampton to establish responsible and trustworthy AI, bringing together the expertise of academia, business, and the wider public to explore how responsible AI can be developed and utilized, while considering its broader impact on wider society."

The Technology Secretary unveiled the package in a keynote speech at London

States, in support of the journey towards achieving the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals. These agreements signify an important step forward in development cooperation between Saudi Arabia, the island states of the Caribbean, and Central America, and will open the door for even greater collaborations and partnerships in the future."

The loan agreements will contribute towards raising living standards for the population, while supporting access to vital services. They also represent an essential drive for achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

Tech Week, advancing efforts to secure the UK's position as a science and tech superpower, fuel economic growth and create better paid jobs. The Tech Secretary also announced the launch of the UK Geospatial Strategy

The Tech Secretary also announced the launch of the UK Geospatial Strategy 2030, which will unlock billions of pounds in economic benefits through harnessing technologies including AI, satellite imaging and real-time data.

ing technologies including AI, satellite imaging and real-time data. We're investing in our AI talent pipeline with a  $\pm 54$  million package to develop trustworthy and secure artificial intelligence, and putting our best foot forward as a global leader in tech both now, and in the years to come.

Despite our size as a small island nation, the UK is a technology powerhouse. Last year, the UK became just the third country in the world to have a tech sector valued at USD1 trillion.

It is the biggest in Europe by some distance and behind only the US and China globally.

(SDGs), including SDG 3, Good Health and Wellbeing, and SDG 11, Sustainable Cities and Communities.

SFD's development cooperation with the SIDS reaffirm the importance of international cooperation and solidarity to support developing countries around the world in achieving their sustainable development goals, and fostering economic and social growth.

SFD contributes to development projects by providing soft loans, and prioritizes the financing of projects in developing countries.

# KIB 'spreads' financial literacy, banking awareness at 360 Mall

Effectively contributes to the success of 'Diraya' campaign



KUWAIT CITY, June 15: In continuation of its support for the Let's Be Aware "Diraya" campaign, Kuwait International Bank (KIB) designated a team of its finest talents to raise financial and banking awareness at the 360 Mall. As part of its contribution to the campaign, which was initiated by the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) in cooperation with Kuwait Banking Association (KBA), KIB dedicates its efforts and resources to educating the public on the Bank's different services, products, and latest special offers. On her part, Mariam Al-Nasser, Area Manager at KIB, commented: "KIB has played a significant role in achieving the goals of the 'Diraya' campaign. This can be witnessed in its unwavering efforts toward spreading financial literacy across society and raising awareness of the vital importance banking the sector. of Furthermore, the Bank continues to point the public audience to the best means for benefiting from the various banking services which many banks today continue to develop in a bid to offer their customers the best possible banking experience.' Al-Nasser further noted that the KIB employees were present at the Bank's designated booth in 360 Mall to actively participate in raising awareness on the campaign's multiple focal points, such as customer rights and duties when dealing with banks under the rules and regulations of the CBK. Other topics of interest included data security and the best practices for safekeeping banking account information, as well as the secure means of card use. These topics pose a vital importance, especially when banking and financial services are in constant, fast advancement, which comes with growing risks of fraud that many customers continue to face frequently. Al-Nasser also clarified that the Bank's employees provided the 360 Mall visitors with all necessary information on KIB's banking and financing services, in addition to highlighting the best-suited products and services to their needs and modern lifestyles.



The Prime Minister of Belize (left) Hon John Brice





Top and above: some of the children participating in the activities of Sadu House.

#### Part of its sustainability strategy

# KFH extends partnership with Sadu House

KUWAIT CITY, June 15: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) has extended its strategic partnership with Sadu House that was launched in 2019. The consistent partnership is part of KFH's efforts to sponsor and support initiatives that target all age groups and enhance the Bank's sustainability strategy, the heart of KFH's social role.

The partnership contributes to boosting the cultural and practical activities of Sadu House, in particular those related to spreading Kuwait's heritage in the art of weaving by introducing kids to traditional handicrafts, history of unique textiles such as Sadu and develop their skills and creative thinking, in addition to passing down the rich legacy of ancestors to the modern generation.

Among the programs KFH sponsors are (Fun with Weaving) and (Weaving School). The programs encompass workshops for KFH customers and staff in addition to social and cultural collaborations during national holidays including handicrafts and knitting lessons as well as new weaving skills. The partnership with AlSadu Society continues throughout the year by offering special and notable summer programs, in addition to programs targeting children of "Baiti" account customers.

Further, KFH collaborated with AlSadu Society to launch free workshops for kids under the Bank's strategic sponsorship of the first Winter Wonderland in Kuwait. The collaboration granted an opportunity to a larger group of kids to experience the heritage handiworks and familiarize themselves with historical and cultural legacy that would strengthen their bond with the community.

The strategic partnership also focuses on the environmental aspects as part of KFH's sustainability strategy and its (Keep it Green) initiative.

The Ritz-Carlton, Budapest

Exciting prizes await members

# The Loyal by Al Habtoor Grp launches summer campaign

Loyal members can win two roundtrip tickets and an all-inclusive 5-day hotel stay at The Ritz-Carlton, Budapest.

15 June 2023, Dubai - The Loyal by Al Habtoor Group is thrilled to announce a summer offer that will satisfy all your vacation dreams. Whether you are looking for a luxurious hotel stay, an adventure-filled holiday, or a relaxing getaway, Loyal has you covered. With exclusive offers and discounts, you can make the most of your summer vacation. This summer, Loyal by Al Habtoor Group will offer an extravagant staycation with roundtrip tickets for two and an allinclusive 5-day hotel stay at The Ritz-Carlton, Budapest. All you have to do is download the Loyal by AHG app, be a member, and get a minimum of 3 earning transactions to enter the draw. Winner will be announced on 7 July, 2023. Don't miss your chance to win this luxurious getaway! Download the app and join the Loyal by AHG membership today.

The campaign runs from 15 to 30 June 2023. Start earning points now and you could be on your way to an amazing experience! The digital multiple-tier Loyal

The digital multiple-tier Loyal Membership Programme offers unmatched benefits and encourages members to enjoy five-star hospitality, F&B, leisure, and entrainment by extending discounts, points collection, and points redemption.

Loyal by Al Habtoor Group currently includes 50 restaurants and lounges, seven hotels in the UAE, Habtoor Palace, LXR Hotels & Resorts, V Hotel, Curio Collection by Hilton, Hilton Dubai Al Habtoor City; Habtoor Polo Resort; Waldorf Astoria Dubai Palm Jumeirah; Habtoor Grand Resort, Autograph Collection; Metropolitan Hotel Dubai. Furthermore, the programme offers discounts, earning opportunities, and redemptions at The Atrium at Al Habtoor City and La Perle Dubai.

#### Key Points:

• Download the Loyal by AHG mobile app and get a minimum of 3 earning transactions.

• The more transactions the more chances of winning.

• Open to all existing loyal by AHG members.

• The promotion period starts from 15 to 30 June 2023.

• The winner will be announced on July 7, 2023.

### ABK announces winner of weekly draw prize of KD 10,000

KUWAIT CITY, June 15: Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) announced Fowz Mohammad Shukry Mohammad as the winner of KD10,000 in the Alfouz weekly draw. The winner was announced on Monday, 12 June, 2023. The draw was held under the supervision of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

The Alfouz draw account offers ABK customers the chance to win life-changing rewards. With Alfouz, ABK customers will get a chance to win KD10,000 in the weekly draw and the ultimate grand prize of KD5,000 monthly additional income for 10 years. Both new and existing ABK customers can benefit from this opportunity, with a minimum account balance of KD100 only.

ABK encourages everyone to open Alfouz draw account and/or increase their balances to have more chances in winning in the upcoming draw which will happen on Monday, 19 June 2023. The higher the deposits are, the higher the chances to win.

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



Winner of the weekly draw

Bill Gates in Beijing for China visit

BEIJING, June 15, (AP): Microsoft Corp. co-founder Bill Gates says he is in Beijing, joining a series of foreign business figures who have visited China as the ruling Communist Party tries to revive investor interest in the country.

Gates, who stepped down as Microsoft chairman in 2014, said on Twitter late Wednesday that he would meet partners who have worked with his charitable foundation. However, Gates is revered in China as an entrepreneur, giving Chinese leaders a chance to show their interest in foreign business by publicizing any meetings with him. CEOs of global companies including Elon Musk of Tesla Ltd. and Apple Inc.'s Tim Cook have visited China this year and met Premier Li Qiang, the top economic official, and Cabinet ministers following the end of anti-virus controls that blocked most international travel.

"I'm excited to visit with partners who have been working on global health and development challenges with @gatesfoundation for more than 15 years," Gates wrote on Twitter. He gave no details.

# **BUSINESS**

#### Lzlabs, Huawei to support digital transformation of banks

Lzlabs GmbH and Huawei jointly released a unique offering for the modernization of legacy mainframe banking systems during the Huawei Intelligent Finance Summit 2023. By leveraging an innovative mainframe modernization approach together, we are able to transform core legacy banking systems towards modern, agile systems with a reliable technology stack on the platform of innovation. This new innovative solution guides banks to preserve what needs to be preserved, integrate well with other solutions, part-ner for the right solution, take back con-

trol with open technologies, change only what needs changing while keeping in-teroperability, and enable iterative and incremental change. With this, banks can embrace the digital world and the development of financial digitization to support and sustain the steady growth of business innovation.

On the first day of the summit, Thilo Rockmann, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Lzlabs GmbH, attended the joint solution release session of the "Mainframe Modernization as a Service"

In subsequent session speech, Thilo

Rockmann, talked about the importance of mainframe modernization and the process of mainframe application modernization to be followed to achieve transformation success, presenting "From

Legacy to Agility". During this session, Thilo Rockmann shared his industry experience and best practices for mainframe migration. He presented several collective use cases and methodologies that have led to successful migrations, providing customers with greater agility and a leap forward on their digital transformation journey. (AP)



Thilo Rockmann, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Lzlabs GmbH

#### Deal likely to face stiff regulatory scrutiny

# Vodafone, Three to merge UK businesses to capitalize on 5G rollout

'World's most advanced accelerator for generative Al'

Al chip race heats up as AMD introduces rival to Nvidia tech

LONDON, June 15, (AP): Two of the UK's biggest mobile phone operators agreed Wednesday to merge their businesses to capitalize on the rollout of next-generation 5G wire-

less technology in the country. The tie-up of Vodafone UK and Three UK, which is owned by Hong Kong's CK Hutchison, would create Britain's biggest mobile phone player, with a combined 27 million customers. But the deal is likely to face stiff regulatory scrutiny as it will reduce the number of mobile networks in the country from four to three.

Vodafone will account for 51% of the merged firm, with CK Hutchison owning the rest. The deal has a reported value of around 15 billion pounds (\$18.75 billion).

#### Connectivity

The groups said the merger will help them compete with their rivals on 5G technology, which provides much faster connectivity and greater capacity that will potentially allow thousands of devices to be connected at the same time within a relatively small area.

Vodafone CEO Margherita Della Valle described the deal as a "gamechanger" for the company's home market.

"It's transformative as it will cre-

SAN FRANCISCO, June 15, (AP): Advanced Micro Devices has revealed a new artificial intelligence chip in its race to compete with rival chipmaker Nvidia in supplying the foundation for a boom in AI-fueled The semiconductor company, based in Santa Clara, California, described its new MI300X chip as "the world's most advanced accelerator

This July 13, 2010 file photo, shows an entrance to the Advanced Micro Devices Inc. (AMD) headquarters in Sunnyvale, Calif. AMD has re-vealed a new artificial intelligence chip in its race to compete with rival chipmaker Nvidia in supplying the foundation for a boom in AI-fueled business tools. (AP)

vidually lack the necessary financial muscle for what's needed.

"This has long been a challenge for Three UK's ability to invest and compete," he said. The companies said they are aim-

ing to complete the deal by the end

AMD CEO Lisa Su demonstrated the new technology at a showcase event in San Francisco on Tuesday. AMD joins a growing list of technology companies trying to take ad-

loads," Zino wrote.

vantage of a broader interest from businesses looking for new AI tools that can analyze data, help make decisions and potentially replace some tasks currently performed by human

see significant interest from cloud

providers and vie with NVIDIA's

Microsoft should also drive upside,

as it is reportedly cited to be devel-

oping a custom processor chip that

Microsoft will use for AI work-

"AMD's stronger partnership with

Grace Hopper Superchip.'

of 2024

If it gets the go-ahead from regulators, Vodafone UK boss Ahmed Essam will be chief executive, with Three UKchief financial officer Darren Purkis taking on that role at the merged company.

workers. Much of the interest is on "generative AI" tools such as Chat-GPT that can produce works of writing on command, as well as images,

computer code and other media. Nvidia, also based in Santa Clara, has carved itself a position as the lead provider of AI chips, a term that encompasses computing hardware that's specialized to handle workloads such as the "training" of AI systems on vast troves of data. Nvidia, already one of the most valuable companies on the planet, joined the exclusive club of companies worth more than a trillion dollars shortly after forecasting a massive revenue boost thanks in part to chips made for use with artificial intelligence technology.

The company expects cost savings of more than 700 million pounds within five years of the deal's completion, through measures such as merging IT systems; combining marketing, sales, distribution and logistics activities; and general costcutting. It comes a month after Vodafone announced that it was laying off 11.000 workers globally as part of a major revamp aimed at cutting costs and boosting flagging financial performance.

Vodafone UK and Three UK pledged to invest 11 billion pounds in Britain over the next 10 years to cre-ate one of Europe's biggest 5G networks, promising that every school and hospital in the country will have access to standalone 5G by 2030.

Given that the deal would reduce the number of mobile operators in the UK - EE and O2 being the other two - it will be scrutinized closely by the Competition and Markets Authority.

Rocio Concha, director of policy and advocacy and consumer champion publication Which?, said the deal will require a thorough assessment from the regulator to ensure it is not harmful to consumers.

"A good mobile connection is essential to everyday modern life, and this merger between Vodafone and Three will have a significant impact on the telecoms market," she said.

"Reducing the number of network providers from four to three risks reducing the choices available to consumers, raising prices and lowering the quality of services available," she added.



said.

business tools.

for generative AI." It's expected to

attract interest from big cloud pro-

viders such as Amazon or Microsoft,

but AMD hasn't specified which

CFRA senior equity analyst An-

gelo Zino predicted this month that

that AMD's MI300 processor "will

ate a best-in-class - indeed best-in-

Europe - 5G network, offering cus-

tomers a superior experience," she

Canning Fok, group co-managing

director of C.K. Hutchison, said

Three UK and Vodafone UK indi-

cloud provider might use it.

European Commissioner for Europe fit for the Digital Age Margrethe Vestager speaks during a media conference regarding an antitrust case against Google Adtech at EU headquarters in Brussels on June 14, 2023.

# How EU is leading world in push to regulate artificial intelligence

LONDON, June 15: (AP): Lawmakers in Europe signed off Wednesday on the world's first set of comprehensive rules for artificial intelligence, clearing a key hurdle as authorities across the globe race to rein in AI.



Europe's AI regulation clears key hurdle

#### **Competition concerns**

# Google should break up digital ad business: EU

BRUSSELS, June 15, (AP): European Union regulators hit Google with fresh antitrust charges Wednesday, saying the only way to satisfy competition concerns about its lucrative digital ad business is by selling off parts of the tech giant's main moneymaker.

The unprecedented decision to push for such a breakup marks a significant escalation by Brussels in its crackdown on Silicon Valley digital giants, and follows a similar move by US authorities seeking to bust Google's alleged monopoly on the online ad ecosystem.

The European Commission, the bloc's executive branch and top antitrust enforcer, said its preliminary view after an investigation is that "only the mandatory divestment by Google of part of its services" would address the concerns. The 27-nation EU has led the global

movement to crack down on Big Tech companies - including moving closer to groundbreaking rules on artificial intelligence - but it has previously relied on issuing blockbuster fines, including three antitrust penalties for Google worth billions.

It is the first time the bloc has told a tech giant that it should split up key parts of its business over violations of the EU's strict antitrust laws, though details on what that could look like are not clear following the preliminary finding.

Google can now defend itself by making its case before the commission issues its final decision. The company said it disagreed with the finding and "will respond accordingly," adding that the EU's investigation focused on a narrow part of its ad business.

#### Technology

"Our advertising technology tools help websites and apps fund their content, and enable businesses of all sizes to effectively reach new customers,' said Dan Taylor, Google vice president of global ads. "Google remains committed to creating value for our publisher and advertiser partners in this highly competitive sector."

The commission's decision stems from a formal investigation that it opened in June 2021, looking into whether Google violated the bloc's competition rules by favoring its own online display advertising technology services at the expense of rival publishers, advertisers and advertising technology services.

Online display ads are banners and text that appear on websites such as newspaper home pages and are personalized based on an internet user's browsing history.

Commission Vice European President Margrethe Vestager says Google is dominant on both sides of the ad-selling market. Google abused that position by favoring its own ad exchange, reinforcing its ability to charge a high fee for its services, the commission said.

#### Demand

"Google is representing the interests of both buyers and sellers. And at the same time, Google is setting the rules on how demand and supply should meet," she said at a news conference. "This gives rise to inherent and pervasive conflicts of interest.'

Vestager added that if Google sold off, for example, its real-time marketplace for buying and selling ads or a tool for publishers to manage their ads, 'we would put an end to the conflicts of interest.

The commission is seeking a forced sale because past cases that ended with fines and requirements for Google to stop anti-competitive practices have not worked, allowing the company to continue its behavior, "just under a different disguise," she said.

"This is a big deal" and a sign that the commission has "lost all trust in Google and lost all trust in those behavioral remedies" mandating changes to the way it operates, said Rich Stables, CEO of rival search engine Kelkoo, which was involved in two of the EU's previous Google antitrust cases.

Google's ad tech business is also under investigation by Britain's antitrust watchdog and faces litigation in the U.S. that calls for the company to divest its digital ad tools.

European and U.S. authorities are acknowledging that "the only way to address this egregious conflict of interest is to force Google to divest part of its business," said Max von Thun, director of the Europe office of the Open Markets Institute, a proponent of stronger antitrust enforcement.

The commission's move is "a clear illustration of the power competition authorities have when they work in parallel," he said.

The European Parliament vote is one of the last steps before the rules become law, which could act as a model for other places working on similar regulations.

A yearslong effort by Brussels to draw up guardrails for AI has taken on more urgency as rapid advances in chatbots like ChatGPT show the benefits the emerging technology can bring - and the new perils it poses

Here's a look at the EU's Artificial Intelligence Act:

#### How rules work?

The measure, first proposed in 2021, will govern any product or service that uses an artificial intelligence system. The act will classify AI systems according to four levels of risk, from minimal to unacceptable.

Riskier applications, such as for hiring or tech targeted to children, will face tougher requirements, including being more transparent and using accurate data.

It will be up to the EU's 27 member states to enforce the rules. Regulators could force companies to withdraw their apps from the market.

In extreme cases, violations could draw fines of up to 40 million euros (\$43 million) or 7% of a company's annual global revenue, which in the case of tech companies like Google and Microsoft could amount to bil-

#### What are the risks?

One of the EU's main goals is to guard against any AI threats to health and safety and protect fundamental rights and values.

That means some AI uses are an absolute no-no, such as "social scoring" systems that judge people based on their behavior.

Also forbidden is AI that exploits vulnerable people, including children, or uses subliminal manipulation that can result in harm, for example, an interactive talking toy that encourages dangerous behavior.

Predictive policing tools, which crunch data to forecast who will commit crimes, is also out.

Lawmakers beefed up the original proposal from the European Commission, the EU's executive branch, by widening the ban on real-time remote facial recognition and biometric identification in public. The technology scans passers-by and uses AI to match their faces or other physical traits to a database.

A contentious amendment to allow law enforcement exceptions

Lawmakers vote on the Artificial Intelligence act on June 14, 2023, at the European Parliament in Strasbourg, eastern France. Authorities worldwide are racing to rein in artificial intelligence, including in the European Union, where groundbreaking legislation was set to pass a key hurdle Wednesday. European Parliament lawmakers are due to vote on the proposal – including controversial amendments on facial recognition. (AP)

such as finding missing children or preventing terrorist threats did not pass

AI systems used in categories like employment and education, which would affect the course of a person's life, face tough requirements such as being transparent with users and taking steps to assess and reduce risks of bias from algorithms.

Most AI systems, such as video games or spam filters, fall into the low- or no-risk category, the commission says.

#### What about ChatGPT?

The original measure barely mentioned chatbots, mainly by requiring them to be labeled so users know they're interacting with a machine. Negotiators later added provisions to cover general purpose AI like Chat-GPT after it exploded in popularity, subjecting that technology to some of the same requirements as highrisk systems.

One key addition is a requirement to thoroughly document any copyright material used to teach AI systems how to generate text, images, video and music that resemble human work.

That would let content creators know if their blog posts, digital books, scientific articles or songs have been used to train algorithms that power systems like ChatGPT. Then they could decide whether their work has been copied and seek redress.

#### Why are rules important?

The European Union isn't a big player in cutting-edge AI develop-ment. That role is taken by the U.S. and China. But Brussels often plays a trend-setting role with regulations that tend to become de facto global standards and has become a pioneer in efforts to target the power of large tech companies.

The sheer size of the EU's single market, with 450 million consumers, makes it easier for companies to comply than develop different products for different regions, experts say.

But it's not just a crackdown. By laying down common rules for AI, Brussels is also trying to develop the market by instilling confidence among users.

"The fact this is regulation that can be enforced and companies will be held liable is significant" because other places like the United States, Singapore and Britain have merely offered "guidance and recommendations," said Kris Shrishak, a technologist and senior fellow at the Irish Council for Civil Liberties.

"Other countries might want to adapt and copy" the EU rules, he said.

Businesses and industry groups warn that Europe needs to strike the right balance.

"The EU is set to become a leader in regulating artificial intelligence, but whether it will lead on AI innovation still remains to be seen," said Boniface de Champris, a policy manager for the Computer and Communications Industry Association, a lobbying group for tech companies.

"Europe's new AI rules need to effectively address clearly defined risks, while leaving enough flexibility for developers to deliver useful AI applications to the benefit of all Europeans," he said.

Sam Altman, CEO of ChatGPT maker OpenAI, has voiced support for some guardrails on AI and signed on with other tech executives to a warning about the risks it poses to humankind. But he also has said it's "a mistake to go put heavy regulation on the field right now.

Others are playing catch up on AI rules. Britain, which left the EU in 2020, is jockeying for a position in AI leadership. Prime Minister Rishi Sunak plans to host a world summit on AI safety this fall.

"I want to make the UK not just the intellectual home but the geographical home of global AI safety regulation," Sunak said at a tech conference this week.

#### What's next?

It could be years before the rules fully take effect. The next step is three-way negotiations involving member countries, the Parliament and the European Commission, possibly facing more changes as they try to agree on the wording.

Final approval is expected by the end of this year, followed by a grace period for companies and organizations to adapt, often around two years.

Brando Benifei, an Italian member of the European Parliament who is co-leading its work on the AI Act, said they would push for quicker adoption of the rules for fast-evolving technologies like generative AI.

To fill the gap before the legislation takes effect, Europe and the U.S. are drawing up a voluntary code of conduct that officials promised at the end of May would be drafted within weeks and could be expanded to other "like-minded countries."

# **BUSINESS**

**The Conversation** 

#### Suicide rates for farmworkers, truckers among highest in US

# Adjusting jobs to protect workers' mental health 'challenging'

By Emily Rosado-Solomon, Babson College, Jaclyn Koopmann, Auburn University, and Matthew A. Cronin, George Mason University

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

US employees are increasingly struggling with mental health challenges tied to their jobs, such as depression, anxiety and burnout.

We're professors who research how employees interact and workplace well-being. After noticing that research on mental health and work had not kept up with the increasing prevalence of mental health challenges, we reviewed existing findings on mental health and work to see how scholars can best investigate these issues going forward.

We found that employers could greatly reduce the causes of many of their employees' mental health challenges through basic human resources approaches, such as taking tasks away from someone who is perpetually swamped or providing more job flexibility. But those fixes, as we explained in the journal Academy of Management Annals, would require work-related changes employers rarely make or authorize.

We analyzed the findings from 556 articles by researchers on this topic and observed that helping individual employees cope after their problems emerge is far more common than taking steps to preemptively fix problems that are contributing to workers' conditions.

#### Culture and job design

When you think about jobs that can take a toll on mental health, some very demanding and stressful professions may come to mind. Doctors, nurses, soldiers and first responders, for example, often do suffer due to their regular contact with illness and death on the job.

Yet, we found that the tasks employees perform are often not what leads to their mental health degradation. Instead, an employer's culture and the way its jobs are designed play big roles.

This pattern can explain why poor mental health manifests in all lines of work, not just emotionally demanding jobs. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has found, for instance, that suicide rates for farmworkers, truckers and warehouse workers are among the nation's highest.

An employer's culture lays the groundwork for the quality of social interactions among its employees and, depending on the profession, with clients, students or the public.

The way people deal with one another can prove important. For instance, employees who endure workinsufficient support for workers caused disproportionate damage to their mental health. These factors were separate from the trauma they regularly witnessed and experienced in the aftermath of disasters.

This body of research indicates that all employers can reduce workrelated mental health risks by scrutinizing how jobs are designed and determining whether any positions should be reconfigured for the sake of their employees' mental health.

#### Mental health benefits

Employers have a choice. They can take steps to prevent mental health damage before it occurs, or they can deal with its aftermath. Both are important, but according to the body of research we've reviewed, the latter is far more common.

People with chronic mental illnesses can thrive at work in the right conditions. And most U.S. employers today do provide access to mental health benefits, partly due to the Affordable Care Act. The ACA, which Congress passed in 2010, requires insurance companies to treat mental health care the same way they treat physical health care when offering coverage.

About 78% of US employers provide mental health benefits, including employee assistance programs, and work benefits that provide individual mental health, financial and legal support. Such measures are useful, but only after the harm has taken place. These benefits generally do nothing about psychological hazards tied to work and preventing work-related harm.

Further, many employees who need help don't take advantage of these programs.

Here are steps employers can take to address the causes of poor mental health:

· Revise job descriptions. Employers should eliminate ambiguity, wherever that's possible, about core duties and responsibilities. They should communicate with employees to ensure they understand why their jobs might require flexibility and adaptation. In times when workloads get unavoidably large, such as what happens at accounting firms in the weeks before Tax Day, employers should strive to balance long shifts with opportunities for employees to rest and recharge.

· Proactively train staff on the positive behaviors expected of them. Just as employers strategically plan which job-related skills are important, they can also strategically identify what interpersonal skills are important and value these like technical capabilities with hiring and promotions. If employees engage in bullying behavior, employers can retrain, reassign or fire them accordingly. • Help employees build resilience. Research on police officers suggests that when they get resiliencebuilding training before experiencing trauma on the job, it can reduce the risk of developing post-traumatic stress disorder. Similar types of resilience training could also help in less inherently traumatic lines of work. • Don't assume that employees will speak up. Only 65% of employees with mental health challenges say that they would tell a co-worker, manager or human resources representative about those problems. They may conceal the severity of these issues even if they do talk about them,

#### **Bv Kate Ashford**

NerdWallet

As many as 8 in 10 older Ameri-cans couldn't afford more than four years in an assisted living facility or two years in a nursing home, according to a 2023 analysis by the National Council on Aging and the LeadingAge LTSS Center @UMass Boston.

This is particularly hard for peoble in the monetary middle, defined by Pew Research Center as "those with an annual household income of about \$52,000 to \$156,000 annually in 2020 dollars for a household of three." They don't have enough to pay for long-term care, but they have too many assets to qualify for government assistance. Medicare also doesn't cover long-term care. What are the options for the 47 million households with older adults who will face this scenario?

From reverse mortgages to hybrid insurance policies, here are some avenues available to people who can't afford the care they need.

#### **Reverse mortgage**

If you have significant equity in your home and you're at least 62 years old, a reverse mortgage can provide a helpful stream of income. A reverse mortgage is a loan or line of credit based on your home's equity. You tap the equity now and pay the loan off when the home is sold.

"What most people do, especially in a situation like a long-term care issue - once they're out of the house, you sell it and use the proceeds to pay it off," says Nicholas Bunio, a certified financial planner in Downingtown, Pennsylvania.

A reverse mortgage has downsides closing costs are expensive, similar to taking out a traditional mortgage, and you'll leave less to heirs - but if you're planning to receive home care or there's a spouse still at home, it can be a solid option. (Once there's no one living in the home for a year or more, the home must be sold to pay back the loan.)

Price out insurance

If you have no major health issues, get quotes for long-term care insurance. Although experts recommend purchasing by age 65, you may be insurable up to age 79. Premiums can be pricey, but note that a semiprivate room in a nursing home costs more than \$94,000 per year, to the 2021 Cost corum Survey by Genworth, an insurance company.

# What if you can't afford long-term care?

Reverse mortgage has downsides

#### 80% of migraine sufferers are women

Quantum selects AndHealth to offer new migraine reversal program for employees

COLUMBUS, Ohio, June 15: Quantum Health, the leading consumer healthcare navigation and care coordination company, has announced the extension of its comprehensive benefits program to include AndHealth's migraine disease reversal program available to Quantum Health's emplovee base, also known as Healthcare Warriors<sup>®</sup>, and members of the Quantum Health health plan over the age of 18.

Given Quantum Health's employee interest in migraine care and support, AndHealth was selected to enhance the benefits offering based off of their successful achievement of life-changing patient outcomes, and strong, guaranteed ROI. As the leader in healthcare navigation, Quantum Health is committed to rigorously evaluating healthcare solutions for value and outcomes for its clients and, with this same rigor, brings vetted programs to their own employees.

The debilitating impact of migraine has historically been overlooked due to difficulties with unclear care options and access to patient treatment, resulting in minimal visibility in health insurance claims. However, with a working-age prevalence of 1 in 5 adults, leading employers now acknowledge migraine as a costly condition. Employers recognize the increasing need for solutions that provide high-value specialty care to reverse the significant human and financial toll migraine has in the workplace.

Migraine is a neurological disease that causes severe headaches along with symptoms like nausea, sensitivity to light and sound, and difficulty concentrating. These symptoms significantly impact employee productivity, leading to increased absenteeism and presenteeism. Additionally, medical costs associated

hybrid policy. Arrangements vary, but typically you can use some or all of your death benefit to pay for longterm care during your lifetime, and anything you don't use will be paid tate when you

with migraine can be twice the average claimant and continue to increase due to new high-cost medications and emergency room visits. Migraine is frequently cited as a top cause of short and long-term disability leaveanother cost that is typically hidden in medical claims data.

Because about 80% of migraine sufferers are women, the condition has been well-established as a health equity challenge, a source of social stigma, and a contributor to the gender wage gap. And with just 2,000 headache specialists nationwide, patients that suffer from migraine may wait months just to see a qualified provider.

#### Challenges

To address these challenges, Quantum Health will provide its employees access to AndHealth's migraine disease reversal program which offers comprehensive, personalized care for migraine sufferers. AndHealth clinicians focus not only on managing migraine symptoms but also on identifying and addressing the underlying root causes. Patients are supported through a care plan that combines expert specialty treatment alongside personalized lifestyle, behavior, and nutritional support.

Veronica Knuth, Chief Human Resources Officer of Quantum Health, highlighted the organization's commitment to employee well-being and the importance of the partnership. "Caring for our members starts with caring for our people, and I am proud to invest in and continually enhance our benefits offerings. Migraine is a condition that is often overlooked or hidden, posing challenges in providing appropriate care and support. By partnering with AndHealth, we are dedicated to addressing these barriers and ensuring that our Healthcare

full price for long. When someone runs out of money, the benevolent fund covers the difference for as long as they need care. (They'll typically collect Social Security and ayments that may come in to help cover costs.) "They can be a good alternative for people who think they won't have enough financial assets," says Diane Pearson, a certified financial planner in Wexford, Pennsylvania. Benevolent care funds are often connected to faith-based communities. A search for faith-based facilities in your area might yield some options.

Warriors have access to specialized migraine care."

AndHealth patients routinely achieve reductions in migraine days of about 2X what is achieved with the "standard of care" or medications alone. Samantha, a Quantum Healthcare Warrior, was experiencing 12-15 migraine days per month. Her treatment plan included addressing lifestyle factors like nutrition and the impact of stress in her life. Through the program, Samantha successfully reduced her migraine days, unlocking a new way of living. "AndHealth has been very beneficial in helping improve my treatment for migraines," said Samantha. "The one-on-one coaching time and personalized plan fits my treatment needs; my migraines have slowed tremendously, and it has helped me sleep. I'm doing a lot better.

Migraine is also highly comorbid with other conditions, and about 80% of migraine sufferers also have anxiety or depression. Matt Scantland, Founder and CEO of AndHealth, said, "By addressing shared root causes and the pain and disruption associated with migraine, AndHealth patients demonstrate consistent improvement in mental and cardiometabolic health. Migraine is a condition that can be incredibly challenging for patients but is very addressable when patients get real-time access to highquality care to address root causes. As another Columbus-based company, I admired Quantum Health's commitment to its culture and its people, and we are thrilled to be working alongside them to provide this support so their employees can realize their full potential.

Quantum Health's program with AndHealth launched in June, coinciding with National Migraine Awareness Month.

cy and you're considering letting it lapse or taking the cash value from it, a life settlement may be the better option. In a life settlement, a third party buys your insurance policy, you typically receive 5% and 25% of the value of the death benefit. "There are investors out there who will basically make the premium payments on your behalf, but they keep the policy proceeds when you pass away," says Christopher Lyman, a certified financial planner in Newtown, Pennsylvania. You might make this choice in a financial crisis. "The only reason you would do that is kind of like a last option,' he says. (AP)

place bullying and don't have a supportive boss or colleagues that they can talk to are more likely to have poor mental health.

The way that a job is designed can cause stress, anxiety and feelings of mental and emotional exhaustion. Not having the authority to make decisions, lacking clarity about responsibilities and facing obligations that regularly conflict with personal obligations, infringing upon personal and family time, can all increase the risk of mental health problems.

Workplace culture and job design also matter for people doing inherently traumatic jobs.

A review of 61 studies of humanitarian aid workers' mental health made clear that poor leadership and

"In many cases, long-term care insurance is a lot less expensive than the actual cost of care," says Michelle Gessner, a certified financial planner in Houston. "So \$1 of premium gives you multiple dollars of benefits, and that's not the case with paying for it out of pocket.'

Another option may be a permanent life insurance policy with a long-term care rider, often called a

due to the stigma associated with mental health problems. Proactively addressing the causes of poor mental health for everyone is key, because there's no way for employers to

"People complain that they're expensive," Gessner says, but she points out that nursing home care can cost \$6,000 to \$7,000 a month (or more). "What I tell people is just get what you can afford," she says. 'It's not all or nothing."

#### **Benevolent funds**

Some nursing homes or assisted living communities offer benevolent care, meaning they'll take someone in who doesn't have enough money to pay full freight or who can't pay

know the extent of these problems. Spotting physical hazards on the

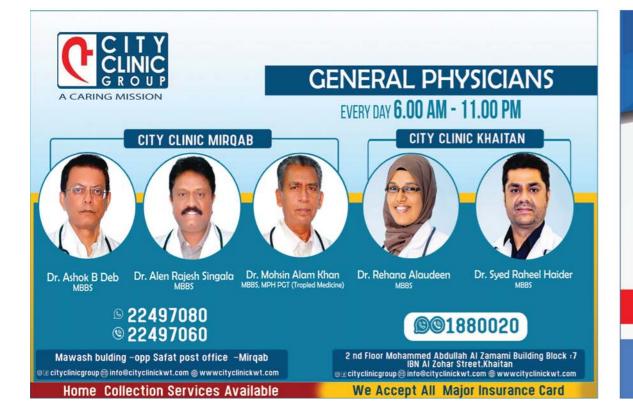
job is easier than identifying psychological hazards. Yet that doesn't mean the psychological hazards are

#### Life settlement

If you have a life insurance poli-

less dangerous or can't be addressed. Requiring hard hats, posting warnings and mandating safe work habits have reduced accidents in factories. on construction sites and at other workplaces. Likewise, researchers have found that redesigning jobs and adopting better workplace cultures can go a long way toward improving mental health. (AP)







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#### UK's ITV defends work culture amid host affair scandal

# Fox News says it 'addressed' message calling Biden a 'wannabe dictator'

NEW YORK, June 15, (AP): Fox News appeared to express regret Wednesday for showing an onscreen message that called President Joe Biden a "wannabe dictator" who had his political rival arrested.

On the day he was arraigned on federal charges for hoarding classified documents, former President Donald Trump illustrated his continued role as a lightning rod for the media. PBS second-guessed one of its own messages about Trump, and his primetime speech showed a policy change at CNN following the ouster of its former leader.

The Fox News Channel chyron appeared beneath split-screen video boxes that showed Trump addressing supporters live in New Jersey, and Biden speaking at the White House earlier in the day.

The message read, "Wannabe dictator speaks at the White House after having his political rival arrested."

Fox said in a statement Wednesday that "the chyron was taken down immediately and was addressed." The website Mediaite reported that the message was onscreen for 27 seconds. It was also not removed when the telecast was rerun late at night.

Fox did not explain how the message made it onto the screen and how the matter was addressed.

The White House has said Biden has had no contact with Attorney General Merrick Garland about the indictment by special counsel Jack Smith, which accuses Trump of illegally hoarding classified documents. Biden has not commented on the case.

Two months ago, Fox News agreed to pay Dominion Voting Systems \$787 million to settle a lawsuit accusing the news organization of telling lies about the 2020 presidential election.

"There are probably about 787 million things that I can say about this," White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said when asked



Wednesday about the chyron. "That was wrong - about what we saw last night - but I don't think I'm going to get into it."

It's not hard to find Republican politicians or commentators on Fox to suggest the indictment was politically motivated - Trump attorney Joe Tacopina made the same charges on Sean Hannity's show within a half-hour after Trump's speech.

Yet some on Fox have spoken to the seriousness of the case against Trump, most notably his former attorney general, William Barr, during an appearance over the weekend, and legal analyst Jonathan Turley.

Fox has seen its primetime ratings tumble sharply since it fired Tucker Carlson shortly after the Dominion case was settled. Carlson posted another video commentary on Twitter Tuesday night, despite Fox's lawyers demanding that he stop doing that because it violated the terms of a contract that runs until early 2025.

Meanwhile, PBS used the lower third of its screen to post factchecks when it streamed Trump's New Jersey speech on its YouTube channel Tuesday night.

The final one was eye-catching: "Experts warn that inflammatory rhetoric from elected officials or people in power can prompt individual actors to commit acts of violence."

#### Defense

While the statement is true, PBS officials are questioning whether or not that was the right forum, said Sara Just, senior executive producer at "NewsHour." Other messages PBS used onscreen mentioned how federal officials have attested to the security of the 2020 presidential election, and how prosecutors say that some documents discovered at Trump's home pertained to US nuclear programs and defense capabilities. "We are discussing whether or not we might phrase that better," Just said.

While Fox News aired Trump's speech live, MSNBC did not. Neither did CNN. That's in contrast to when Trump was indicted on separate charges in New York in April, when CNN aired most of a similar Trump address the night of his arraignment. That was before former CNN chief executive Chris Licht, who had been making efforts to appeal to GOP viewers, was ousted.

"We're not carrying his remarks live because, frankly, he says a lot of things that are untrue and, frankly, potentially dangerous," CNN's Jake Tapper said.

After the speech was over, CNN aired a nearly two-minute clip of Trump that Tapper followed with several fact-checks.

#### Also:

**LONDON:** Executives at **Britain**'s ITV on Wednesday defended the broadcaster's working culture as a committee of lawmakers grilled them about the way the network handled staff complaints and allegations of a "toxic," bullying work environment.

ITV, best known for shows like "Downton Abbey," "Coronation Street" and "The X Factor," has been under intense public scrutiny since **Phillip Schofield**, a long-time host on the channel's popular morning show, quit last month after admitting he lied about his affair with a much younger male colleague.

Chief executive **Carolyn McCall** and two other ITV executives were called to Parliament's culture, media and sport committee to answer wider questions about how the broadcaster handled staff complains and safeguarding.



Film

FRIDAY-SATURDAY, JUNE 16-17, 2023

LAS VEGAS: Nine more women are accusing Bill Cosby of sexual assault in a lawsuit that alleges he used his "enormous power, fame and prestige" to victimize them. A lawsuit filed Wednesdav in

federal court in **Nevada** alleges that the women were individually drugged and assaulted between approximately 1979 and 1992 in Las Vegas, **Reno** and **Lake Tahoe** homes, dressing rooms and hotels.

One woman alleges that Cosby, claiming to be her acting mentor, lured her from **New York** to Nevada, where he drugged her in a hotel room with what he had claimed to be non-alcoholic sparkling cider and then raped her.

The 85-year-old former "Cosby Show" star has now been accused of rape, sexual assault and sexual harassment by more than 60 women. He has denied all allegations involving sex crimes. He was the first celebrity tried and convicted in the #MeToo era - and spent nearly three years at a state prison near **Philadelphia** before a higher court threw out the conviction and released him in 2021.

Earlier this year, a Los Angeles jury awarded \$500,000 to a woman who said Cosby sexually abused her at the Playboy Mansion when she was 16 in 1975.

The Nevada lawsuit came only a few weeks after Gov **Joe Lombardo** signed a bill that eliminated a two-year deadline for adults to file sexual abuse cases. Similar suits have followed other "lookback laws" in other states.

One of the plaintiffs, **Lise-Lotte Lublin**, a Nevada native, had advocated for the change. She had previously alleged that Cosby gave her spiked drinks and raped her at a Las Vegas hotel in 1989.

"For years I have fought for survivors of sexual assault and today is the first time I will be able to fight for myself," Lotte-Lublin said in a statement cited by the Las Vegas Review-Journal. "With the new law change, I now have the ability to take my assailant Bill Cosby to court. My journey has just begun, but I am grateful for this opportunity to find justice." (AP)

**SEOUL, South Korea:** A British man was detained after climbing more than half way up the world's fifth-tallest skyscraper in Seoul with only his bare hands on Mon-

'Avatar 3' pushed to 2025, Disney sets 2 'Star Wars' films for 2026

# **Anderson-style Americana in 'Asteroid City'**

#### **By Lindsey Bahr**

Wes Anderson gets back to the heart of things in "Asteroid City," a film about grief, performance, storytelling, the cosmos and, well, everything. Or, as one character, a playwright played by Edward Norton, says when asked what his work is about: "It's about infinity and I don't know what else."

Meticulously designed and choreographed, with a beautiful, starry cast reading his and Roman Coppola's droll words, "Asteroid City" is very, very Wes Anderson. Aren't they all? But "Asteroid City" also represents a return to form (or at least the form most people preferred) after his past two films, "Isle of Dogs" and "The French Dispatch," divided even his disciples. They worried, among other things, if style and form had finally usurped his storytelling. Regardless of whether you thought they were fun or painful or some dreadful in between, there was a palpable detachment to both films. Authentic emotion, when there at all, was strained.

In this way, "Asteroid City" seems like a response to all of that – an earnest and self-conscious case for making art, putting on the play, telling the story, acting the part even if you (and your audience) aren't entirely sure what you're saying. It is wrapped in a labored and stylized conceit – a play within a play that's being broadcast on a television network (the 1950s show "Playhouse 90," worldlier people have noted, is the reference). And because it's a play, the American midcentury Desert West can look as set designed as Anderson wants. He didn't need a justification. Nonetheless, it's a sly deflection - as is the idea that no one is really sure what the point is, embodied by Jason Schwartzman playing an actor playing a recently widowed war photographer, Augie Steenbeck, who has traveled to the desert with his brainiac son, Woodrow (Jake Ryan) and 6-year-old triplets (truly standouts).

They come to Asteroid City, population 87, for the Junior Stargazer Convention, a government organized science competition in which genius kids show off inventions (jet packs, blasters, etc.) which the government then owns, as Jeffrey Wright's Gen. Grif Gibson explains. It is post-war in an anxious America where scientists are a key part of the nation's defense strategy. In the distance, atomic bombs are being tested, too. Was something in the air while things like "Asteroid City," "Oppenheimer" and even the documentary "A Compassionate Spy" were coming together? Here, the mushroom clouds are not terribly threatening though. They are, for lack of a better word, adorable.

#### Convention

This Stargazer convention allows for an assemblage of a quirky ensemble with government types (Fisher Stevens), the brainiac kids (Grace Edwards, Sophia Lillis, Ethan Josh Lee, Aristou Meehan), their parents (Scarlett Johansson, Liev Schreiber, Hope Davis, Steve Park), the head scientist (Tilda Swinton's Dr. Hickenlooper) a school group led by Maya Hawke and some musically inclined cowboys (among them, Rupert Friend) who, I think, just missed their bus. Locals include Hank the mechanic (Matt Dillon) and the motel manager (Steve Carrell). Tom Hanks is Stanley Zak, Augie's father-in-law and a wealthy Palm Springs retiree who wears a gun in his plaid pants

In the world of the play being put on, there is the director (Adrien Brody), his soon-to-be ex-wife (Hong Chau), the Lee Strasberg-y acting teacher Saltzburg Keitel (Willem Dafoe), the actress whose scene was cut (Margot Robbie), the host of the television program (Bryan Cranston) and Jeff Goldblum as, well, you'll see. As always, the names are a delightful treat. And all the actors make a meal out of their parts, no matter how small.

But if there are characters with something like an arc to spotlight, that would be Schwartzman and Johansson, whose understated 50s movie star Midge Campbell might be one of her very best performances. Augie and Midge have a brief romance, mostly emotional, in that very repressed Wes Anderson way. Is this all a little confusing? Don't dismay, I think that might be part of the point. Maybe. Probably. And, in any event, it works — "Asteroid City," with its sprawling cast, beautiful hues, mumbled jokes, box-within-a-box setup, references that only the 80+ crowd may truly get and retro-cool soundtrack, actually makes you feel things even if it can't quite make sense of itself.

"Just keep telling the story," as Brody Schubert Green says to his actor looking for answers and motivations, is advice that could be interpreted as a shrug. Or maybe it's actually everything — "Asteroid City" makes a pretty compelling case.

#### Also:

**NEW YORK:** "Avatar: The Way of Water" may have finally arrived in theaters in 2022, but that long parade of "Avatar" delays isn't done, yet.

The Walt Disney Co. on Tuesday pushed the release of "Avatar 3" a year, bumping it from December 2024 to December 2025. The timeline is stretched even further for the next planned installments. "Avatar 4" is now slated to hit theaters in December 2029; "Avatar 5" is set to arrive in December 2031.

If those dates hold, the "Avatar" film series will have stretched across the first four decades of the century. Director **James Cameron**, who launched "Avatar" in 2009, has said he may not direct films 4 and 5. By December 2031, the 68-year-old Cameron would be 77. "Avatar" and "Avatar: The Way of Water" have collectively made more than \$5.2 billion at the box office.

"Each 'Avatar' film is an exciting but epic undertaking that takes time to bring to the quality level we as filmmakers strive for and audiences have come to expect," "Avatar" producer **Jon Landau** wrote on Twitter.

Disney on Tuesday shuffled plans for some of its biggest franchises. Two "Star Wars" films are planned for 2026. One was pushed from December 2025 to May 2026. Another was added for December 2026. The studio hasn't announced details on either untitled production. (AP)

day, authorities said. More than 90 emergency, police and other personnel were dispatched to the 123-story, 555-meter (1,820-foot) -tall Lotte World Tower, after the man was spotted scaling the building on Monday morning, the Seoul fire agency said in a statement.

The man, in his 20s, reached



Lombardo

Cosby

the 72nd floor, which is about 310 E meters (1,020 feet) high, before be officials took him to a gondola lift and moved him inside the build-ing, the statement said.

South Korean media identified the man as free climber **George King-Thompson**. The reports said he was carrying a parachute and told police that he wanted to BASE-jump from the top of the building.

Fire and police authorities didn't immediately confirm the man's name or his motive.

 
 d
 King-Thompson was arrested in 2019 after scaling the Shard in London — the UK's tallest skyscraper at 310 meters (1,017 feet) — after the owners of the building
 pressed charges against him for trespassing. He was sentenced to six months in prison and served three.

In 2021, he climbed the 36-story Stratosphere Tower, a residential block in east London's **Stratford** neighborhood and reached the top in less than half an hour. (AP)

# **NEWS/FEATURES**

# **People & Places**

#### Obit

# 'Fascinating man' Celebrated literary editor Gottlieb dies

NEW YORK, June 15, (AP): Robert Gottlieb, the inspired and eclectic literary editor whose brilliant career was launched with Joseph Heller's "Catch-22" and continued for decades with such Pulitzer Prizewinning classics as Toni Morrison's "Beloved" and Robert Caro's "The Power Broker," has died at age 92

Gottlieb died Wednesday of natural causes at a New York hospital, Knopf Doubleday Publishing Group announced. Caro, who had worked for decades with Gottlieb on his Lyndon Johnson biographies and was featured with him last year in the documentary "Turn Every Page," said in a statement that he had never worked with an editor so attuned to the writing



process. "From the day 52 years ago that we first looked at my pages together, Bob understood what I was trying to do and made it possible for me to take the time, and do the work, I needed to do," Caro said in a statement. "People talk to me about some of the triumphant moments Bob and I shared, but today I remember other moments, tough ones, and I remember

Gottlieb

how Bob was always, always, for half a century, there for me. He was a great friend, and today I mourn my friend with all my heart.'

Caro is still writing his highly anticipated fifth and presumed final volume of the Johnson books, a series begun nearly 50 years ago. A Knopf Doubleday spokesperson would not comment on who might serve as its editor,

Gottlieb, tall and assured, with wavy dark hair and dark-rimmed glasses, had one of the greatest runs of any editor after World War II and helped shape the modern publishing canon. His projects included fiction by future Nobel laureates Morrison, Doris Lessing and V.S. Naipaul; spy novels by John le Carré, essays by Nora Ephron, science thrillers by Michael Crichton and Caro's nonfiction epics.

#### Fascinating

He also edited memoirs by Katharine Hepburn, Lauren Bacall and Washington Post publisher Katharine Graham, whose "Personal History" won a Pulitzer and so impressed Bill Clinton that he signed with Alfred A. Knopf in part for the chance to work with Gottlieb on his post-presidential memoir "My Life."

"Bob Gottlieb was a fabulous editor and a fascinating man," Clinton said in a statement. "I liked him and admired him very much, even when he pushed, and sometimes ordered, me to write not just about the people and work that shaped my life, but also how I felt about it all.'

Uniquely well-read and unstuffy, Gottlieb was the rare soul who would claim to have finished "War and Peace" in a single weekend (some reports narrowed it to a single day) and also collected plastic handbags that filled shelves above his bed. He was as open to "Miss Piggy's Guide to Life" as he was to the works of Chaim Potok. On his desk for decades was a bronze paperweight, given to him when he started in publishing, etched with the words "Give the Reader a Break."

Gottlieb was among the last working editors from the pre-corporate era of publishing. His reputation was



British rock band Def Leppard performs at the Rock Festival Copenhell in Copenhagen, Denmark, Wednesday, June 14. (AP)



Jess Williamson's fifth solo album "Time Ain't Accidental" incarnates 2023 through a lyrical road trip that unpacks America, its western landscapes, reckless storms and evanescent roots, transforming country music's legacy into her own search for redemption.

Merging the grit of heartbreak with the lyricism of repair, Williamson's voice ranges like tobacco smoke ascending into electric sunrises that beam into the full moon as mellow acoustics, brass, beats and sonic twists ground the soundscapes of the winding path. Her lyrics question genres, like the lies behind her dubious love song "now that the love is gone" and they with classic no try song, "I'm not a good woman if I leave or if I stay" and her transitions play on each other, "Whatcha take me for?" as she answers "Take me for a ride." Love is both a delusion and a cure as her lyrics trace her roots in Texas, reinvention in California and all the pitstops in between. It slowly slips away in "A Few Seasons," an ode to its loss. It's "as pure as the universe, honest as an ashtray" in "Hunter," her anthem for self-possession. Later, in "Roads," she feels a hurricane in her heart, hail storm in her head, a tornado blowing through her bones for her lover. Her sense of self wanders from wondering if she's "a one-time dream or a country queen" in "Topanga Two Step" and how she compares to the "women in boots, with their long hair in tassels" in "God in Everything." Williamson roves between her wanting to leave LA, where she could "start a garden with the landlord" in "Chasing Spirits" and being "kept between the bridal and being built to run" in

"I'd Come to Your Call." Time wavers between the one sun and one moon at her fountain of her youth in "Tobacco Two Step" and the days before her broken heart when she read her lover "Raymond Carver by the pool bar like a lady" in "Time Ain't Accidental."

She's at her best when the rich details of her past morph into the surrounding terrains, metaphors like the stormy weather of love that fade into waterways of searching for closure. Mapping her heart along the desert zephyrs, country stores and two-step bars, Williamson ventures through heartache in all its pain and glory.

Sober for 11-plus years, Isbell continues to tell stories beyond his own trying-to-stay-clean lens. "Weathervanes" further reflects the forever process of learning oneself and how to live and love complex people in a broken world.

The opener, "Death Wish," tries to care for a loved one with mental illness. In "Save the World," his voice as a father of a 7-year-old daughter resonates clearly as he sings of being spooked by school shootings, "Can we keep her here at home instead?"

Shires joins her husband on five different songs, including backup vocals on "Volunteer" and "This Ain't It." The couple laid bare their life, love and struggle in a recent documentary film. In "Middle of the Morning," Isbell explores the dark corners of relationships in what sounds like post-pandemic wincing about all that extra time stuck at home. He wails, "I'm tired of stepping on your shadow and feeling in the way." The angst is brilliantly masked by a soulfully bright melody.

made during his time as editor-in-chief of Simon & Schuster and later Alfred A. Knopf, where in recent years he worked as an editor-at-large. But he also edited The New Yorker for five years before departing over "conceptual differences" with publisher S.I. Newhouse and was himself an accomplished prose stylist. He wrote dance criticism for The New York Observer and book reviews for The New York Times. He wrote a short biography of George Balanchine, co-authored "A Certain Style: The Art of the Plastic Handbag, 1949-59," and edited well-regarded anthologies of jazz criticism and 20th century song lyrics. His memoir, "Avid Reader," came out in 2016.

He was married twice, the second time to actor Maria Tucci, and had three children. He was otherwise so absorbed in work - he was looking over early proofs of a Cynthia Ozick book while counting contractions for his pregnant wife - that the author Thomas Mallon summed up his life as a "busman's holiday without any brakes.'

In "Turn Every Page," a joint biography of Caro and Gottlieb directed by the editor's daughter, Lizzie Gottlieb. Robert Gottlieb referred to editing as "a service job." He would remind himself that the books he pored over were not his own, while also maintaining the ideal editor-writer relationship was "an equivalence of strength," in which each shared the best of their talents.

"I am not egoless," he acknowledged to his daughter.

#### Confident

Born and raised in Manhattan, Gottlieb would say he was born with "extra drive." He was a lifelong bookworm who recalled taking out up to four novels a day from his local public library. As a teenager, he would visit the library at Columbia University, looking up old copies of Publishers Weekly and studying the bestseller lists.

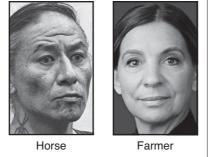
He eventually attended Columbia, from which he graduated in 1952. After studying two years in England, at Cambridge University, and working briefly in theater, Gottlieb joined Simon & Schuster in 1955 as an editorial assistant, an upstart claiming he took the job to support his wife and child but also so confident that - even then - he regarded himself as "a better reader than anybody else," he recalled in the documentary.

In the memoir "Another Life," fellow Simon & Schuster editor Michael Korda would describe the young Gottlieb as resembling "one of those penniless perpetual students in Russian novels," his glasses so smeared that Korda was amazed he could see. Through the unwiped lenses, Korda noticed eyes that "were shrewd and intense, but with a certain kindly humorous sparkle.'

Within two years, he had taken on a former World War II pilot named Joseph Heller and his partially written novel about the war titled "Catch-18." As Heller later recalled, he wanted an open mind to handle his shocking satire and had been told by his agent that Gottlieb was known for being "receptive to innovation." Gottlieb convinced skeptical executives at Simon & Schuster to give the novel a chance.

"The funny parts are wildly funny, the serious parts are excellent," he told the editorial board.

Gottlieb paid \$1,500 for the novel, \$750 upon signing Heller, \$750 after publication. He also made some "broad suggestions," including changing the title to "Catch-22," to avoid confusion with Leon Uris' "Mila



Ming-Na Wen arrives at the premiere

of 'Indiana Jones and the Dial of Des-

tiny,' Wednesday, June 14,at El Capi-tan Theatre in Los Angeles. (AP)

Dolby

### Variety

LAS VEGAS: Nathan Chasing Horse has been charged in Alberta, Canada, with new sex crimes in the latest criminal case to be brought against the former "Dances With Wolves" actor, who remains jailed in Las Vegas as he awaits trial in a sweeping sexual abuse case that stunned Indian Country and has helped law enforcement in two countries corroborate long-standing allegations against him.

At a virtual news conference Wednesday, Sgt Nancy Farmer of the Tsuut'ina Nation Police Service acknowledged that the Alberta case is largely symbolic. Chasing Horse - who faces not only decades in a Nevada prison if convicted in the Las Vegas case but criminal prosecution in five jurisdictions - might not ever return to Canada to answer to these charges.

"At the end of the day," Farmer said, "it is important for us to have these warrants in the system so our victims know they've been heard. It's extremely important that we continue to support them that way." Chasing Horse has declined multiple

requests from The Associated Press to interview him at the county jail, and his public defender in Las Vegas, Kristy Holston, said she has no comment on the new charges. It wasn't immediately clear whether Chasing Horse has an attorney in Canada who could comment on his behalf.

Farmer said the 47-year-old faces nine charges in Alberta, including three counts of sexual exploitation and four counts of sexual assault. The crimes in their jurisdiction date back to 2005, she said.

Chasing Horse was born on the Rosebud Reservation in South Dakota, home to the Sicangu Sioux, one of the seven tribes of the Lakota nation. He is widely known for his portrayal of Smiles a Lot in Kevin **Costner**'s Oscar-winning film. After starring in the 1990 movie, Chas-

ing Horse had built a name for himself among tribes in the US and Canada as a self-proclaimed medicine man who could communicate with higher beings. Police and prosecutors in Las Vegas have accused him of using that position to lead a cult, gain access to vulnerable Indigenous women and girls, and take underage wives starting in the early 2000s.

He is charged in the Las Vegas case with 18 felonies that include sexual assault of a minor, child abuse and kidnapping. He also faces criminal prosecution in the **British** Columbia village of Keremeos, the US

District Court in Nevada, and on the Fort Peck Indian Reservation in Montana.

Court proceedings in the Las Vegas case have been put on hold indefinitely as Chasing Horse awaits a decision on his appeal filed last month to the Nevada Supreme Court asking for his indictment to be tossed.

Chasing Horse and his public defenders have said in legal filings that his accusers wanted to have ... with him. One of the women was younger than 16 - the age of consent in Nevada - when she says Chasing Horse began abusing her. (AP)

HONG KONG: A popular Hong Kong pro-



Mads Mikkelsen, (from left), Harrison Ford, director James Mangold and Phoebe Waller-Bridge arrive at the premiere of Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny, Wednesday, June 14, at El Capitan Theatre in Los Angeles. (AP)

Further cementing his credentials as a songwriting force, Jason Isbell and his band have created another Alabama-accented earworm of an album that flaunts the power of his voice, guitar and lyrics.

"Weathervanes," Isbell's eighth record with the 400 Unit, is a familiar and predictable amble within the wide expanse of Americana with this 13-track canvas painted by country, folk, gospel and hard southern rock. While this album stays inside his usual musical guardrails without much adventure into new sounds, it has its twists and turns.

In "Cast Iron Skillet," a soft and wistful warning against bigotry veiled behind old-fashioned views, Isbell strums a sweet tune thickened by the hum of an accordion and his wife, Amanda Shires, on the fiddle. Then comes "When We Were Close," electric from start to finish with angry chords and all-star rhymes: "Got a picture of us playing in a bar, and your shirt cost more than your guitar."

test song was no longer available Wednesday on several major music streaming sites and social media platforms, after the government sought an injunction to ban the tune.

"Glory to Hong Kong" rose to popularity during the 2019 pro-democracy protests, and became an unofficial protest anthem. In 2020, the government outlawed the protest slogan "Liberate Hong Kong, revolution of our times" over secessionist and subversive connotations, and the song was widely considered to be banned in the city as its lyrics contained parts of the slogan.

Hong Kong, once a bastion of free speech and expression, has come under tighter scrutiny by Beijing after the unrest in 2019. Since then, its political system has

#### Also:

LOS ANGELES: Niall Horan shows back up with "The Show," his third solo album and first since 2020's chart-topping "Heartbreak Weather." A coach for "The Voice" and former member of One Direction, Horan has released two singles from the new collection - the sweeping and driving "Heaven" and the catchy "Meltdown," a musical promise that "when it all melts down/I'll be there." He's also announced his first headlining shows in six years as well as his biggest venues to date across Europe, Oceania and North America. (AP)

undergone a major overhaul to ensure that only "patriots" loyal to Beijing can hold office. More than 250 people have been arrested under a sweeping national security law passed in 2020 that critics say is aimed at suppressing dissent.

The song rose to the top of Apple iTunes' charts last week after the Hong Kong government sought an injunction from the courts to ban "unlawful acts' related to the song and any derivatives of it, including the lyrics and melody.

But the song was no longer available on music streaming platforms such as Spotify and Apple Music on Wednesday. The original version of the tune was also not available on Facebook and Instagram's Reels function.

Spotify said in an emailed statement that the song was pulled by its distributor and not the platform. Facebook, Instagram, and Apple Music did not immediately comment.

The song's creator, DGX Music, said in a post on their Facebook page that it was "dealing with some technical issues related to streaming platforms" and apologized for the "temporary" issue.

Versions of the song, including the one by the original creators, were still available on video-streaming site YouTube.

The Hong Kong government sought an injunction to ban the song after it was mistakenly played as the city's anthem at several international sporting events in the past year, instead of **China**'s national anthem "March of the Volunteers.

Court hearings in the case have been adjourned until July 21.

During a regular news briefing on Tuesday, Hong Kong's leader John Lee said the song was "not compatible with national interest" and that the city should "proactively and also preventively" safeguard national security. (AP)

# **SCIENCE**

#### Ecology

#### Pest ruins farms

# Experts fight fruit flies by sterilizing the bugs

NEW YORK, June 15, (AP): Paul Nelson is used to doing battle with an invasive fruit fly called the spotted wing drosophila, a pest that one year ruined more than half the berries on the Minnesota farm he and his team run. In recent years, they've cut their losses closer to 5%, but it's been labor-intensive and expensive.

"It's a pest that if you're not willing to stick the time into it, it's going to take over your farm," said Nelson, the head grower at Untiedt's, a vegetable and fruit operation about an hour west of Minneapolis.

Nelson and other growers may someday get a new tool as a result of research at North Carolina State University into the insects, which ruin the berries by



laying their eggs in them and have been estimated to cost growers hundreds of millions of dollars annually. The researchers, using a concept called "gene drive," manipulated the insects' DNA so that the female offspring would be sterile, and the method they used to achieve it significantly reduced the chance that a population could rebound

Scott

The researchers, whose work was published Monday in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, found if they bred one of their modified flies with a non-modified fly, up to 99% of the offspring would inherit the sterility trait. They used mathematical modeling to show that if they released one modified fruit fly for every four that were not and did that every two weeks, they could collapse a population in about five months.

Genetically modifying insects as a form of pest control isn't a new idea. Scientists have already released genetically modified mosquitoes, for instance, which mate with the native population to produce offspring that die before adulthood to hold down populations and help combat the spread of insect-borne diseases like yellow fever, dengue and Zika viruses. But the technology hasn't taken off as widely in agriculture because pesticides have been cheaper and easier to deploy.

#### Modified

Max Scott, a professor of entomology and a coauthor of the paper, said some methods of releasing genetically modified insects to curb populations would become expensive if applied on a large scale because it has to be done over and over again before pests are wiped out. But he said his team's method, which hinges on an idea called "gene drive," more quickly facilitates the spread of sterility throughout successive generations, and that could mean fewer times the modified bugs need to be released.

"We're really excited about this," Scott said. "The system is working really efficiently."

If the researchers' genetic process works in the field, it could be an important addition to farmers' arsenal of pest management techniques against a persistent bug that can wipe out 20-30% of a raspberry yield even after pesticide use, said Bill Hutchison, a professor and extension entomologist with the University of Minnesota. And the fight against pests has been growing with climate change, he added, as warmer winters are allowing invasive species like the spotted wing drosophila to better survive the winter and extend their range for

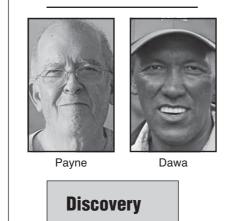


A person is silhouetted against the sky at sunset at Papago Park in Phoenix on Thursday, March 2, 2023. The homicide rate for older U.S. teenagers rose to its highest point in nearly 25 years during the COVID-19 pandemic, and the suicide rate for adults in their early 20s was the worst in more than 50 years, government researchers said Thursday, June 15. (AP)

Health



Entomology researcher Eric Burkness checked raspberry plants growing in a hoop house for signs of spotted wing drosophila Tuesday, Sept. 26, 2017 in Rosemont, Minn. New research from North Carolina State University offers some hope to fruit growers who have struggled with a damaging fruit fly and describes how the researchers manipulated the insects' DNA so that female offspring would be sterile. (AP)



# Study reflects a mental health crisis among young people Suicides, homicides up among US youth

NEW YORK, June 15, (AP): The homicide rate for older US teenagers rose to its highest point in nearly 25 years during the COVID-19 pandemic, and the suicide rate for adults in their early 20s was the worst in more than 50 years, government researchers said Thursday

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report examined the homicide and suicide rates among 10- to 24-year-olds from 2001 to 2021.

The increase is alarming and "reflects a mental health crisis among young people and a need for a number of policy changes," said Dr. Steven Woolf, a Virginia Commonwealth University researcher who studies US death trends and wasn't involved in the CDC report

Experts cited several possible reasons for the increases, including higher rates of depression, limited availability of mental health services and the number of guns in US homes.

Guns were used in 54% of suicides and 93% of homicides among the age group in 2021, the most recent year for

# Few rehab centers for addicted teens offer recommended med

NEW YORK, June 15, (AP): Only 1 in 4 residential treatment centers for teens offers a recommended medicine for opioid addiction, according to a study that exposes an important gap in care.

Posing as an aunt or uncle seeking help for a fictitious 16-year-old who survived a fentanyl overdose, researchers called US rehabs and asked if they offered the treatment

medication buprenorphine. Of 160 facilities with care for teens, just 39 provided buprenorphine, also known by the brand Suboxone. One hundred name said they didn't and 21 said they didn't know.

"As somebody who's tried to promote the use of evidence-based treatments for addiction my whole career, it was iaw-drop Dr. Todd Korthuis of Oregon Health & Science University in Portland, a co-author of the study published Tuesday in the Journal of the American Medical Association. Teen drug use in the United States is stable or declining. But the drug supply is tainted with fen-tanyl, driving fatal overdoses higher and making youthful experimenta-tion potentially deadly. Parents describe long, frustrating searches for help. "It's such an overwhelming situation for a parent to be in," said Tracy Swartley of suburban Portland, Oregon, whose 19-year-old Eagle Scout son survived a fentanyl overdose and was able to start buprenorphine while in a residential treatment program. "You realize the

to 12.8 deaths per 100,000 in 2021, the

highest since 1997, according to CDC

Homicide deaths became more com-

mon than suicide deaths among 15- to

19-year-olds, while suicide was more

common in the younger and older age

Scientist Payne dies: Roger Payne, the

scientist who spurred a worldwide environ-

data.

groups.

choice you make is going to make a massive impact on the success of your child.3

Buprenorphine can be a "lifesaving medication," said Dr. Petros Levounis, an addiction psychiatrist and president of the American Psychiatric Association. Considered standard care, it is the only medication approved for teens 16 and older with opioid use disorder. It works by reducing cravings so a patient can begin the work of recovery.

Despite guidelines recommend-ing medication and evidence it prevents overdose deaths, buprenorphine and other treatment drugs aren't universally accepted. Some believe they replace one drug with another and that abstinence is the best recovery path. Other research suddests onl two-thirds of rehat centers for adults offer medication. The survey was done last year, before a new law eliminated the need for doctors to get a special waiver to prescribe it. That change may improve access, said Levounis, who was not involved in the research. Residential care is not the only alternative, he said, and parents should start by getting an evaluation from an addiction specialist. In the study, the "secret shop-pers" called more than 300 facilities listed on a government website as providing residential care for teens. They ran into wrong numbers, adults-only facilities and a few that didn't answer the phone. The 160 centers in the study were not identified.

overwintering north.

At Untiedt's, Nelson said he's noticed warmer winters and earlier springs. He's still waiting to see this year's first fruit flies, but they've been coming earlier each year to the farm's roughly 35 acres of strawberries, raspberries and tomatoes, he said.

"For years they kept telling us you'll never see (spotted wing drosophila) in your June-bearing strawberries because they're done too early. That's not true. We've found them in our June-bearing strawberries," he said.

To combat the pests, Nelson and his team have used pesticides and traps and spend significant time looking for the tiny bugs. Hutchison said some farmers use ventilated netting or plastic that effectively creates a type of greenhouse over their fruits. But all those methods have drawbacks. Pesticides can kill beneficial insects, and spraying can require farmers who let people pick their own berries halt operations for a few days. Netting can be tough to set up, and plastic coverings can overheat crops.

#### Agriculture

Luciano Matzkin, an associate professor of entomology at the University of Arizona, studies drosophila and other pest species with an eye toward agriculture. Matzkin, who was not part of the study, said Scott's team's focus on stopping the pest by sterilizing females solved a problem that sometimes occurs with gene drive technology - that a lucky gene mutation can arise and get passed down, resisting what scientists were hoping to achieve.

Lyric Bartholomay, a professor in the School of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Wisconsin-Madison who studies integrated pest management and public health entomology who was not part of the study, said "increasingly tailored genetic approaches" will be necessary in the future to protect crops and people from pests, especially as insecticide resistance increases.

The research is years away from practical application. Scott and his team are moving on to more lab trials to see if their mathematical modeling is correct, and would then go through a regulatory process before moving to field trials. More research will also be needed to take into account considerations like regional genetic variation within the same species and the ecological impact of interactions with other species, something both Scott and Matzkin highlighted.

Matzkin said if there are no negative environmental risks, "a successful bio-control approach is always preferable" to pesticides, which have significant environmental consequences and costs of their own. That's why, he says, entomology departments across the country are studying the biology and ecology of the insects at the same time that other researchers work on transgenic approaches to population control in a wide array of pests.

In the meantime, Nelson will wait to see whether new solutions arise to help him manage pests. He farms with his 24-year-old son and says he's concerned about the future.

"The experts are all going to tell us what's going on. But as we farm, we look at it, how is this going to change things for the next generation?" he asked. "If we lose our sales on our crops of berries, that's a very large deal for our farm.'

Dawa to compete next season: The race for the record to have successfully scaled Mount Everest the most number of times is still on.

Sherpa guide Pasang Dawa, 48, plans to climb the 8,849-meter (29,032-foot) peak next year in an attempt to again match the record set by a fellow Sherpa guide. "I will continue to climb (Everest) as long

as my body can as there are people over 60years who have climbed it," he told The Associated Press on Thursday. "But that does not mean I will climb until I am 60 years old, but as long as I am able to.'

Pasang Dawa reached Everest's peak twice this spring. On May 14, he equaled the record of 26 successful ascents set by Kami Rita, who went on to reach the top of the mountain a 27th time. Pasang Dawa's matched the new record on May 23, but Kami Rita regained his title with a 28th climb that same day.

Kami Rita, 53, has said he would head to the peak again during the 2024 climbing season, when Pasang Dawa also will be at the mountain to guide foreign clients up Everest.

Pasang Dawa first began working as porter age 12, carrying equipment and supplies from his village home on the foothills of Everest. He graduated to kitchen helper and finally got his chance to carry equipment up to higher camps in 1997.

He first summited Everest in 1998 while guiding British adventurer Bear Grylls. He slipped and fell some 200 meters (650 feet) near the summit but survived with only a few bruises.

Since then, he has made it to Everest's top almost every year, not making ascents only when the mountain was closed or because of death in the family

Like most Sherpa guides and workers on Mount Everest, Pasang Dawa makes money during the spring climbing season that is his family's main source of income and has to last all year.

Nepal's government last month honored Sherpa guides and record-holding climbers during celebrations of the first ascent of Mount Everest 70 years ago. (AP)

Mary's Meals wins award: Scottish charity group Mary's Meals won a pres-Spanish prize on Wednesday for its tigious work feeding schoolchildren facing extreme poverty across the globe.

The jury that decides the Princess of Asturias Awards gave Mary's Meals its Concord Prize for "its exemplary dedication to helping resolve some of the world's most pressing problems."

The charity, based in the Scottish village of Dalmally, started as Scottish International Relief in 1992 before taking on its current name in 2002 with its first school meals program in Malawi. It now helps more than 2.4 million schoolchildren eat every day in 18

which statistics were available.

"Picture a teenager sitting in their bedroom feeling desperate and making a decision, impulsively, to take their own life," Woolf said. If they have access to a gun, "it's game over."

#### **Overdoses**

Suicide and homicide were the second and third leading causes of death for 10- to 24-year-olds, after a category of accidental deaths that includes motor vehicle crashes, falls, drownings and overdoses. Other researchers have grouped the data by the method of death, and concluded that guns are now the biggest killer of US children. Earlier this year, Woolf and other

researchers looking at CDC data noted dramatic increases in child and adolescent death rates overall at the beginning of the pandemic, and found suicide and homicide were important

10- to 14-year-olds.

different countries in sub-Saharan Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Caribbean, and the Middle East.

The 50,000-euro (\$54,000) Concord Prize is one of eight awards, including for the arts, sciences and sports, handed out annually by the foundation named for Spanish Crown Princess Leonor.



A nurse holds tabs of buprenorphine, a drug which controls heroin and opioid cravings, as he prepares to administer the drug in Greenfield, Mass, on July 23, 2018. A study published in the Journal of the American Medical Association on Tuesday, June 13, finds only 1 in 4 residential treatment centers for teens offers a gold standard medicine for opioid addiction. (AP)

■ While large increases were seen in homicide rates for young Black and Hispanic people in the U.S., there were not significant increases for their white counterparts, other CDC data shows. ■ Among 20- to 24-year-olds, the homicide death rate jumped 34% from 2019 to 2020 - from 13.4 per 100,000 population to 18 per 100,000. It held stable in 2021, but the suicide rate rose enough in 2021 - to 19.4 per 100,000 to surpass the homicide rate.

mental conservation movement with his discovery that whales could sing, has died. He was 88.

Payne made the discovery in 1967 during a research trip to Bermuda in which a Navy engineer provided him with a recording of curious underwater sounds documented while listening for Russian submarines. Payne identified the haunting tones as songs whales sing to one another.

He saw the discovery of whale song as a chance to spur interest in saving the giant animals, who were disappearing from the planet. Payne would produce the album "Songs of the Humpback Whale" in 1970. A surprise hit, the record galvanized a global movement to end the practice of commercial whale hunting and save the whales from extinction.

Payne was cognizant from the start that whale song represented a chance to get the public interested in protecting an animal previously considered little more than a resource, curiosity or nuisance. He told Nautilus Quarterly in a 2021 interview that he first heard the recording in the loud engine room of a research vessel and knew almost instantly that the sounds were indeed whales.

"In spite of the racket, what I heard blew my mind. It seemed obvious that here, finally, was a chance to get the world interested in preventing the extinction of whales," he told the magazine.

Payne died Saturday of pelvic cancer. He lived in South Woodstock, Vermont, with his wife, the actress Lisa Harrow. Funeral arrangements have not yet been made, Harrow said. (AP)

#### in the adults in their early 20s. factors. ■ The homicide death rate jumped from 8.9 deaths per 100,000 teens aged The report also found: Suicide and homicide death rates re-15 to 19 in 2019 to 12.3 in 2020. It rose

mained far higher for older teenagers and young adults than they were for In 2021, there were about 2,900

suicides in youths ages 10 to 19, and 4,200 in 20- to 24-year-olds. About 3,000 homicide deaths were reported in the younger group, and nearly 3,900

> Previous winners of the Concord Prize include Japanese architect Shigeru Ban, Spanish chef José Andrés, and Spain's health workers during the coronavirus pandemic. (AP)

# **SPORTS**

#### 'Ali is a player who can produce unbelievable match-winning performances'

# Stokes happy with own fitness, oozing positivity on eve of Ashes

LONDON, June 15, (AP): Positivity has been the watchword for Ben Stokes since taking over as England cricket captain a year ago and he was oozing it on Thursday on the eve of a highly anticipated Ashes series against Australia.

About his own battered body, which he believes is ready to stand up to scrutiny in the most storied test series in the sport.

About the team's attacking mindset, which he insists is ingrained in his players now and is not for changing under his leadership.

And about bringing Moeen Ali out of test retirement, one of Stokes' biggest decisions in his short tenure.

Facing reporters wearing a bucket hat, Stokes was calmness personified while many in cricket are getting caught up in the excitement of what is likely to be an explosive few weeks between two long-time rivals, starting with the first test at Edgbaston from Friday.

England, Stokes said, was ready for Australia with its "Bazball" approach - whether it proves successful this summer or not.

"We have found a style and a way in which we want to play our cricket that has been very successful and regardless of the opponent, that's what we are going to stick to," Stokes said.

"Obviously, conditions can dictate how you can do that but we will always try to adapt to the conditions and still have that positive mode, which is to go out and have as much fun as we can and always look to put pressure on the opposition regardless of who it is. Not facing the man, but facing the ball."

#### CRICKET

Part of Stokes' general optimism must be the improvement in his own health, which has been of major concern after his knee issues during the tour of New Zealand in February and the fact he played only twice for Chennai Super Kings in the Indian Premier League sending down just one over for 18 runs.

Stokes - with strapping around his left knee - has been seen bowling at full steam over the past week, including on a squad trip to St. Andrews in Scotland last week, and said the buildup to the Ashes has been "really good for my confidence."

"I have bowled every day so far and been able to run in with more intensity, day by day," the allrounder said. "I have got myself in a real good place to be able to bowl.

"But (bowling coach) David Saker has obviously come in and he mentioned something to me last week when we were in Scotland. He said if you are still bowling by the fourth and fifth test, we have done something right."

Asked if he might choose to play at 80% to last the series, Stokes said with a smile: "I think I'll give 100% of what I've got all the time."

That is Stokes all over. He lives for the moment, including with his emotions and feelings. Like his selection of Ali, who has been

retired from test cricket for nearly two years but is back as a spin option as the emergency replacement for the injured Jack Leach. Ali might be someone Australia's batters

want to take on this series, though Stokes, as



# **QB Jackson getting** familiar with Todd

OWINGS MILLS, Md., June 15, (AP): For all the talk of Baltimore Ravens quarterback Lamar Jackson learning new offensive coordinator Todd Monken's scheme, it's the different coaching style that has jumped out so far at minicamp.

Monken, hired after guiding Georgia's offense to back-to-back NCAA titles, has been one of the most consistently loud, instructive voices through the first two days of the mandatory sessions.

It's even caught Jackson a little by surprise, who only got acquainted with Monken after agreeing to his five-year, \$260 million extension in late April.

#### FOOTBALL

"When I first signed, when I seen him, I didn't really think he was that explosive when he was speaking and stuff like that," Jackson said. "You get him in the meeting room, he'll have you laughing and stuff. But he's dead serious about the stuff that he's saying."

It's a bit of practice what you preach for Monken, who has pledged to give Jackson more control in the huddle and at the line of scrimmage than he had with predecessor Greg Roman.

Jackson acknowledged he's trying to be more vocal, referencing an exchange he had with receiver Nelson

Agholor about a route on the first day. "He's embraced it," Monken said of Jackson. "He's embraced trying to be louder, trying to be in control. He's embraced learning the system, and we've still got a ways to go."

Over four seasons, Roman led a Ravens offense that was elite on the ground but below average through the air.

Baltimore finished bottom six in the NFL in three of those years in passing yardage, including last in 2020. The Ravens' passing touchdowns and yards per attempt declined in each subsequent season after Roman's debut in 2019, from 37 TDs and 7.6 yards per attempt during Jackson's 2019 NFL MVP season to 19 and 6.6 last year.

Jackson missed five starts each in 2021 and 2022. He was on pace for a career high in passing yards in 2021 before injury setbacks, but also threw a career-worst 13 interceptions.

ever, looked for the positives.

"He is a player who can produce unbelievable match-winning performances, albeit a long time ago (in tests), and it was something I couldn't look past," Stokes said.

"That was a stomach and a heart feeling rather than my brain. I've generally stuck with my gut and my heart throughout my whole captaincy so far. Moeen Ali is going to come in here and I'm looking at what he can offer to this team on his best days and not worrying about anything else."

That optimistic attitude sums up Stokes' relationship with his teammates, which he



England's Ben Stokes in action during a nets session at Edgbaston, in Birmingham, England. The men's Ashes series between England and Australia starts on Friday at Edgbaston. (AP)

# **B'desh rebound, extend lead over Afghanistan to 370 runs**

16 wickets fall on day two of Test

MIRPUR, Bangladesh, June 15, (AP): Bangladesh rebounded and its extended its lead to 370 runs after bowling out Afghanistan for 146 in their one-off test on a hectic Thursday when 16 wickets fell.

Bangladesh suffered a sensational batting collapse in the morning, losing five wickets for nine runs to be bowled out for 382. Afghanistan was all out in just 39 overs, and Bangladesh chose not to enforce the follow on. It was 134-1 in its second in-

#### Talks between the Chargers remain ongoing

### Herbert doesn't rule out possibility of a 'hold-in'

COSTA MESA, Calif., June 15, (AP): Justin Herbert hopes he doesn't have to answer questions about a contract extension much longer.

However, the Los Angeles Chargers quarterback did hint that missing practices is a possibility if a deal isn't reached by the start of training camp.

Talks between the Chargers and Herbert's agents remain ongoing. Los Angeles is expected to begin training camp on July 26.

"It's something that we'll address when the time comes, but I guess we'll see," Herbert said on Wednesday as the Chargers completed offseason workouts with the final day of their mandatory minicamp. "I think you know, that's just, hypothetical. We know who Justin is, just like we knew who Darwin was," Staley said. "I know that Justin is gonna be ready to go."

Herbert has not played in a preseason game, but the Chargers hired Kellen Moore as offensive coordinator and are putting in a new system. Any hurdles during the installation process in training camp is something that all parties would like to avoid.

"The role of the quarterback is to be out there for his team and to do everything he can to put that team in a position to win. I understand that responsibility," Herbert said.

Australia's Steve Smith takes part in a nets session at Edgbaston, in Birmingham, England. (AP) has attempted to retain despite now being in charge of them.

"One of the most important things for me being captain was to still be able to have the same trust for making big decisions as captain and just making the guys in the dressing room believe that they are incredible players rather than anything else, and making them believe in themselves more than they probably did before.

"That was the biggest thing I wanted to do - keep that trust factor between the relationship we had before but also make them believe they were better than they originally thought. Hopefully I have done that."

It seems to be working, with the English having won 12 of their 17 tests under Stokes having won just one of its previous 17. They haven't lost a series under the Stokes-Brendon McCullum axis.

already struck with the Ge-

neva-based EBU last year.

Instead, FIFA did hail Eu-

ropean broadcasters commit-

ting to screen more women's

"As part of this agreement,"

Infantino said in a statement,

"the EBU has committed to

working towards broadcast-

ing at least one hour of weekly

content dedicated to women's

football on its own digital

platform and broadcaster net-

This would be a "sub-

stantial additional commitment ... thus helping to fur-

ther grow the sport," FIFA

"We see women's football

as being central to our content

strategy and one of the cor-

nerstones of the new digital

platform we hope to launch

next year," EBU director gen-

SOCCER

Tensions between FIFA

and broadcasters like Brit-

ain's BBC, Germany's ZDF

and Italy's Rai rose last month

when Infantino suggested the

tournament could be blacked

That would have been

women's

hugely damaging to the

game. FIFA also had the

option of showing games on

its own streaming platform.

Cup is the first under FIFA's

strategy of selling broadcast

and sponsor rights separate to

The 2023 Women's World

out in those countries.

fast-flourishing

the men's edition.

eral Noel Curran said.

work."

said

soccer from next season.

nings by stumps on day two.

Pacer Nijatullah Masood raised Afghanistan prospects when his morning five-for was just the second by an Afghan bowler on debut.

His 5-79 was instrumental in triggering the collapse as Bangladesh added just 20 runs to its overnight total of 362-5.

A day after becoming the first Afghan to take a wicket with the first ball of his test career, Masood found swing and movement in the overcast conditions to rip through Bangladesh's batting.

Pace bowler Yamin Ahmedzai, who complemented Masood with 2-39, provided the momentum-shifting breakthrough when he had Mehidy Hasan caught by Amir Hamza at backward point with a delivery that was well outside off. Mehidy threw away his wicket for 48. \_\_\_\_\_\_

#### CRICKET

Masood then undid veteran Mushfiqur Rahim, who fended a short delivery to slip to be out for 47.

After their dismissals, Bangladesh crumbled in two overs. Masood complete his five-wicket haul by rattling the stumps of Shoriful Islam in the 86th over.

The overcast conditions remained, and Bangladesh's fast bowlers used them impeccably to put Afghanistan in a tricky position.

Ebadot Hossain led the home charge with 4-47 and regularly found edges that flew into gaps. He found success after left-arm pacer Shoriful Islam broke through with the wicket of opener Ibrahim Zadran for 6 in the sixth over.

Ebadot removed Abdul Malik (17) and Rahmat Shah (9) from extra bounce after setting up both with deliveries that shaped across.

Shoriful, who took 2-28, grabbed the key wicket of captain Hashmatullah Shahidi on 9, also baffling him with extra bounce.

Nasir Jamal and Afsar Zazair put up a brief resistance in a 65run stand to take their side past 100 but the introduction of spin put a brake on them. Herbert and Cincinnati's Joe Burrow are likely to cash in before the start of the regular season. Both quarterbacks, who were selected in the 2020 draft, could eclipse the five-year extensions Philadelphia's Jalen Hurts (\$255 million, \$179.3 million guaranteed) and Baltimore's Lamar Jackson (\$260 million, \$185 guaranteed) signed earlier this year.

Herbert is second in the league in completions (1,316), third in passing yards (14,089) and sixth in TD passes (102) the past three seasons.

Players reporting to training camp, but not taking part in practices - called a "hold-in" - has been an increasingly common occurrence throughout the league the past couple of seasons so that they aren't fined for each day they did not report to camp.

Safety Derwin James was an observer for the first three weeks of camp last season before signing a four-year extension worth \$76.5 million that made him the NFL's highest-paid safety.

Coach Brandon Staley supported James' stance last year, but didn't seem eager to consider a scenario where his franchise quarterback might do the same thing.

#### FOOTBALL

While Herbert's contract situation remains unresolved, running back Austin Ekeler answered questions about agreeing to an additional \$1.75 million in incentives for the final year of his deal.

Ekeler is in the final season of a four-year deal worth \$24.5 million. He received permission to seek a trade after both sides could not agree on a contract extension.

"I was in an opportunity to try to capture some more value after the year that I came off of. Just what's been happening with the atmosphere around the running back market it's been pretty tough," Ekeler said. "I am thankful for the way it played out because the Chargers did right and gave me something in the middle, some type of incentive."

Ekeler led the league with 18 touchdowns from scrimmage last season and became the fifth running back in league history with at least 100 receptions. His 107 catches were tied for second most by a running back in a season. He also rushed for 915 yards, including a pair of 100-yard games.



Los Angeles Rams quarterback Matthew Stafford (9) throws a pass during the NFL football team's camp in Thousand Oaks, Calif. (AP)

Mehidy's offspin broke the partnership when he trapped Jamal leg before for 35. Mehidy became the third Bangladeshi to reach 150 career wickets after Shakib Al Hasan and Taijul Islam when he had Karim Janat stumped for 23.

Afsar Zazai made a team-best

36 before being undone by Ebadot's short-pitched delivery. Left-arm spinner Taijul Islam,

2-7, joined the party, cleaning up the tail. When Bangladesh chose to

bat again, Nazmul Hossain, fresh from his 146, was 54 not out. Opener Zakir Hasan, who fell for duck in the first innings, played fluently to be 54 not out also.

The only batter out was Mahmudul Hasan Joy, who scored 76 on day one. Left-arm spinner Amir Hamza had him caught by Ibrahim Zadran at first slip for 17.

#### **FIFA makes European TV deal for Women's World Cup** GENEVA, June 15, (AP): aired his anger with the 28-nation rights deal FIFA

GENEVA, June 15, (AP): FIFA ended a standoff with broadcasters in five major European television markets by agreeing to a Women's World Cup rights deal just five weeks before the first match.

The deal struck collectively with the European Broadcasting Union ended nine months of jibes aimed by FIFA president Gianni Infantino at free-to-air networks in England, France, Germany, Italy and Spain.

Infantino repeatedly



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aired his anger with the broadcasters - which all have national teams playing in the 64-game tournament - for offering as little as 1% of the fees they paid for the men's World Cup.

The July 20-Aug. 20 World Cup is being hosted by Australia and New Zealand with many group-stage games scheduled through the night and early hours of the European morning.

No price was announced for adding the five countries plus Ukraine to the

# **SPORTS**

# **Braves sweep Tigers in doubleheader**

Mets split Subway Series with Yankees

DETROIT, June 15, (AP): Eddie Rosario hit a tiebreaking home run in the sixth inning and the Atlanta Braves held on to beat the Detroit Tigers 6-5 Wednesday night and sweep a doubleheader.

Ozzie Albies and Ronald Acuna Jr. had solo homers earlier for the NL-East leading Braves, who scored in five of the first six innings. Andy Ibanez, Matt Vierling and Jake Rogers also cleared the fences in the second game, pulling Detroit into a 5-all tie after five innings

Collin McHugh (3-0) pitched three perfect innings after starter Dylan Dodd allowed five runs on six hits and three walks over four innings. Detroit's Michael Lorenzen (2-4) gave up six runs on nine hits over six innings.

In the opener, Michael Harris went 4 for 4 with a homer and four RBIs while Acuna Jr. had three hits, including a homer, and drove in three runs. Atlanta ace Spencer Strider (7-2) benefited from pitch-ing for a high-scoring team, picking up the win despite giving up five runs and seven hits in five innings of the opener. The right-hander gave up three homers, walked two, hit a batter and struck out six to increase his major-league leading total to 127 this season.

#### BASEBALL

Tigers rookie Reese Olson (0-2) gave up seven runs - six earned - on five hits and two walks over three innings

#### Rays 5, Athletics 3

In Oakland, Josh Lowe singled home the go-ahead run in the fifth inning and Tampa Bay stopped Oakland's winning streak at seven.

Christian Bethancourt, Manuel Margot and Yandy Díaz also drove in runs for the MLB-best Rays. Tampa Bay is the only team in the majors that has yet to lose three games in a row this season. The Rays have lost back-to-back games seven times.

Tyler Glasnow (2-0) allowed three runs and six hits in 5 1/3 innings. He struck out six and walked four.

Luis Medina (1-6) gave up four runs and eight hits in 4 2/3 innings, striking out five and walking one.

#### Blue Jays 3, Orioles 1

In Baltimore, José Berríos took a no-hitter into the seventh inning, George Springer homered and Toronto beat Baltimore to end the Orioles' five-game winning streak.

Berríos allowed only two runners to reach through six innings - on a walk and a hit batter - before Adley Rutschman led off the seventh with a soft liner that dropped well in front of center fielder Kevin Kiermaier. Berríos (7-4) went 7 2/3 innings, allowing three hits, striking out five and walking one. The 29-year-old righty improved to 10-0 lifetime against the Orioles. Jordan Romano gave up three straight two-out singles in ninth, the last an RBI hit by Aaron Hicks, before striking out Adam Frazier to earn his 19th save.



Miami Marlins' Nick Fortes hits an RBI double against the Seattle Mariners during the eighth inning of a baseball game in Seattle. (AP)

FIFA official Samoura 'leaving' after 7 years as pioneering woman in soccer

GENEVA, June 15, (AP): FIFA secretary general Fatma Samoura is leaving after seven years as the highest profile woman working in world soccer, the governing body said Wednesday.

through this year's Women's World Cup in Australia and

Samoura's first year in office saw further removals of Blatter-era staffers, turmoil inside FIFA's Zurich's headquarters in the transition to Infantino's administration, and widespread cost-cutting.

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Detroit	27	39	.409 7		
Kansas City	18	50	.265 17		
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a scoreless ninth					
a scoreiess n	m				

**MLB Results/Standings** 

#### a scoreless ninth. Twins 4, Brewers 2

In Minneapolis, a four-run third inning sparked by Carlos Correa, Joey Gallo and Trevor Larnach vaulted Minnesota to its first series sweep of Milwaukee since 2017, handing the Brewers their sixth straight loss.

Twins starter Bailey Ober (4-3) recorded a season high-tying seven strikeouts and two earned runs on six hits. Relievers Brock Stewart, Jhoan Duran and Griffin Jax each pitched a perfect inning of relief, with usual closer Duran playing an unconventional setup role in the eighth. Jax earned his second career save.

A recently rejuvenated Twins lineup got hot during its second time through the batting order against starter Colin Rea (3-4). Rea allowed four earned runs on five hits with four strikeouts and three walks in five innings.

'Best decision of my life to join FIFA'

Samoura will stay in the job she has held since 2016 New Zealand and leave at the end of the year, FIFA said.

"Ever since we met, I knew she would be superb for

15

Berríos outpitched Orioles starter Kyle Bradish (2-3), who had a shutout going until Springer hit a solo shot in the sixth.

#### Rangers 6, Angels 3

In Arlington, Marcus Semien and Corey Seager hit back-to-back homers with two outs in the seventh inning to lift Texas over Los Angeles.

Shohei Ohtani hit a two-run homer in the ninth, his AL-leading 21st. It extended his hitting streak to a season-high 11 games.

Josh Sborz (3-2) got the win working scoreless seventh and eighth innings.

Jimmy Herget (1-3) allowed Texas' three seventh-inning runs in his one inning of relief of Reid Detmers.

#### Phillies 4, Diamondbacks 3, 10 innings

In Phoenix, Nick Castellanos drove in the go-ahead run with a sacrifice fly in the 10th inning after two Arizona players collided on a fly ball, lifting Philadelphia over the Diamondbacks.

Phillies starter Ranger Suarez held the Diamondbacks in check with seven scoreless innings, but Christian Walker tied it in the eighth with a three-run homer.

After Craig Kimbrel (5-1) stranded a runner at third in the ninth inning, Trea Turner floated a fly ball to shallow right field off Scott McGough (0-5). The ball dropped when Arizona second baseman Geraldo Perdomo and right fielder Jake McCarthy collided, putting runners on second and third

#### Mets 4, Yankees 3, 10 innings

In New York, Brandon Nimmo hit a game-ending double in the 10th inning and the New York Mets recovered from a string of mental and physical errors to beat the New York Yankees for a two-game Subway Series split.

In the 10th, with Eduardo Escobar the automatic runner at second, Albert Abreu (2-2) struck out Mark Vientos. Nick Ramirez relieved and Nimmo hit a drive over Jake Bauers and off the wall in right-center. EsIn this June 16, 2017 file photo, FIFA secretary general Fatma Samoura talks to the media during a news conference at the St. Petersburg Stadium, Russia. (AP)

cobar tagged up and sprinted home with a headfirst slide, giving the \$355 million Mets just their second victory in 11 games and third walkoff win this season.

Dominic Leone (1-2) got his first win since joining the Mets last month.

The Mets made two errors and committed only the second shift violation in the major leagues this season

#### Astros 5, Nationals 4

In Houston, José Abreu scored on catcher Keibert Ruiz's throwing error in a wild ninth inning to give Houston a victory over Washington.

Kyle Tucker led off with a single off Hunter Harvey (2-3), and Abreu followed with an infield single. Yainer Diaz struck out before Corey Julks walked to load the bases to set up Jake Meyers' grounder to short. Josiah Gray allowed four runs on six hits with five strikeouts in seven innings.

Washington rallied for three runs in the ninth off Houston closer Ryan Pressly (1-2). Joey Meneses reached on an error by Alex Bregman to start the inning and scored on an RBI double by Corey Dickerson. Framber Valdez allowed one run on five hits with six strikeouts in seven innings

#### White Sox 8, Dodgers 4

In Los Angeles, Clint Frazier singled in the go-ahead run in the eighth inning and Chicago beat Los Angeles after losing starter Mike Clevinger and manager Pedro Grifol.

Jake Burger homered twice, including a two-run shot that tied it at 4 in the eighth as the White Sox snapped a three-game skid.

Clevinger exited in the fifth because of right biceps soreness after completing a pitch. Grifol was ejected for the third time this season after arguing with home plate umpire Pat Hoberg and crew chief Brian O'Nora in the sixth.

Reynaldo López (2-4) got the victory with a perfect inning of relief.

Frazier's go-ahead single to center scored Andrew Benintendi, who was hit by a pitch from Alex Vesia (0-3) and took second on a wild pitch.

#### Marlins 4, Mariners 1

In Seattle, Miami's Jesús Sánchez made a leaping, game-saving catch

The 60-year-old former United Nations official from Senegal was an unexpected hire seven years ago soon after the election of Gianni Infantino as FIFA president.

She became the first woman, first Black person, first Muslim and first non-European to be FIFA's top administrator.

"It was the best decision of my life to join FIFA," Samoura said in a statement. "I am very proud to have led such a diverse team.

However, Infantino's hands-on style as an executive president has meant Samoura has often struggled to establish a clearly defined public role in the \$2 million-ayear job.

Samoura's time in FIFA included helping oversee men's World Cups played in Russia and Qatar, and awarding the 2026 edition that will be played in the United States, Canada and Mexico.

She started at FIFA when it was still dealing with the fallout from a sweeping investigation of corruption in soccer unsealed in 2015 by the United States Department of Justice. The case removed a swath of soccer leaders in the Americas and led to FIFA's then-president Sepp Blatter leaving office early and secretary general Jérôme Valcke being fired.

FIFA. Her passion and enthusiasm to drive change has been inspirational," Infantino said Wednesday in the FIFA statement.

Samoura will leave with FIFA's finances in good health. It has built reserves of close to \$4 billion, earned record revenue of \$7.5 billion from the four-year commercial cycle tied to the World Cup in Qatar and targeted at least \$11 billion in revenue from the next men's tournament in North America.

"FIFA today is a better governed, more open, more reliable and more transparent organization," she said. "I will leave FIFA with a high sense of pride and fulfillment."

The past seven years also saw a flurry of FIFA projects to expand and add soccer tournaments with notable failures including a \$25 billion deal tied to the Club World Cup and attempts to double the number of World Cups to play every two years instead of four.

Those ideas all were tied to Infantino's office with Samoura barely involved, as the FIFA leader forged closer ties to Saudi Arabian political and soccer leaders.

FIFA gave no details of a process to find a new secretary general, whose first year in the job will include campaigns and votes next year to pick hosts for the 2027 Women's World Cup and men's World Cup in 2030.

> second base. Wilmer Flores and La-Monte Wade Jr. followed with RBI singles off Steven Matz (0-7).

Tyler Rogers (1-4) got the win with a perfect ninth inning and Camilo Doval earned his 18th save in 19 opportunities.

Cardinals starter Jordan Montgomery gave up three runs in 6 1/3 innings, allowed seven hits, walked two and struck out seven.

#### Cubs 10, Pirates 6

In Chicago, Dansby Swanson started Chicago's six-run sixth inning with a hit, then capped the rally with an RBI single as the Cubs overcame a four-run deficit.

Swanson finished with three hits and two RBIs to help Chicago knock off Pittsburgh, which entered in first in the NL Central, for the second straight night. The Cubs had 13 hits -12 singles - to reach double-digits in hits and runs again.

The Pirates were cruising with a 5-1 lead before the Cubs sent 11 men to the plate in the sixth. Roansy Contreras (3-6) the first of five Pirates relievers, yielded five runs on three hits and two walks over 1 1/3 innings to fuel the rally. Pittsburgh's Osvaldo Bido started in his major league debut. The rangy 27-year-old right-hander allowed one run on four hits, while striking out six through four innings.

Chicago starter Drew Smyly (6-4) ended a three-game losing streak despite allowing five runs on nine hits in six innings. Three relievers closed it out, with Adbert Alzolay throwing

#### Red Sox 6, Rockies 3

In Boston, Alex Verdugo and Rob Refsnyder had two RBIs apiece and Boston rallied in a five-run seventh inning to avoid a sweep by Colorado.

The start of the game was delayed more than two hours because of thunderstorms.

Garrett Whitlock (4-2) pitched seven innings, allowing two runs and six hits with seven strikeouts. He improved to 3-0 in his past four starts.

Colorado starter Austin Gomber (4-6) gave up three runs, struck out five and walked one.

Reds 7, Royals 4 In Kansas City, Cincinnati got three homers during a five-run fifth inning, including a three-run shot by Matt McLain, and held on to complete a three-game series sweep.

Spencer Steer homered in the second inning before Stuart Fairchild and Jonathan India joined McLain in going deep in the fifth, breaking open a 1-all game and sending the Reds to their fifth straight win and eighth in the last 10 games.

Ben Lively (4-4) ended a rough stretch for Cincinnati starters, allowing 10 hits but just two runs over 5 2/3 innings. Alexis Diaz entered with two on and one out in the ninth and struck out Freddy Fermin and retired Dairon Blanco for his 17th save.

The Royals' Daniel Lynch (0-3) gave up all four Reds homers, the most he's allowed in an outing in his career. He allowed seven runs on seven hits and a pair of walks as his winless streak stretched to 15 starts.

#### Padres 5, Guardians 0

In San Diego, Michael Wacha pitched seven shutout innings and Fernando Tatis Jr. and Manny Machado hit two of San Diego's four solo homers to shut out Cleveland.

Juan Soto and Nelson Cruz also homered for the Padres, who have won five of their last six games.

Wacha (7-2), who has a major league best 0.91 ERA since the beginning of May, gave up four singles in 6 2/3 innings. He lowered his season ERA to 2.89. Padres reliever Tim Hill pitched a scoreless eighth and ninth innings to preserve the shutout.

Aaron Civale (2-2) gave up two runs in 3 2/3 innings. He struck out seven and allowed five hits.



Philadelphia Phillies second baseman Bryson Stott fields a grounder hit by

Arizona Diamondbacks' Pavin Smith, who was out at first during the fourth

inning of a baseball game in Phoenix. (AP)

walks.

(4-1) struck out six and walked only

one and helped Miami's pitching re-

cover after getting knocked around

Seattle starter Luis Castillo (4-5)

labored through 5 2/3 innings, giv-

ing up only two hits and two runs,

but matched his career-high with six

Giants 8, Cardinals 5, 10 innings

a game-tying two-run homer in the

ninth inning and Thairo Estrada had

the go-ahead single in 10th, and San

Francisco rallied to complete a three-

Estrada's single scored Yastrzem-

ski, who was the automatic runner at

game sweep of St. Louis.

In St. Louis, Mike Yastrzemski hit

in the first two games of the series.

at the wall in the bottom of the ninth

inning to rob Seattle's Eugenio

Suárez of a grand slam, and the Mar-

Seattle loaded the bases with one

out in the ninth inning against A.J.

Puk thanks to a pair of errors by Luis

Arraez. Suárez lined a 2-1 pitch from

Puk deep to right field, but Sánchez

quickly tracked his way to the wall

and made a leaping grab and pulled

back the potential game-tying homer.

a winner out of 20-year-old rookie

Eury Pérez, who dazzled in just his

seventh start. Pérez limited the Mari-

ners to just a pair of hits and pitched

into the sixth for the first time. Pérez

Sánchez's defensive gem made

lins avoided a three-game sweep.



Argentina's Lionel Messi (right), controls the ball against Australia's Mathew Leckie during their friendly soccer match at the Workers' Stadium in Beijing, China. Argentina won 2-0. (AP)



# Latest sports scores at — http://sports.arabtimesonline.com **Croatia qualify for Nations League final**

Modric penalty completes thrilling 4-2 win over Netherlands

**ROTTERDAM**, Netherlands, June 15, (AP): Veteran midfielder Luka Modric scored an extratime penalty to seal a thrilling 4-2 victory for Croatia over the Netherlands and a place in the Nations League final.

Thousands of ecstatic red-andwhite clad Croatia fans chanted "Luka! Luka! Luka!" after the 37-year-old completed the scoring from the penalty spot in the 116th minute.

"We couldn't believe how many fans for Croatia there were in the stadium. That was really phenomenal," Modric said through an interpreter. "They give us great support and that's something that drives us and moves us forward."

It was Modric's 165th appearance for his country. He said after captaining Croatia to victory over Morocco in the third-place game at the World Cup in Qatar he wanted to "continue until at least the Nations League and after we will see."

#### SOCCER

Netherlands coach Ronald

"Sometimes there's a player for the opponent who is so decisive and

Croatia was runner-up at the 2018 World Cup in Russia and third last year in Qatar.

Substitute Bruno Petković also scored in extra-time with a shot from just outside the penalty area that flew low into the corner, just out of the reach of Justin Bijlow as staunch Dutch resistance finally crumbled.

Another substitute, Netherlands forward Noa Lang, had forced the game into extra time with a volleyed equalizer six minutes into stoppage time.

Earlier in the pulsating match, a 55th-minute penalty by Andrej Kramarić - awarded for a foul on Modric - and a shot by Mario Pašalić in the 73rd minute canceled out Donyell Malen's 34th-minute open-

Koeman said Modric was, "in one word: fantastic.'

so good that I can - it's hard to say - enjoy watching," Koeman said.

85th minute. But he squandered a

great chance in the second half of

extra time when he shot into the side

netting with Croatia goalkeeper

the country won in 1988. The Dominik Livaković out of position. Netherlands has finished as runner-Modric shot into the goal in the up at three World Cups - in 1974, '78 24th minute, but referee István Kovács had already stopped play and 2010. er to keep Croatia and Modric in the Lang scored only his second interbecause of Pašalić's overhead kick hunt for their first major internanational goal after coming on in the that floored Nathan Ake.

It ended the Netherlands' latest

attempt to add another international

trophy to the European Championship

tional title.

#### Tough start for Pochettino

## Man City start EPL title defense against Burnley

mier League title defense against Burn- up in the league, Arsenal.

The Republican team poses with the trophy after the GOP beat the Democrats 16-6 in the Annual Congressional Baseball Game at National Park in Washington. (AP)

LONDON, June 15, (AP): Manchester FA Cup winner. But because City won City will begin its latest English Pre- both competitions, it faces the runner-

A return to Liverpool might give Erik ten Hag sleepless nights after his United team was routed 7-0 on Merseyside last season. This year's game is scheduled for Dec. 16. The last time the rivals played at Anfield on that date was in 2018 in a match that brought the curtain down on Jose Mourinho's United career. The Portuguese coach left the club two days after a 3-1 loss. Ten Hag will hope history does not repeat itself in more ways than one. The first Manchester derby is scheduled for Oct. 28 when United hosts City at Old Trafford. The north London derby is on Sept. 23 between Arsenal and Spurs at Emirates Stadium. Having avoided relegation on the final day of the season, Everton ensured the Merseyside derby would remain a part of the top-flight calendar for at least another year. Liverpool host Everton at Anfield on Oct. 21. Meanwhile, Premier League clubs agreed Wednesday to measures for tackling the rise in tragedy-related chanting at matches, with criminal prosecution of offenders a principal aim. The move comes in response to incidents of chants and other behavior often between rival clubs - taunting victims and survivors of soccer-related tragedies. A Manchester United supporter was arrested following the FA Cup final at Wembley this month after he was seen wearing a soccer shirt that appeared to make an offensive reference to the 1989 Hillsborough disaster, which led to the death of 97 Liverpool fans. Manchester City and Chelsea both apologized to Liverpool in recent months for Hillsborough-related chants sung by their fans, and appealed for supporters to stop. United supporters have been targeted repeatedly with chants that reference the Munich air disaster of 1958 in which 23 people died, eight of them players. The measures, which were agreed to unanimously on Wednesday at the league's annual general meeting, come after a working group of stakeholders from across the game was established six months ago, and will also look at issues surrounding regulation and enforcement, online abuse and education. "(These) issues have continued to cause significant distress to the victims' families, survivors and affectedclub supporters, in addition to damaging the reputation of the clubs involved and football in England and Wales," a Premier League statement read.



Netherlands' Xavi Simons vies for the ball with Croatia's Luka Modric (right), during the Nations League semifinal soccer match between the Netherlands and Croatia at De Kuip stadium in Rotterdam, Netherlands. (AP)

### Sweden moves closer to launching Winter Oly bid

STOCKHOLM, June 15, (AP): Sweden is moving closer to a bid to host the Winter Olympics for the first time in what is shaping up to be a race for the 2030 Games with only one obvious candidate.

Following a four-month feasibility study, Swedish sports officials said Thursday there is a desire for the Nordic country to stage the Olympics in Stockholm. It will be the ninth Winter Olympic bid for the country that hosted the Summer Olympics in 1912.

"Our preliminary study shows that Sweden has the opportunity, know-how and will to arrange the Winter Games in 2030," Swedish Olympic Committee president Hans von Uthmann said.

Von Uthmann said there will now be a "dialogue phase" with the International Olympic Committee as the second stage of the bid process.

The IOC has welcomed us to the next phase," he said.

The hosting rights have looked to be there for the taking for Sweden since its surprise entry in the 2030 picture this year as the IOC's other options fell away. Sapporo was the long-time favorite but support in Japan faded during the investigation, trials and convictions related to bribery in commercial deals for the Tokyo Olympics.

This week, the Japanese Olympic Committee said it would support a Sapporo bid only if it was pushed back to target the 2034 Winter Games

Salt Lake City, a previous Olympic host city like Sapporo, also wants to host again but prefers 2034. That would avoid a back-to-back clash for organizers and sponsors in the United States with the 2028 Los Angeles Summer Games.

Sweden suddenly found a clear and unexpected path to hosting the 2030 Olympics four years after the IOC inflicted a bruising loss on a Stockholm-Åre bid for the 2026 Games, which were awarded to Milan-Cortina d'Ampezzo.

That project plan for 2026 has now been revived and relies even more heavily on existing sports venues with fewer construction projects. The IOC urges hosts to avoid potential white-elephant venues that typically go over budget.

#### **OLYMPICS**

Further progress for the Stockholm bid can be made next week in the revamped and more flexible Olympic process to pick host cities.

The IOC executive board will meet from Tuesday to Thursday in Lausanne, Switzerland, and can give Stockholm the status of preferred candidate. That would start a period of, in the Olympic jargon, "targeted dialogue" excluding rival bids.

ley, a promoted team managed by City great Vincent Kompany.

The opening round of the season also contains a match between two of the league's so-called "Big Six" as Chelsea - with a new manager on board in Mauricio Pochettino - hosts Liverpool.

City's trip to Turf Moor will start the season on Aug. 11 - and on a Friday night - and it's laden with narrative because of the presence of Kompany, who spent 11 years (2008-19) at the club and has a statue outside the team's Etihad Stadium.

Kompany, who was City captain for eight years and won four Premier League titles, led Burnley back into the top division in his first season as a manager in English soccer.

He has already faced City as a Burnley manager and it didn't turn out to be such a happy occasion, with his team getting thrashed 6-0 in the FA Cup quarterfinals in March.

City's early season schedule looks relatively benign - the champion also plays promoted Sheffield United and host Fulham and Nottingham Forest in its first six games - before a toughlooking October when City plays Arsenal (Oct. 7) and Manchester United (Oct. 28) away either side of hosting Brighton.

Arsenal, which ran City surprisingly close in the title race last season, begins the campaign with matches against Nottingham Forest, Crystal Palace and then Fulham.

Arsenal is in the Champions League for the first time in six years, with its first two group games in Europe coming immediately ahead of Premier League matches against Tottenham and Man City.

The first league game for new Tottenham manager Ange Postecoglou is a London derby at Brentford, while Manchester United is at home to Wolverhampton on Aug. 14.

Luton will play its first top-flight match since 1992 away to Brighton. The following week, Kenilworth Road will become the smallest ground to host a Premier League game when Burnlev visits.

The other promoted side is Sheffield United, which starts the season at home to Crystal Palace.

The top two from last season go head to head before the season when City faces Arsenal at Wembley in the Community Shield on Aug. 6.

The traditional curtain-raiser is usually between the league champion and

While that game can be seen as a chance to strike a psychological blow ahead of the campaign, it is worth remembering Liverpool beat City in last year's Community Shield, only for Pep Guardiola's team to go on and win a treble of trophies including the Champions League.

Of far more importance will be the first league meeting between City and Arsenal on Oct. 7 at Emirates Stadium.

#### SOCCER

Beginning his Chelsea career with a home game against Liverpool, represents a daunting start for Pochettino. Liverpool was the team that denied

him the Champions League title in 2019 when beating his Tottenham team 2-0 in the final.

While Jurgen Klopp's side suffered a disappointing campaign last season, it will be among the teams expected to challenge City for the title.

Chelsea does not face another big six team until Arsenal on Oct. 21, meaning Pochettino will have the chance to build some momentum to that point.

But that Arsenal game is the start of a challenging run when Chelsea will also take on Tottenham, City, Newcastle and United over a seven-game period.



England's Harry Kane attends a training session ahead of the Euro 2024 soccer matches against Malta and North Macedonia, at St. George's Park, Burton-upon-Trent, England on Friday. (AP)



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