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UAE, RUSSIA PRESIDENTS DISCUSS STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

Saudi FM in Iran as sides firm ties



Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian, right, and Saudi counterpart Prince Faisal bin Farhan shake hands prior to their meeting in Tehran, Iran, Saturday, June 17, 2023. (AP)

Saudi Crown Prince visits France

TEHRAN, June 17, (Agencies): Saudi Arabia's top diplomat arrived in Iran's capital on Saturday, the latest step in the restoration of diplomatic ties between the two Mideast rivals, Iranian state media reported.

Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan was officially welcomed by his Iranian counterpart, Hossein Amirabdollahian, Iran TV said. He carried a message from the Saudi king to Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi and the two were due to meet later Saturday, Iran TV said.

The visit comes after U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken visited Saudi Arabia

earlier in June. In March, Iran and Saudi Arabia agreed to re-establish diplomatic relations and reopen embassies after seven years of tensions.

Prince Faisal is expected to officially inaugurate the kingdom's embassy in Tehran later on Saturday. Until the mission is completed, the employees are working from a Tehran hotel, Iran TV said.

Both nations reopened their diplomatic missions in recent weeks.

The agreement to reestablish diplomatic relations was a major breakthrough brokered by China, lowering the chances of further conflict between Riyadh and Tehran - both directly and in proxy conflicts around the region.

Iran has been blamed for a series of attacks in recent years following the United States' unilateral withdrawal from Tehran's nuclear deal with world powers in 2018. One of those targeted the heart of Saudi Arabia's oil industry in 2019, temporarily halving the kingdom's crude production.

Elsewhere, Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman is to meet with French President Emmanuel Macron Friday in Paris as part of an official visit, during which he will also participate in a global financing summit aimed at fighting poverty and climate change.

Macron and the prince are expected to have a one-to-one working lunch at the Elysee presidential palace.

The French presidency said the talks are to focus on bilateral relations between the two countries and on regional stability issues, especially after long-time rivals Saudi Arabia and Iran restored diplomatic ties earlier this year.

France is a major weapons and defense supplier to Gulf nations.

Summit

The leaders also are preparing for a global summit next week "aimed at bringing together private and public funding" to fight poverty, support climate transition and protect biodiversity, the French presidency said. The event is expected to gather over 50 heads of states and governments as well as many NGOs and prominent climate activists.

During his stay in Paris, Prince Mohammed is also expected to push for Riyadh to host the 2030 World Fair's Expo.

In the time since, Prince Mohammed has sought to portray Saudi Arabia as a possible mediator amid Russia's war on Ukraine and has used its position as the dominant member of the OPEC+ oil cartel to try and boost global energy prices. The prince also seeks to build megaprojects across the kingdom to create new jobs for Saudi Arabia's youthful population.

A top French official, speaking anonymously in accordance with the presidency's customary practices, said France will seek to convince Saudi Arabia to weigh on Russia for an end to the conflict that preserves Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Human rights will be evoked by Macron as France is firmly opposed to the death penalty, the official said.

In other news, UAE President Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed in a meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin on Friday discussed bilateral relations as well as strategic partnership.

The meeting was held on sidelines of St. Petersburg International Economic Forum 2023 and within the framework of a visit by Sheikh Mohammed to Russia.

Official website of the Russian Presidency quoted Putin as describing the UAE "a good and comfortable partner," noting that the economy and social structure in the UAE are actively developing. He also stressed that relations between Russia and the UAE are "developing successfully," adding that the volume of trade exchange between the two countries is "large" and is of benefit to both.

For his part, the UAE president stressed importance of accelerating efforts to mitigate the humanitarian repercussions of the Russia-Ukraine conflict and support prisoner-exchange initiatives, according to Emirates News Agency, (WAM).

Continued on Page 3

Donor nations commit \$10.3 bln

Kuwait aid to Syria \$1.9bn

BRUSSELS, June 17, (Agencies): Kuwait's Assistant Foreign Minister for International Organizations Abdulaziz Al-Jarallah said Thursday his country has spared no effort in supporting the Syrian people since the outbreak of Syria crisis.

"The total volume of Kuwait's humanitarian contributions to the humanitarian response in Syria amounted to USD 1.9 billion," he said in a speech to the Seventh Brussels Conference on Supporting the Future of Syria and the Region.

"In addition, the State of Kuwait contributed USD 100 million to the UN humanitarian appeals following the devastating earthquakes in Syria and Turkiye in February," he said noting that the funds were channeled to various aid agencies.

Al-Jarallah appreciated the EU for hosting this annual chain of conference in support for Syria and neighboring countries, saying that such conference fall in the framework of the international relief efforts meant to alleviate the suffering of "the brotherly people of Syria."

The international humanitarian response followed Kuwait's initiative for hosting the first Pledging Conference for Syria in January

2013, the senior diplomat recalled.

The efforts of the international culminated in the UN Security Council adopting unanimously Resolution 2254 in 2015, which endorsed a roadmap for a Syrian-led peace process, he went on.

However, Al-Jarallah expressed regret over UN reports of continued horrible suffering in Syria 13 years after the breakout of the crisis, citing a report in March that over 15.3 million people are in need of urgent humanitarian assistance.

Reports of severe shortage in food and dire need to rehabilitate the health system in Syria, as well as acute social, economic and security problems in Syrian refugee-hosting countries stress the need of doubling efforts by the international community to improve the humanitarian situation, he pointed out.

The senior diplomat reaffirmed Kuwait's commitment to shouldering its moral and humanitarian responsibilities and contributing to the relief efforts for the Syrian people.

Continued on Page 3

Five children among 17 dead in airstrike

CAIRO, June 17, (AP): An airstrike in Sudan's capital Khartoum on Saturday killed at least 17 people, including five children, health officials said, as fighting continued between rival generals seeking to control the country.

The attack was one of the deadliest of the clashes in urban areas of Khartoum and elsewhere in Sudan between the military and a powerful paramilitary group known as the Rapid Support Forces.

It was not clear whether the attack was by aircraft or a drone. The military's aircraft have repeatedly targeted RSF troops and the RSF has reportedly used drones and anti-aircraft weapons against the military.

The conflict in Sudan broke out in mid-April, capping months of increasing tensions between the leaders of the military and the RSF.

Saturday's strike hit the Yormouk neighborhood in southern Khartoum, where clashes have centered in recent weeks, according to Sudan's Ministry of Health. The area houses a military facility controlled by the army. At least 25 houses were destroyed, the ministry wrote in a Facebook post.

The dead included five children and an unknown number of women and elderly people, and some wounded people were hospitalized, the ministry said.

A local group that calls itself The Emergency Room and helps organize humanitarian aid in the area, said at least 11 people were wounded in the strike. It posted images it said were of houses damaged in the attack and people searching through rubble. Other images claimed to show a wounded girl and man.

The RSF claimed in a statement that the military's aircraft bombed the area, killing and wounded civilians. It claimed it downed a military MiG fighter jet. The paramilitary group's claims couldn't be independently verified.

A military spokesman didn't respond to messages seeking comment.

The conflict has plunged the African country into chaos and turned Khartoum and other urban areas into battlefields. The paramilitary force has occupied people's houses and other civilian properties since the onset of the conflict, according to residents and activists.

The clashes have killed hundreds of civilians and wounded thousands of others. More than 2.2 million people have fled their homes to safer areas inside Sudan or crossed into neighboring countries.

Along with Khartoum, fighting has raged in Darfur, a sprawling area in western Sudan. Genena, the provincial capital of West Darfur province, has experienced some of the worst battles in the conflict, with tens of thousands of its residents fleeing to neighboring Chad.

Arab militias known as janjaweed have recently joined the clashes in Genena on the side of the RSF, according to residents and activists.

On Wednesday, West Darfur Gov. Khamis Abdalla Abkar was abducted and killed hours after he accused the RSF and allied Arab militias in a televised interview of attacking Genena.

His slaying was blamed on the RSF, a charge the paramilitary force denied.

When fighting in Sudan erupted in mid-April, Abdel-Rahman Sayeed and his family tried to hold out hiding in their home in the capital, Khartoum, as the sounds of explosions, gunfights and the roar of warplanes echoed across the city of 6 million people.

NewsWatch

AMMAN: The Jordanian army said on Friday it had shot down a drone carrying weapons from Syria.

The officers at the border, in coordination with the military security services, detected a drone attempting to illegally cross the border from Syrian territory into Jordanian territory, which was shot down inside Jordan, said an official military source in the General Command of the Jordanian Armed Forces (JAF).

The source added that the drone was carrying multiple weapons, which was seized and transferred to the competent authorities.

JAF will deal firmly with any infiltration or smuggling attempt in order to protect citizens and the security of Jordanian borders, the source noted.

Jordanian-Syrian border that extends for about 350 kilometers is constantly witnessing drug smuggling and infiltration attempts, prompting the Jordanian forces to confront the firmly. (KUNA)

ISTANBUL: Istanbul's popular mayor went on trial Thursday on charges that he was involved in the alleged rigging of bids on a tender dating back to 2015. Critics have called the trial another politically motivated "plot" aiming to remove the opposition politician from the political scene.

Ekrem Imamoglu, who is widely considered a possible future leader of the country's main opposition Republican People's Party, or CHP, is facing up to seven years in prison as well as a political ban if found guilty of the charge, which stems from the time he was mayor of the Istanbul district of Beylikduzu. He served in that office from 2014 to 2019, when he became mayor of Istanbul. (AP)

MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin on Thursday expressed admiration of Algeria's readiness to play a mediation role for settling the strife with Ukraine.

Putin, speaking at a news conference with his guest, the Algerian President Abdelmadjid Tebboune, expressed gratitude to the Algerian president for joining the Arab contact group, formed in 2022 to play a go-between diplomatic role between Moscow and Kyiv.

Putin said his talks with his Algerian counterpart dealt with developments in Ukraine, conditions in Libya and Sudan and prospects of resolving the Israeli-Palestinian cause. (KUNA)

CAIRO: The Arab League on Saturday called for efforts to confront drought and desertification in light of number of Arab countries lacking water resources, which resulted in land degradation and lack of agricultural land.

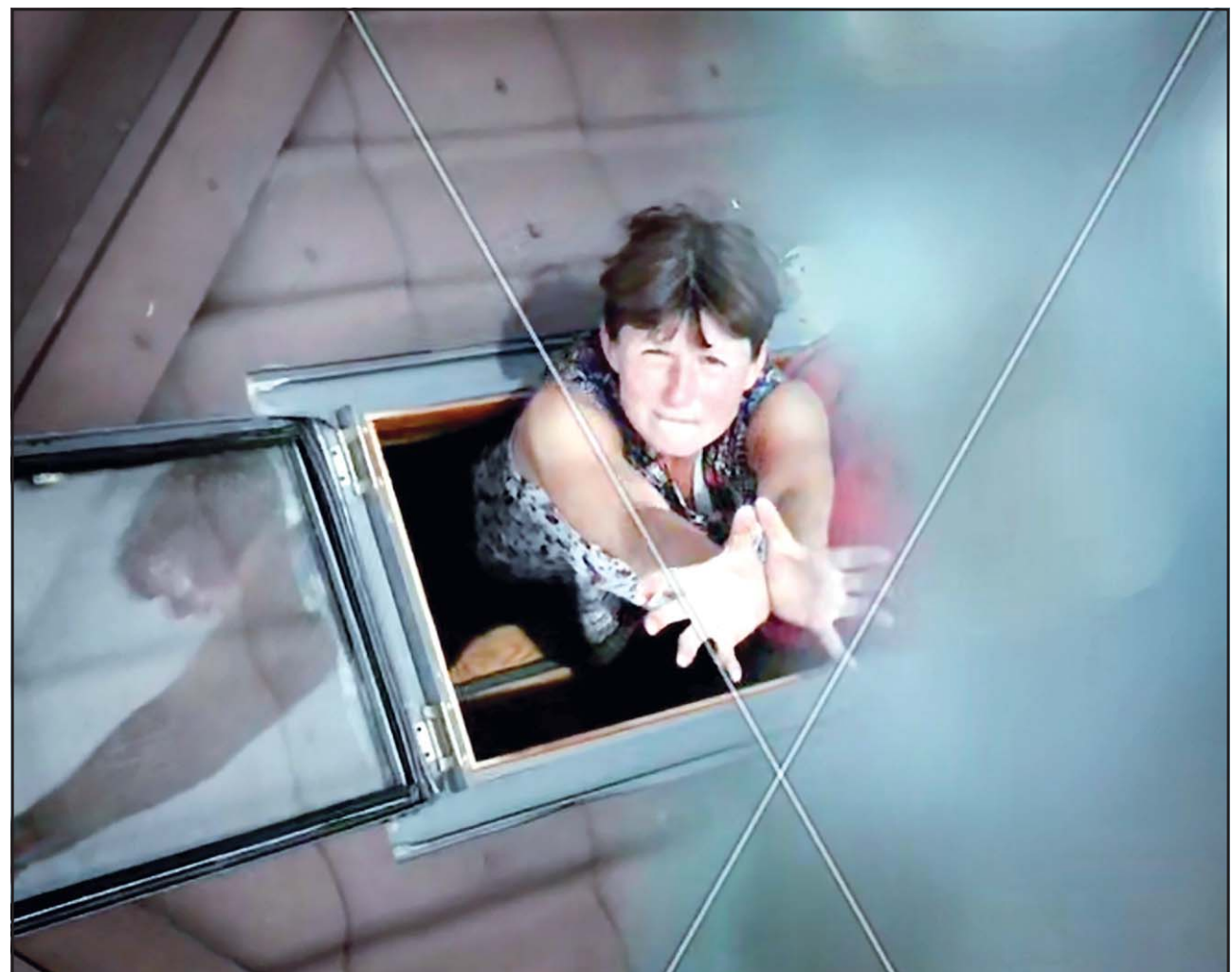
This came on the occasion of the 29th World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought, themed "Her Land. Her Rights", said Arab League in a statement.

The day will focus on women's land rights as a vital component to achieve the global goal of gender equality and land degradation, statement added. (KUNA)

ISTANBUL: The Turkish Coast Guard Command rescued 35 illegal immigrants off the coast of Mugla, southwest Turkiye, on Saturday.

Authorities sent rescue boats after reports on the presence of immigrants on three rubber boats pushed by the Greek side into Turkish waters, the command said in a statement.

Moreover, the coast guard also arrested 37 immigrants on a rubber boat in the same state, it said, adding that it had taken the immigrants to the detention center in Mugla to take legal action. (KUNA)



This image taken from video of a Ukrainian Borderguard unit, Kateryna Krupych reaches to catch bottle of water being delivered by a military drone flown 4km from Kherson to a flooded neighborhood near Oleshky, Ukraine, on June 7, 2023. Krupych and her children were later rescued after they had to leave their home in the island of Chaika, located in the gray zone between frontlines. (AP)

Hunger strike in second week

Gaddafi son in deteriorating health

BEIRUT, June 17, (AP): A son of Libya's leader Muammar Gaddafi is suffering deteriorating health during the second week of a hunger strike to protest his detention in Beirut without trial, his lawyer said Friday.

Hannibal Gaddafi is only drinking small amounts of water, his lawyer Paul Romanos said, adding that his client is suffering from weakness and muscle pains.

"Had it not been for his solid will, he would not have been able to continue," Romanos said about Hannibal Gaddafi. He added that a doctor is doing a daily checkups for the detainee, who has been also suffering from back pain that turned out to be an inflammation in the spine.

Romanos said earlier this month that the back pain is due to being held in a small room where he cannot move freely or exercise.

Hannibal Gaddafi has been detained in Lebanon since 2015 after he was briefly kidnapped from neighboring Syria, where he had been living as a political refugee.

He was abducted by Lebanese militants demanding information on the whereabouts of prominent Lebanese Shiite cleric Moussa al-Sadr, who went missing in Libya 45 years ago.

Lebanese police later announced it had collected Hannibal from the northeastern city of Baalbek where he was being held. He has been detained in a Beirut jail without trial since then.

The disappearance of al-Sadr in 1978 has been a long-standing sore point in Lebanon. The cleric's family believes he may still be alive in a Libyan prison, though most Lebanese presume al-Sadr is dead. He would be 94 years old.

Al-Sadr was the founder of the Amal group, Arabic for "hope," and an acronym for the militia's Arabic name, the Lebanese Resistance Brigades. The group later fought in Lebanon's 1975-90 civil war. Lebanon's powerful Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri heads the group.

Most of al-Sadr's followers are convinced that Muammar Gaddafi ordered al-Sadr killed in a dispute over Libyan payments to Lebanese militias. Libya has maintained that the cleric and his two traveling companions left Tripoli in 1978 on a flight to Rome and suggested he was a victim of a power struggle among Shiites.

Gaddafi was killed by opposition fighters in 2011, ending his four-decade rule of the north African country.

Hannibal Gaddafi was born two years before al-Sadr disappeared.

China trip ends

Abbas backs Xinjiang crackdown

BEIJING, June 17, (Agencies): Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas wrapped up a trip to China Friday after seeking economic aid and voicing support for Beijing's repressive policies toward Muslim minorities in the northwestern region of Xinjiang.

During his four-day visit, Abbas met with Chinese President and head of the ruling Communist Party Xi Jinping. The leaders then issued a joint statement endorsing Beijing's domestic and foreign policies and repudiating Western concepts of human rights.

In the statement, the Palestinian Authority said issues regarding China's policy toward Muslims in Xinjiang have "nothing to do with human rights and are aimed at exciting extremism and opposing terrorism and separatism."

"Palestine resolutely opposes using the Xinjiang problem as a way of interfering in China's internal affairs," the joint statement said.

That echoes Chinese propaganda surrounding the detention of more than 1 million Uyghurs, Kazakhs and other Muslim minorities in prison-like detention centers on little or no legal grounds - often merely for having a relative studying abroad or downloading the Koran onto their phones.

China says the widely-documented complex of heavily-guarded centers were intended to instill patriotism, purge radicalism spread over the internet and provide vocational training - and have now been shut down. Critics say many have been turned into prisons.

China has campaigned furiously to counter the outside criticism, and in the competition for resources and markets, Arab states have almost never openly expressed concern over Beijing's treatment of Muslims.

Followers of the religion make up around 2% of the population. The country is led by an officially atheistic party dominated by the majority Han ethnic group.

Meanwhile, Chinese Premier Li Qiang said Thursday China will continue to champion justice and make sustained efforts for a comprehensive, just and durable solution for the Palestinian issue, state-run Xinhua News Agency reported.

Li made remarks during this meeting with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas in Beijing, in which he called China and Palestine good friends and partners, the report said.

Prayer Timings

Fajr	03:13	Asr	15:23
Sunrise ..	04:48	Maghrib ..	18:49
Zohr	11:49	Isha	20:22

Local

Expected weather for the next 24 hours:

By Day: Hot with moderate to fresh northwesterly wind with speeds of 22-60 km/h causing rising dust.

By Night: Rather hot with

Weather

light to moderate freshening at times over coastal areas northwesterly wind with speeds of 15-40 km/h.

Station	Max Exp	Min Rec
Kuwait City	43	32
Kuwait Airport	44	29

Abdaly	44	28
Jahra	45	29
Salmiyah	42	32
Ahmadi	42	32
Nuwaisib	44	28
Wafra	44	28

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

Indian workers on top, sent home \$ 111 billion

\$17.74 billion transferred in remittances from Kuwait in 2022

KUWAIT CITY, June 17: Saudi Arabia ranked first in the Arab world and second in the world, after the United States of America, in terms of restrictions on resident workers, in terms of value, reports Al-Rai daily.

According to statistics by "Mubasher", based on a World Bank report, America topped the list of countries in the world that exported the most remittances during 2022, with a value of \$79.15 billion, and Saudi Arabia came in second place with 39.35 billion, followed by Switzerland in third place with 32 billion, then Germany with 25.6 billion, followed by China with 18.25 billion dollars.

The volume of transfers from Kuwait was about \$17.74 billion during 2022, taking the sixth position in the world, and second in the Gulf after Saudi Arabia.

In a report, the World Bank expected that officially registered remittance

flows to low- and middle-income countries would increase by 1.4 percent to \$656 billion in 2023.

It is likely that economic activity in remittance-sending countries will decline, which will limit job opportunities and increase the wages of expatriates.

On the other hand, the report indicated that India was the largest country receiving remittances in 2022, as Indian workers outside the country transferred \$111 billion, Mexico came in second place with a volume of remittances amounting to 61 billion, then China with about 51 billion, and the Philippines with 38.05 billion, France with 30.04 billion, and Pakistan with 30 billion, while Egypt ranked seventh in the world and first in the Arab world in terms of the most receiving countries for expatriate remittances, with a volume of remittances amounting to \$28.33 billion.

The World Bank report noted that remittances of expatriate workers re-

ceived a boost in 2022 due to the rise in oil prices in the countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council, which helped increase the income of expatriates; also because of large financial transfers from the Russian Federation to the countries of Central Asia; and the strength of US labor markets and advanced economies of destination countries.

By region, remittance flows increased by 0.7 percent in East Asia and the Pacific, by 19 percent in Europe and Central Asia, by 11.3 percent in Latin America and the Caribbean, by 12.2 percent in South Asia, and by 6.1 percent. In sub-Saharan Africa, while remittance flows decreased by 3.8 percent to the Middle East and North Africa region.

Remittance flows to the Middle East and North Africa region decreased by 3.8 percent, as this decline is due to a 10 percent decrease in remittances to Egypt, which reached \$28.33 billion, compared to \$31.5 billion in 2021.



Sacrificial animals have flooded the Sheep Market in Shuwaikh Industrial Area and other areas of Kuwait as Eid Al-Adha is fast approaching. Some people have started

buying the sheep but some wait till one or two days before the Eid or one can even buy the animal on the first, second and third day of Eid Al-Adha. It is the Muslim festi-

val marking the culmination of the annual pilgrimage to Makkah and commemorating the sacrifice of Prophet Ibrahim (PBUH) to Almighty Allah.

Photo by Mohammad Morsi

Three colleges in Abdullah Al-Salem University to offer degree programs

KUWAIT CITY, June 17 : The Secretary General of Public Universities Dr. Adel Al-Manea says the Council of Public Universities has approved the establishment of three colleges at Abdullah Al-Salem University to offer bachelor degree programs, reports Al-Qabas daily.

He explained that these three colleges are -

1 - The College of Engineering and Energy, which has three degree programs -

- Biomedical & Instruments Engineering
- Energy Systems Engineering
- Robotics & Mechatronics Engineering

2 - The College of Computing and Systems, which has four degree programs -

- Computer Systems Engineering
- Cyber Security Engineering
- Data Science and Artificial Intelligence
- Software Engineering

3- The College of Business and Entrepreneurship, which has the following degree programs -

- Digital Marketing
- Entrepreneurship and Innovation
- Human Resources Management
- Supply Chain & Logistics Management

Following a meeting held by the council on Wednesday, which was headed by the Minister of Education and Higher Education Dr. Hamad Al-Adwani, Al-Manea said, "The council approved the admission of about 600 male and female students, who will undergo admission tests in English and Mathematics according to fixed criteria of comparison."

He indicated that the council approved the university calendar for Abdullah Al-Salem University for the first and second semesters and the summer semester of the 2023/2024 academic year, adding that the



Dr. Al-Manea

academic year will start on September 17, 2023.

Al-Manea explained that the council discussed the process of shifting Kuwait University to Sabah Al-Salem University City, which is proceeding on a regular basis through constructive cooperation between both Kuwait University and the founding board of directors of Abdullah Al-Salem University.

The council also approved the proposal of the Kuwait University Council for the amendment of Clause A of Article 13 regarding the duration of the scholarship. The regulations for organizing scholarships to offer them to Kuwait University's teaching assistants have been amended. The students of the Faculty of Medicine and Dental Studies with only clinical specializations were excluded, such that their scholarship period is five years in general specializations, and two years in specific specialization, without counting the period of the clinical evaluation program, which takes place before admission in the training program within the original duration of the mission.

Submit offers by Oct 10: The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has advised companies that were invited to bid for the operation of Terminal 2 at Kuwait International Airport to submit their offers by Oct 10, reports Al-Qabas daily.

Six companies were invited to bid for the contract - Ireland's DAA International, Fraport AG Frankfurt Airport Services Worldwide, India's GMR, South Korea's Incheon Airport Corporation, Germany's Munich International Airport and Turkiye's holding company Tav Havalimani. The contract covers the operations, management, training, maintenance and development of Terminal 2 and its air areas.

Meanwhile, Turkish contractor Limak has been working on the construction of the passenger terminal since it was awarded the contract with an estimated value of \$4.3 billion in 2016.

'SCO plays crucial role in addressing regional challenges'

NEW DELHI, June 17, (KUNA): Kuwait Ambassador to India Jassem Al-Najm hailed as significant the role the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) plays in addressing regional and international challenges.

Some members of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) joined the SCO as dialogue partners out of realization of the increasingly crucial role of the Organization in promoting cooperation among its member countries, he told KUNA on Thursday.

Ambassador Al-Najm made the comments while attending a celebration held by the Indian Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi to mark the issuance of a SCO postcard.

On his part, Undersecretary of the Indian Ministry of External Affairs for Economic Affairs Dammu Ravi highlighted the importance of boosting regional cooperation to promote security and stability.

In an address to the audience, he said India, as current president of the SCO, is working hard to address the obstacles facing the flow of community and supply chains, notably regional conflicts.

New Delhi is setting the stage for hosting the SCO Summit in early July, Ravi added.

The State of Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates, as well as the Maldives and Myanmar signed memoranda of understanding for joining the SCO as dialogue partners during the SCO foreign ministers' meeting held in Panaji city, west India, on May 4-5.

Meanwhile, Kuwait Ambassador to Libya Ziad Al-Mishaan said Friday the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) plays a significant and central role in setting the stage for presidential and legislative elections the North African Arab country.

Serving pilgrims

Hajj mission in Saudi

KUWAIT CITY, June 17, (KUNA): Most of the Kuwaiti Hajj mission members arrived in the sacred places in Saudi Arabia to serve the guests of (His Almighty) Allah, Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs said Saturday.

The delegation represents the largest component of committees and teams participating in the mission which includes the Ministries of Health, Information, Interior and Foreign Affairs, and Kuwait Fire Force, Kuwait Red Crescent Society as well as some other bodies, deputy head of the mission Mohammad al-Mutairi said in a press statement.

Since their arrival on Monday, the committees and teams have been working on making required arrangements to serve the Kuwaiti pilgrims who will come to the sacred places for this year's rituals, al-Mutairi, also assistant deputy for foreign relations and media at the ministry, added.

Some awareness lectures and lessons, and meetings will be held for the mission's members to help them serve the pilgrims, he said, referring to some committees, which will respond to the pilgrims' inquiries.

In addition, some committees will oversee the Hajj campaigns and facilitate measures of pilgrims during the rituals of Hajj, he elaborated.

There will be emergency committees to provide any assistance to the Hajj campaigns or pilgrims, he noted.

Al-Mutairi concluded that the media committee coordinates with all media means in a way which serves the mission to cover all activities and meetings.

Rights

Kuwait affirmed commitment to protect the rights of disabled people and allow them to become an important part of society.

The remarks came during a speech by director general of the Public Authority for Disability Affairs (PADA) Dr. Bibi Al-Omairi, in the 16th conference of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, in New York late Thursday.

Kuwait believes in enabling disabled people to play an effective role in society, socially and politically, thus joining the convention on 14 February, 2013.

PADA is working on achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals, as part of the Kuwait Vision 2035 and the authority's 2020-2025 strategy on the rights of disabled people.

One of PADA's most important achievements is training persons with disability in different jobs through multiple workshops, she said.

The authority also supports 10 institutions and training centers that serve disabled persons from the age of six years to 45, providing rehabilitation and therapy services, she noted.

Al-Omairi also said that PADA launched the "partners in their employment" campaign since 2018, in cooperation with different organizations, adding that four groups have graduated from the programs, the last one being in this month.

The authority provides an educational support to about 10,000 students through a number of nurseries and schools, she said.

The Kuwaiti diplomat, who had a meeting in Tunis with Abdoulaye Bathily - the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Libya and Head of UNSMIL, said he conveyed to Bathily the regards of Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

"The UNSMIL makes painstaking efforts to facilitate holding the general elections in, and preserve the territorial unity and sovereignty of Libya," Al-Mishaan said in statements to KUNA.

He reaffirmed Kuwait's supportive stance towards all efforts meant to restore security and stability in Libya and meet the aspirations of the Libyan people for peace, development and prosperity.

He added that the talks with Bathily dealt with the latest developments in the political and security situations in Libya and the progress towards holding the presidential and legislative elections.

Call to cancel break, merge two sessions

Honest, efficient ministers eyed

By Saeed Mahmoud Saleh
Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, June 17: MP-elect Soud Al-Asfour has announced his plan to submit a proposal to cancel the parliamentary break, while the sessions for the remaining part of the first parliamentary year should be merged with that of the second year.

His proposal includes holding special sessions on Thursdays, following the ordinary sessions scheduled for Tuesdays and Wednesdays. He affirmed that his proposal is in line with the people's aspiration to see the fruits they have been waiting for a long time.

MP-elect Marzouq Al-Hebeini denied the rumor that he agreed to be part of the next government. He then reiterated his plan to run for the deputy speaker post.

MP-elect Jenan Bu Shehri said HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah must study the factors, which led to the failure of his first government and the collapse of the second one. She urged the premier to implement

the Conflict of Interests Law and appoint ministers who are honest and efficient.

She also emphasized the need for the Parliament and government to maintain harmonious relations in accordance with Article 50 of the Constitution: "In conformity with the provisions of the Constitution, the system of government shall be established on the basis of separation and cooperation of powers. No Authority shall be allowed to waive all or part of its jurisdiction as prescribed in this Constitution."



Dr. Bu Shehri

MP-elect Shuaib Al-Muwaizri warned against appointing certain ministers to control the political scene, asserting such a move is a negative indicator. He elaborated that this step means the government is not serious in implementing reforms.

MP-elect Adel Al-Damkhi pointed out that Minister of Public Works Amani Buqammaz has been given more chances to address urgent issues, but she failed to do so. "Therefore, her reappointment to the next government could lead to crises," he warned.

Other Voices

Gibran and modern slavery

By Ahmad Al-Sarraf

Walk Free, an American non-profit organization, released a report stating that 10 million people have been subjected to modern slavery since 2018; increasing the total number to 50 million -- 28 million forced labor and 22 million forced marriage. It cited various factors leading to this crisis like Covid-19, climate change, armed disputes, growing consumption tendency, and the failure of governments and economists to find solutions. It defines modern slavery as forced labor, forced marriage, forced doctrines, slavery, sexual abuse for commercial reasons, trafficking in humans; and other forms like performances, selling children and abuse.

It showed that global crises pushed millions of people to forced labor as the case of Covid-19 when the demand for medical equipment spiked dramatically, lock downs and loss of jobs, which created an environment for abuse of migrant workers. Moreover, the economic downturn forced several families to 'sell' some of their children and force young girls to get married either to gain some money or to save food. According to the report, the struggles pushed many people to leave their homeland and cross the borders to go to countries that strictly deal with refugees and asylum seekers.

Meanwhile, in response to international accusations, Mauritania issued legislation to criminalize cursing and describing individuals as slaves. It imposed harsh penalties including huge fine and imprisonment. It allocated special courts to handle such cases. These courts consist of expert judges who are committed to combating slavery and guaranteeing compensation for the victims. The courts' rulings are executed immediately and they cannot be appealed.

The report presented some observations against Gulf countries, particularly the sponsorship (Kafeel) system, which puts expatriate workers under the control of sponsors in

terms of jobs and residency permits. It deprives them of their rights, including the right to get another job or leave the country. Workers with a low salary are more affected by this system, as they are often subjected to violence, maltreatment and other types of abuse.

On the other hand, television broadcaster Toni Khalifa read a letter he received from a rich father complaining about his disobedient children. The father pointed out that he raised the children, played with them, paid for their food, healthcare and education, but when they grew up and moved to other countries, they rarely call him.

I sent the following letter to Khalifa and I would like to share it with you.

"Dear Khalifa, many people think that they bring children to the world in order to care for them when they get old. Actually, this is one form of selfishness as no one asked parents to bring children to the world, raise them and then ask them to be grateful. The father took such steps, because he is kind and generous. He should not wait for a reward from his children. We provide food and money to the needy, because they are in need and we do not expect them to return the favor. We also provide love, care and everything good for our children; because they need them. We must not wait for them to return the favor. We should not be sad when our children do not respond to our concern, exactly as we do to them. Definitely, it feels great to receive their love and concern, but it is not mandatory. They should not be forced to do good for us. In most cases, our children treat us like we treated our parents."

Prominent Arab poet Abu Al-Tayyeb Al-Mutanabbi once said: 'If you do good for someone, you own him.' This is illogical and it could be considered rude slavery. It implies that those who receive favors from us must become our slaves. On the other hand, Khalil Gibran wrote the most appropriate and humanitarian verse about children: 'Your children are not your children. They are the sons and daughters of life's longing for itself. They come through you but not from you. And though they are with you, yet they belong not to you.'

□ □ □

email: a.alsarraf@alqabas.com.kw



A group photo from the beach cleaning campaign.

Embassy of India organizes beach cleaning event

The Embassy of India, Kuwait in association with United Nations Habitat Office in Kuwait, and support of the Hawalli Governor's Office, the Kuwait Municipality and Indian community associations -- Kuwait Kerala Muslim Cultural Centre (KKMCC), Thrissur Association of Kuwait (TRASSK), Telugu Kala Samithi (TKS), Kuwait Tamil Peoples Service Centre (KTPSC), Prvasandra Reddy Association, Kuwait (PRAK) and Kuwait Kannada Koota (KKK) -- organized a Beach Cleaning Event on June 16, from 0500 to 0600 hours at the beach opposite Bneid Al Gar.

The event was organized as part of the Mission LIFE (Lifestyle For Environment) initiative of the Government of India.

The Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi had announced Mission LIFE at the 2021 UN Climate Change Conference (UNFCCC COP26) to bring individual behaviours at the forefront of the global climate action narrative.

It was jointly launched by Modi and the UN Secretary General Oct 20, 2022 in Kevadia, Gujarat.

Mission LIFE envisions replacing the prevalent 'use-and-dispose' economy -- governed by mindless and destructive consumption -- with a circular

economy, which would be defined by mindful and deliberate utilization.

The Mission intends to nudge individuals to undertake simple acts in their daily lives that can contribute significantly to climate change when embraced across the world.

LIFE plans to leverage the strength of social networks to influence social norms surrounding climate.

Under Mission LIFE, Water and Waste Management are two sectors in which the behavior-change solutions are to be aimed at individuals, households and communities to drive climate-friendly behaviours.

In his remarks, Ambassador of India to Kuwait HE Dr. Adarsh Swaika emphasized on the importance of sustainability.

HE Dr. Ameer Alhassan, Head of UN-Habitat GCC Kuwait Office applauded the Beach Cleaning event and called for adopting lifestyle which protects the environment.

Representatives of Hawalli Governor were also present on this occasion and appreciated the efforts. Ambassadors from Peru, Indonesia, Ghana, Afghanistan, Morocco, Romania, Vietnam, Cambodia, diplomats from US

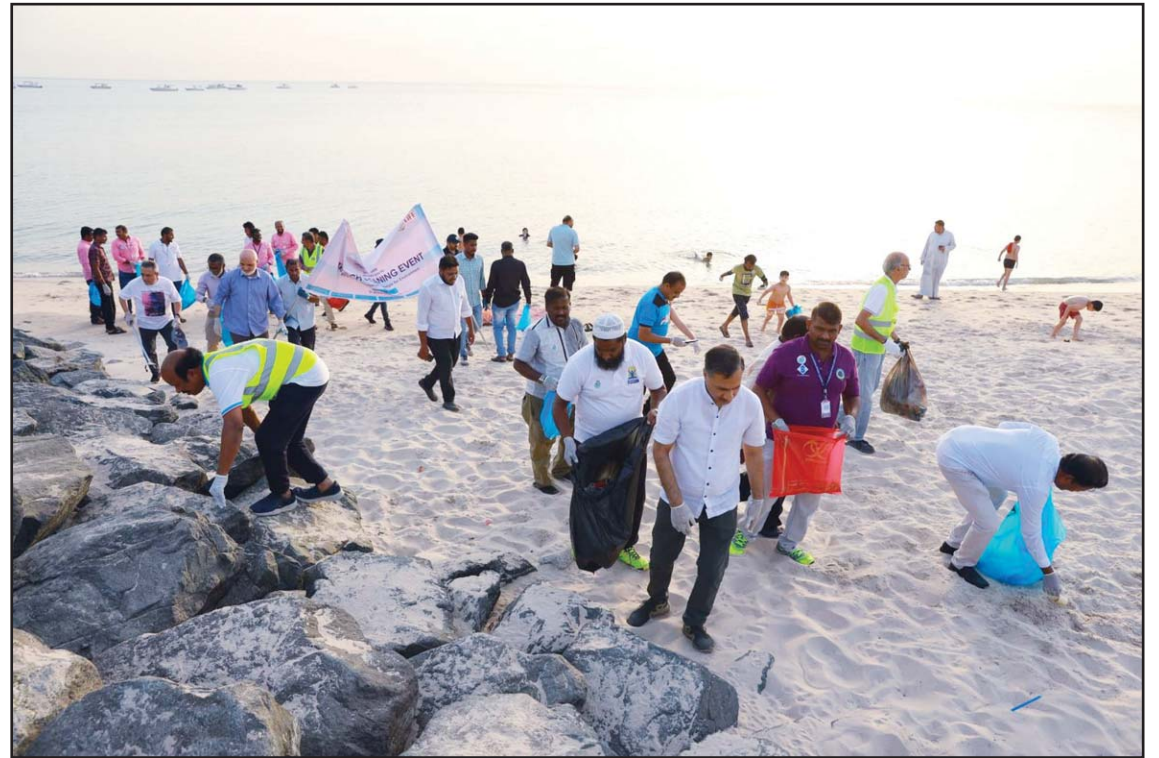
Embassy and several Heads of UN agencies in Kuwait also participated in the event.

The activities encompassed various tasks to ensure a thorough cleaning of the entire stretch of Bneid Al Gar and Green Island beach. Participants were actively engaged in collecting and properly disposing of litter, including plastic waste and other debris that posed a threat to marine life and the ecosystem.

The event aimed at promoting environmental awareness and community participation gave a message of making LIFE a mass movement (Jan Andolan) by focusing on behaviors and attitudes of individuals and communities and leverage climate-friendly social norms, beliefs and daily household practices of different cultures worldwide to drive the campaign.

The event witnessed a large turnout of over 400 people enthusiastic volunteers, including embassy staff, members of the Indian community associations and local residents.

For more details about the event, please visit the website and social media handles of the embassy.



Indian ambassador taking part in the cleaning campaign.

HH Amir congratulates Iceland on National Day

KUWAIT CITY, June 17, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah on Saturday sent a cable of congratulations to President of Iceland Gudni Thorlacius Johannesson on the occasion of his country's National Day.

In the cable, His Highness the Amir wished the president of Iceland good health, and for Iceland further progress and prosperity.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a cable of congratulations to Pres-

ident Johannesson on the occasion of his country's National Day.

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah also sent a cable of congratulations to President Johannesson on the occasion of his country's National Day.

7 held with over 13-kg drugs, 2,500 narcotic pills, firearms

Army probes poisoning of 17 trainees; 29 expats arrested

KUWAIT CITY, June 17, (KUNA): The Ministry of Interior said Friday that the criminal security sector, represented by the General Department for Narcotics Control, managed to seize seven suspects in possession of about 13.5 kg of various narcotic substances, 2,500 psychotropic pills and two firearms.

In a press release, it stated that the defendants admitted that the seized items belonged to them with the intent of trafficking and drug abuse, and they and the seized items were referred to the competent authority to take the necessary legal measures against them.

It quoted First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Interior and Acting Minister of Defense Sheikh Talal Khaled Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, emphasizing the need for concerted efforts by all to eliminate drug dealers and promoters, stressing that "the security men are the impenetrable bulwark against anyone who tempts himself to spread poisons to our youth."

Poisoning probed: Kuwait Army's Moral Guidance and Public Relations Department said Thursday that 17 trainees at the non-commissioned officers' course suffer mild poisoning after having lunch, reports KUNA.

The non-commissioned officers' institute, the organizer of the course, rushed the patients to hospital and they were discharged from hospital after getting treated, according to a statement from the dept.

The Army's General Staff has promptly set up fact-finding committee to probe the incident and bring the possible culprits to book, it added.

Law violators held: The Security General Department in the Ministry of Interior has announced that "the continuous security efforts of the Residence Affairs Investigation General Department resulted in the arrest of 29 expatriates in Farwaniya for violating the Residence and Labor laws, reports Al-Rai daily.

All those arrested were referred to the competent authorities that will take legal action against them.

Fire destroys chalet: Firefighters acting on information rushed to a prefabricated house on a farm in Kabad and put out the fire, reports Al-Rai daily.

The Central Operations Department of the General Fire Force said the fire was put out by fire engines from the Al-Istiklal fire station.



Some of the suspects in possession of narcotic substances and firearms.

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A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

'Form permanent panels on Admin Development & Human Resources'

"ARTICLE 44 of the National Assembly Law stipulates its right to form other permanent or temporary committees if necessary, while the committees -- permanent or temporary -- can form one or more sub-committees if needed, and the main committees shall set the rules for the sub-committees," columnist **Abdullah Al-Abduljader** wrote for *Al-Anba* day.

"Issues concerning the country and its citizens have always been included in the work programs of the government and Assembly for years, but these issues are referred to a temporary parliamentary committee. Every term, the committee's name changes and some of its members have no experience or interest in its line of work. This is the Human Resources Committee, which has not presented any recommendation so far. Unfortunately, some strong and convincing proposals were not discussed in the parliamentary sessions. The meetings of this committee are few, while the Assembly members are not really interested in it.



Al-Abduljader

"Therefore, I propose to the 2023 Assembly to form the permanent Administrative Development and Human Resources Committee with important terms of reference that need to be put forward, discussed and agreed upon during its meeting in the presence of officials from the government and a retired Kuwaiti consultant who has experience in administrative development and human resources. The consultant should give advice on proposals and studies.

"One of the suggestions presented to the committee in the past was restructuring the government system in order to address inflation, disguised unemployment, inflated budget, and the cancellation or merging of government bodies, institutions and councils without a valid reason.

"Kuwaiti employees in government agencies with the same jobs and qualifications must receive the same salary. Actually, the issue was resolved through the strategic alternative to the salary scale, but it must be reviewed and updated to keep pace with current labor market and living conditions.

"Kuwaiti graduates must be encouraged to work in the private sector. They should not hesitate to work in the private sector due to the lack of job security, which affected a lot of Kuwaitis working in the private sector during crises such as the financial crisis in 2008 and the corona crisis in 2020-2021. Some articles of the Private Sector Labor Law must be reviewed and amended to ensure job security for Kuwaitis, in addition to reviewing the Employment Subsidy Law and the required percentage of Kuwaiti manpower in private companies."

Also:

"The curtain will soon fall on the formation of the fifth government under the leadership of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah," columnist **Khalid Al-Arrafa** wrote for *Al-Anba* daily.

"First of all, we congratulate His Highness the Prime Minister for gaining the trust of the political leadership once again, as he was reappointed to form the government. We hope the new government will consist of statesmen and decision makers

with a reform approach and a clear vision that pushes for advancement of the country and puts citizens' issues among the priorities in their work program.

"We hope that the selection of ministers will be according to specific and accurate conditions that take into account the requirements of the next stage. We hope it will match the people's choice of lawmakers, so we can avoid the problems the country faced in previous years.

"The next stage necessitates cooperation between the government and the Parliament for the sake of the homeland and the citizen, who expects the government to present an integrated work program to solve perennial problems -- whether development or public issues. Members of the next government must shoulder the responsibilities entrusted to them as decision-makers and visionaries.

"We hope His Highness the Prime Minister will reach out to the people, presenting a governmental program with specific goals and a timetable for implementation. The program should include solutions to many issues like housing, health, education, development, employment and demographics.

"Finally, we are hoping for stability between the two authorities that should work for the good of the country and its people. We must work toward tangible achievements."

"The campaigns of candidates for the recently concluded parliamentary election were dominated by personal conflicts between various parties, so only a few programs were presented while the struggle for influence was intense ... Maybe, it was due to the nature of the electoral system, particularly the one-man-one-vote mechanism. Thus, over the past years, the programs were few even among the political blocs, and they lacked vision," columnist **Abdulaziz Al-Kandari** wrote for *Al-Rai* daily.

"After the election and success of the lawmakers, conflicts between the lawmakers themselves, as well as between the lawmakers and the government, must be limited. Some conflicts have crossed the line to an unruly degree that has reached values and morals. The i's must be dotted and the t's must be crossed, as the people are now tired of conflicts and they want achievements. The biggest loser in these differences is the homeland, while the people's interests are being set aside.

"Cooperation between the lawmakers and the government is required to better serve the public. People wonder when these differences will end, and when development and reform will begin. We must think about the future, instead of being preoccupied with the past. We must differentiate between electoral campaigns and what comes after.

"Now, everyone must work for the benefit of the country. We must work as a team and move away from individualism, considering the big challenges ahead. One of these challenges is that we still ignore the fact that the programming language will change the demand for jobs, so the illiterates are those who do not know the programming language. Strangely, most scholarships are for specializations that the labor market does not need, especially the engineering courses with excessive number of graduates due to the previous policies of the Civil Service Commission, which should be reformed."

— Compiled by Mai Elsoukary

Saudi FM

Continued from Page 1

Sheikh Mohammad expressed UAE's keenness on cooperation and partnerships with Russia and various countries of the world in a way that enhances common interests and achieves development and prosperity for all.

Also:

BAGHDAD: Qatar and Iraq inked a series of economic and energy deals on Thursday during a visit to Baghdad by the Qatari Amir, **Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani**.

The two countries signed a broad agreement to expand "cooperation in politics, economics, energy, and investment," Iraqi Prime Minister **Mohammed Shia al-Sudani** said in a statement.

Iranian President **Ebrahim Raisi** met with Cuban leader **Miguel Diaz-Canel** on Thursday, wrapping up a Latin America trip that also included visits to Iran's two other allies in the region - **Venezuela** and **Nicaragua**. During a trade forum with local businesspeople in **Havana**, Raisi said **Cuba** and Iran would seek to work together in biotechnology, mining, electricity generation and other areas.

"I hope this meeting will help facilitate integration as well as an exchange of ideas and opinions," Raisi said.

Kuwait aid

Continued from Page 1

"The State of Kuwait, as a non-permanent member in the United Nations Security Council (2018-2019), co-sponsored with the Kingdom of Sweden the UNSC draft resolution 2401 on cessation of hostilities in Syria for 30 days to allow delivery of assistance to needy people as well as the UNSC 2449 on trans-border humanitarian corridors to Syria," he added.

Concluding, Al-Jarallah thanked the UN and the UN Special Envoy for Syria Geir O. Pedersen for their efforts to address the crisis, voicing hope that the ongoing Brussels Conference would open up a bright future for the Syrian people and the entire region.

International donors said Thursday they would commit \$10.3 billion in aid for millions of Syrians battered by war, poverty, and hunger, both at home and as refugees abroad.

The pledges by 57 nations and 30 international organizations at an annual European Union-hosted conference in Brussels for Syria fell about \$800 million short of a United Nations humanitarian appeal.

"This is a tangible demonstration that the international community stands by the Syrian people," said EU Humanitarian Aid Commissioner **Janez Lenarcic**, who closed out the day-long meeting at the headquarters of the 27-nation bloc.

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Increase in govt spending on development projects

Financial, executive capacity not sufficient

KUWAIT CITY, June 17: The rate of government spending on development projects increased in the last months of the 2022/2023 fiscal year to reach 35.8 percent, after the total spending on projects reached about KD 470 million out of the total KD 1.3 billion allocated by the general budget for spending on projects belonging to the various authorities, reports Al-Qabas daily.

According to the statistics issued by the concerned authorities, the projects that are in the delivery stage increased from 10 to 12. There are about 57 projects in the implementation stage and approximately the same number in the preparation stage. These projects have been added for the current fiscal year of 2023/2024.

Prioritize

In a circular issued by the Ministry of Finance, it called on all concerned regulatory authorities to prioritize the projects included in the annual development plan and quickly complete their procedures.

It stressed the need for government agencies to start taking the necessary measures to implement development projects included in the new fiscal year, according to what is planned, and that as of the beginning of the fiscal year.

The ministry authorized government agencies to take the procedures for offering tenders and special practices contained in the draft budget submitted to the National Assembly, provided that awarding and contracting procedures are not completed except after the approval of the estimates by the parliament or the issuance of the law linking the budget for

MEED's report on KPC's decision to cancel tender for a financial study

KUWAIT CITY, June 17: According to a report by MEED magazine, Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) has decided to cancel a tender for a consultancy study to determine the financing options for state-owned oil and gas companies. The invitation to bid for the consulting project was issued last December, reports Al-Rai daily.

The report revealed that the supreme purchasing committee in KPC said the companies that purchased the tender documents are eligible to recover the money they paid.

The report indicated that the reasons for this cancellation were not given.

It explained that Kuwait has been looking forward to increasing efficiency and restructuring state-owned oil and gas companies for several years. In 2020, UK-based

Strategy& won a contract to consider restructuring.

The plan was expected to cut costs and consolidate several state-controlled companies in the country's oil, gas and petrochemical sectors.

At the time, KPC said the mergers would reduce the number of large state-controlled companies in the sector from eight to four.

In 2020, local reports revealed that the Supreme Petroleum Council and KPC had already approved plans to restructure the oil sector, based on the belief that restructuring can bring about significant benefits for the organization in the long run.

A similar restructuring by the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) helped open the door for increased foreign investment in the UAE's energy sector.

the fiscal year.

In this regard, official figures showed the inclusion of about 239 development projects planned for implementation during the 2023/2024 fiscal year, at a total cost estimated at KD 955.4 million, with about 41 different entities participating in their implementation, which included developmental, construction and strategic projects.

Also, in a step that reflects the government's interest in the completion of development projects and follow-up on the steps of their implementation, the government had approved the formation of a ministerial committee to follow up the implementation of major development projects.

The committee must take into con-

sideration everything related to following up the implementation of development projects in the country, especially the vetting of proposals submitted by the authorities in order to develop and complete major development projects, supervise the follow-up of government efforts concerned with major development projects, and develop ways to overcome all obstacles that may face the implementation of any of them.

According to informed sources, the financial and executive capacity alone are not sufficient to advance the implementation of new projects. The implementation process needs many legislative requirements, which numbered about 37 laws, between new laws and amendments of existing laws.



Group photo of the 'Future Makers' forum.



KUNA photos

Graduates benefit from the expertise of experts in various fields and from the workshops.

500 participants benefited from workshops

KU concludes 'Future Makers' forum

KUWAIT CITY, June 17, (KUNA): Acting Director of Kuwait University, Dr. Fahd Al-Rashidi, expressed his happiness at the success of the 'Future Makers' forum through the concerted joint efforts and volunteers who were carried by passion and love for this country and the institution, indicating that the forum is a social duty provided by the university to the community and the graduates.

Al-Rashidi said in a press statement Friday that the forum provided an opportunity to strengthen the links between job seekers and employers, and to enable the participants to take advantage of the available opportunities and achieve their professional aspirations.

He pointed out that the forum organized by the university during the period from 13 to 15 June in Sabah Al Salem University City received more than 4,000 visitors, and more than 500 participants benefited from the workshops in 42 workshops, indicating that more than 40 percent of graduates from other universities participated in these workshops.

In turn, the Acting Dean of Admission and Registration, Dr. Rawa Al-Jarallah, pointed out that the Future Makers fo-

rum attracted thousands of graduates from the university and other universities from inside and outside the State of Kuwait within three days.

She indicated that more than forty workshops were held during the days of the forum on various topics related to the labor market, business industry, project management, how to start the road, and others, which would develop life skills and refine the skills of the next job.

Al-Jarallah added that during this forum, a number of graduates were employed in the private and government sectors participating in the exhibition.

She stated that the forum held a number of specialized workshops to enhance the skills of the participants and increase their employment opportunities, as they can benefit from the expertise of experts in various fields and from the workshops.

She indicated that the topics of the workshops touched on several aspects, including commercial identity marketing, excellence in interviews, methods of writing a resume, learning money management, dialogue management skills, and how to develop with artificial intelligence.

Importance of plasma donation highlighted

MoH celebrates World Blood Donor Day

KUWAIT CITY, June 17: The Director of the Blood Transfusion Services Department, Dr. Reem Al-Radwan announced, Wednesday, the annual celebration of the World Blood Donor Day, under the auspices of the Minister of Health, Dr. Ahmed Al-Awadi, in the presence of a representative of the World Health Organization, reports Al-Anba daily.

Al-Radwan told KUNA that this celebration comes in honor of the distinguished donors, distinguished entities in organizing blood donation campaigns, and entities with social responsibility.

She pointed out that the Blood Transfusion Services Department at the Ministry of Health collected last year more than 85,000 bags of blood and 7,500 bags of platelets through donations from citizens and residents of more than 75 nationalities, bringing the percentage of citizens' donation to about 56% and residents 44%.

She added that this year's campaign focused on patients in need of lifelong blood transfusion support, indicating the importance of the role that each individual can play by donating precious blood or plasma and also highlights the importance of regular blood or plasma donation to ensure a safe and sustainable supply of blood and blood products around the world so that all patients in need can receive timely treatment.



Dr Al-Radwan

IOMS discusses latest medical developments

KUWAIT CITY, June 17, (KUNA): President of the Islamic Organization for Medical Sciences (IOMS) Dr. Mohammad Al-Jarallah affirmed that the organization have presented the world with recommendation and latest medical developments in the modern age that provided a great service for mankind.

This came during his speech at the 14th international conference (Artificial incubators, discovering opportunities and medical, moral and legal challenges) on Wednesday under the patronage of Health Minister Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi.

He said that among these provisions are children of In vitro fertilization, gonadal transplantation, euthanasia, cloning, and human genome that occurs outside Muslim countries without considering the specifics of Muslim ethics. He pointed out that the organization took the lead in carrying out this task in 1981 by holding many conferences and seminars that resulted in the issuing 35 ethical medical jurisprudence documents that met the need of doctors and jurists in the Islamic world to find out the provisions of medical emergencies and innovations.

He added that the conference aims to explore the opportunities and challenges that accompany the artificial incubators technology to ensure the establishment of health, legal and ethical measurements from an Islamic perspective, through six main axes, during which it will host a group of Islamic scholars from 15 countries.

KRCS to renovate Lebanese maternity ward

BEIRUT, June 17, (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-Enzi.

Guest: Shaikha A. J. Al-Sabah
Founder of Daratma, A yoga and wellness studio in Kuwait

Sadaaqa
A show that celebrates India-Kuwait friendship

with Host: Chaitali B Roy
Author / Broadcaster / Journalist
June 26th 2023
8 pm

Podcast on: Chaitali B Roy

Sadaaqa poster

Sadaaqa presents Shaikha A. J. Al-Sabah

To mark the International Day of Yoga, Sadaaqa, the show that documents and celebrates Kuwait-India relationship by focusing on individual experiences, presents Shaikha A. J. Al-Sabah, a yogi and founder of Daratma, a yoga and wellness studio in Kuwait. Established in 2014, Daratma teaches yoga education to anyone seeking harmony, balance and awareness in day to day life. The name Daratma by itself is a celebration and synergization of two ancient cultures. Dar in Arabic means home, and Atma in Sanskrit means soul. The ancient practice of yoga denotes the union of the body and the conscious-

ness. Its essence is balance – not just balance within the body or between the mind and the body, but also balance in the human relationship with the world.

The soft-spoken yogi, Shaikha A. J. Al-Sabah has the wisdom and patience of a sage. She is on a journey to master and learn the ancient practice in Kuwait and in the yoga retreats of India. She believes that yoga unites the physical, mental, and emotional energies and helps alleviate pain and suffering and spreads love and peace. On June 26th, Sadaaqa will celebrate her commitment and that of Daratma to spreading the benefits of this ancient practice.

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The Conversation

Men often choose being a good father over being healthy

Fathers need to care for themselves and their kids - but often don't

By Derek M. Griffith, Georgetown University and Elizabeth C. Stewart, Vanderbilt University

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

If you had to choose, which would you rather have: a healthy father or a good father?

Studies suggest men often choose being a good father over being healthy.

Becoming a father is a major milestone in the life of a man, often shifting the way he thinks from being "me focused" to "we focused." But fatherhood can also shift how men perceive their health. Our research has found that fathers can view health not in terms of going to the doctor or eating vegetables but how they hold a job, provide for their family, protect and teach their children, and belong to a community or social network.

As founder and director of the Center for Research on Men's Health at Vanderbilt University and as a postdoctoral fellow from Meharry Medical College, we study why men live shorter lives than women, male attitudes about fatherhood, how to help men engage in healthier behavior - as well as what can be done to reduce men's risk of Type 2 diabetes and heart disease.

Working with men to try to get them to be more physically active, eat healthier and maintain a healthy weight, we found that for many, their own physical and mental health is not high on their list of priorities. Men, we found, treat their bodies as tools to do a job. Health is not always important or something they pay much attention to until poor health gets in the way of their ability to go to work, have sex or do something else important to them. These roles and responsibilities are often the ways they define themselves as men and how others in their lives define their worth.

While many aspects of gender roles have changed, we have found that many men still recognize they are often defined as good or successful if they have paid employment that is enough to take care of their children and other responsibilities. Fathers generally aspire to be able to look after their children, spouse, partner or other loved ones. That may mean less sleep, longer hours at work and less free time for hobbies and exercise.

Wanting to be a great dad can motivate men to push themselves to work longer and harder than they may have thought possible, but these choices can come at a cost, particularly if they also are not making time to take care of themselves.

Evidence

We have seen evidence of despair, such as depressive symptoms, having thoughts of suicide, heavy drinking and marijuana use, among adults in their 20s and 30s. These behaviors tend to be higher in men during the time when they tend to become fathers for the first time. Consistent with this pattern, unintentional injuries and suicide are leading causes of death for men across racial and ethnic groups in their 20s and 30s. This is not the case for women.

By age 45, heart disease and cancer are the leading causes of death for all groups of men. These chronic diseases can be prevented, to some degree, by not smoking, eating healthier foods and drinking less alcohol. Also, improving sleep, sitting less and moving more are important behaviors for good health.

Rather than trying to restart these behaviors after taking a break from them for a number of years, studies have found that it is important to help

men keep healthy behaviors a part of their lives as they age.

As men age, they may not make deliberate choices to engage in less healthy behavior, but they may just do so because their lives and environments make unhealthy choices easier than healthy ones. Policymakers have to think about how to make it easier to make healthy choices in men's daily lives and to incorporate health into the time fathers spend with children and family or at work. Men don't have equal access to healthy foods or the same opportunities to go to the doctor, be physically active or earn a living wage, and yet, if asked, they all want to be healthy and have a positive influence on their children and families.

Where does making time for their own mental and physical health fit into dads' busy, stressful lives? We have found that it will be different for every father, but loved ones have to help them find a way. Based on our research, we believe that families, particularly women in men's lives, can play an important role in encouraging fathers to eat healthier and take better care of their health.

Wives in particular often provide emotional support, offer advice, facilitate men going to the doctor and promote healthy behavior. Wives, daughters and other women in fathers' lives are important sources of information about men's health, and they often play a key role in helping fathers and other men better understand and cope with stress.

As we celebrate fathers, it is important to recognize that fathers, generally speaking, may not place health at the top of their priorities. Many fathers gladly sacrifice to see their children happy, safe and successful. The problem is that if fathers think only about these goals, their own health can often suffer. (AP)



A photo from the event.

IEC Youth Wing inaugurates Summer Camp 2023

By M. Irfan Shafiq

The opening ceremony of the summer camp 2023 for school children organized by the Youth Wing Islamic Education Committee was held at the Islamic Culture Center Khaitan (ICC).

The ceremony started with the recitation of the Holy Quran by the young reciter Ibrahim Shafiq. Liaqat Butt performed the compere duties of the event.

Acting President Youth Wing; Abdul Ghaffar high-

lighted the aims and objectives of the Youth Wing and the role of the IEC Youth Wing in terms of its general activities and community services in Kuwait.

Zeeshan Ali, in charge of the summer camp, spoke to the audience about the format of the summer camp and the goals of the summer camp for the children.

Sadaf Ali Sadaf, former President of Youth Wing and currently in charge of the Public Relations Department, Islamic Education Committee, Kuwait informed the parents and children about the 17-year history of the sum-

mer camp and its outstanding performance.

The main speech was given by Javed Iqbal, President of the Islamic Education Committee, Kuwait. Which he informed the audience about the importance of training by presenting examples from the Quran and Hadith. Apart from this, he presented in great detail the problems faced by the Muslim Ummah and their solutions in the light of Islam and why and how to train children in it.

The event was attended by a large number of children enrolled in the summer camp and their parents,

including the leadership of the Islamic Education Committee.

At the end of the program, Nisar Ahmad Khattak, General Secretary of the Islamic Education Committee, Kuwait, offered special prayers for the bright future of the Pakistani community, Govt of Kuwait, and the Muslim Ummah.

In the end, the Summer Camp cake was cut with the children and then the children and parents were treated to refreshments.



Photos from the event.

Dr Kaur talks on emotional needs of children

IMA conducts career guidance, felicitation event

KUWAIT CITY, June 17: IMA Kuwait English Unit organized a career guidance and felicitation event at ICSK Senior Branch Salmiya on 8th June 2023. The event aimed to provide valuable insights and guidance to young students as they embark on their educational and professional journeys. Students and parents from various parts of Kuwait participated in the event.

Abdullah Thakur one of the key speakers, provided a unique perspective on how the students should plan their future careers well in advance. He further

highlighted the challenges and hurdles faced by students and parents these days and offered strategies to overcome them.

Dr. Navjot Kaur another keynote speaker, focused on the emotional needs of children in today's world. She stressed on an in-depth analysis of how parents can nurture and enhance their children's emotional and psychological intelligence while they pursue their education. A Q&A session followed, allowing parents and students to actively engage with the speakers and seek guidance.

IMA Vice President Arshad Habib

along with former president Masood Shahab presented Mementos to key note Speakers acknowledging their invaluable contributions in this field.

Br Fahim Patel delivered a Vote of Thanks, expressing gratitude to the speakers, participating parents, students, school faculties, ICSK authority, representatives from various associations and all IMA members for their generous support which made the program a success.

Dinner Packets were served at the end of program. Children Snacks were sponsored by Al Faysal Bakery & Wa-

ter bottles were sponsored by Malabar Gold. IMA thanks wholeheartedly for their ever support to our programs.

IMA Kuwait is an Indian socio-religious organization in Kuwait which carries out its various activities under the patronage of Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, Kuwait in Kuwait. IMA always focusses to provide platform for enhancement of expatriates living in Kuwait. It looks forward to organizing various beneficial programs in future, catering to the needs of the Indian community and diaspora.

Outstanding volunteer service

AUK librarian honored with 'Amical Consortium' award

KUWAIT CITY, June 17: The American University of Kuwait (AUK) Librarian, Ms. Asma Al Kanan, received the Outstanding Volunteer Service award by the American International Consortium of Academic Libraries (AMICAL). The AMICAL director presented the award at the AMICAL 2023 annual conference at Al-Akhawayn University in Ifrane, Morocco. Ms. Al-Kanan attended online where she was acknowledged as the award recipient.

The award recognizes an AMICAL member who has made exceptional and sustained efforts in support of consortial goals. The AMICAL's coordinating committee presented the award to Ms. Al-Kanan for the contributions she has made for the benefit of the AMICAL Consortium and its members. This award recognizes in particular her stewardship of AMICAL's leadership and assessment committee, her work on developing and implementing AMICAL's library benchmarking tool, and her exceptional collaboration and leadership in hosting and co-organizing the AMICAL 2020 conference at AUK.

Commenting on this achievement, Ms. Al-Kanan stated, "AMICAL has offered opportunities and support to libraries and educational projects throughout the years such as professional development, annual conferences, access to resources, collaborative projects and a network of professional community. I'm grateful for all that and it keeps me encouraged to give back to this wonderful community. Being part of AMICAL has been so



Ms. Asma Al-Kanan, AUK librarian

rewarding, as well as voluntary work and service."

AMICAL is an international consortium of 30 American-modeled liberal arts institutions in 20 different countries, working together on common goals for libraries, technology and learning. It is a cooperative organization for advancing learning, teaching and research through the collaborative development of library, technology, and curricular resources at member institutions.

The American University of Kuwait (AUK) is an independent, private, equal opportunity, and co-educational liberal arts institution of higher education. The educational, cultural and administrative structure, methods and standards of AUK are based on the American model of higher learning. The language of instruction is English. More information on the American University of Kuwait can be found at www.auk.edu.kw

Erdogan says economic views are same but will accept minister's policies

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said in comments published Wednesday he remains firm on his unconventional approach to Turkey's economy, but suggested his recently appointed finance minister will have leeway to move away from policies many have blamed for a worsening cost-of-living crisis.

Erdogan, who was reelected last month, reappointed Mehmet Simsek, an internationally respected banker, to the post of treasury and finance minister in a sign of a pivot from his unusual economic policies.

He also appointed Hafize Gaye Erkan, a former U.S.-based bank executive, to head the central bank. She became Turkey's first woman central bank governor.

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

Speaking to reporters on his return

from a trip to Azerbaijan on Tuesday, Erdogan said he "accepted" Simsek's requests for a fresh economic program, but that his personal stance on interest rates has not changed.

"Some of our friends should not fall into the error of (asking) 'Is the president going to make a serious change (concerning) interest rate policy?' I remain in the same position," Erdogan said. "We accepted that (Simsek) should take the necessary steps rapidly and effortlessly with the central bank." (AP)



Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan greets the people as arrives in the Turkish-occupied area of the divided capital Nicosia, Cyprus, Monday, June 12, 2023. (AP)

Market Movements

16-06-2023

	Change	Closing pts		Change	Closing pts
UAE - DFM	+1.47	3,789.13	PAKISTAN - KSE 100	-0.17	41,335.53
JAPAN - Nikkei	+0.66	33,706.08	SAUDI - Tadawul	-0.15	11,516.14
PHILIPPINES - PSEI	+0.73	6,508.34			
EGYPT - EGX 30	+0.05	17,881.52			

Business

All companies reading from the same page

Oil cos will stop investing when decline in demand for fossil fuels is real

By Kamel Al-Harami

Independent Oil Analyst

OIL companies will continue to invest in oil and gas until demand actually starts declining, which may take another 20 years from now. This is because investments in green energy such as solar and wind do not give international oil companies double returns on their investments, unlike fossil fuels with more than 16 percent.

This is the message of the European international oil companies, which were keen on green energy with the push from their shareholders. However, they are forced to wait due to the absence of real fast replacements, while giving some dividends to its owners.

The same is applicable to the US oil companies that are still investing and searching for federal land and permits to continue their mission of relying on fossil fuels - their bread



Al-Harami

and butter of money-making machinery.

All oil companies are reading from the same page. There are good dividends and profits for the shareholders in this business.

Therefore, we will maintain the business as usual until we witness a real decline from all over for fossil fuels. We know that just a few countries have huge reserves, so why should let them enjoy the pie alone, and use our know-how and technology.

Yes, oil demand will peak but perhaps not now, perhaps in another five years, reaching about 106 million barrels per day by 2030 or earlier.

On the other hand, the International Energy Agency (IEA) states that growth in oil demand is slow or will halt after its peak on the basis of a possible decline in the transportation sector because of electric vehicles hitting the roads. However, the decline is not coming soon, with less oil available in the market due to the production cuts by OPEC without any impact on the prices. The market is so far not facing any scarcity of oil.

Nothing seems to be clear in terms of predicting the future trends. The Chinese economy is still not recovering, and there are mixed messages

with no sense of clarity. However, it will grow to the extent of causing perhaps shortage of supply.

At the same time, Saudi Aramco is heavily investing in China in its oil and refining, as well as in its petrochemicals, which will push the oil company to increase its production capacity to 13 million barrels of oil. The message is clear - We need to have the biggest share in the second oil consumers in the world, as well as the second world economy. If we have to choose a partner, we should pick the two biggest.

The anticipation of higher oil prices is not forthcoming so far, as Russia is still producing the maximum it can. Fresh oils are hitting the market from OPEC+, and from Brazil, Canada and USA, causing oil prices to stay at the \$70 level, which is not acceptable to OPEC+. However, with oil still pouring into the market, OPEC+ cuts are not impacting the oil markets. Maybe before the end of the year, we will witness some improvements and a more disciplined organization.

Email: naftikuwaiti@yahoo.com

Wall Street slips, and its best week since March comes to a quiet close



A currency trader watches monitors near the screens showing the Korea Composite Stock Price Index (KOSPI), (top right), at the foreign exchange dealing room of the KEB Hana Bank headquarters in Seoul, South Korea, Friday, June 16, 2023. Asian shares logged moderate gains on Friday after Wall Street benchmarks swept higher, extending their longest rally in a year and a half. (AP)

Asian shares log moderate gains, BoJ stands pat

NEW YORK, June 17, (AP): Wall Street closed out its best week since March with a quiet finish on Friday, and stocks drifted to modest losses.

The S&P 500 fell 16.25 points, or 0.4%, to 4,409.59 after wobbling through the day. It still closed out a fifth straight winning week for its longest such streak since November 2021, and it remains close to its highest level since April 2022.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average slipped 108.94, or 0.3%, to 34,299.12, and the Nasdaq composite fell 93.25, or 0.7%, to 13,689.57.

Humana dropped 3.9% for one of the S&P 500's sharpest losses after becoming the latest health insurer to warn about rising costs because of pent-up demand for medical services. Health insurance giant UnitedHealth issued a similar warning earlier in the week.

Treasury yields rose. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note rose to 3.76% from 3.72% late Thursday.

The yield on the two-year Treasury, which moves more on expectations for the Federal Reserve, rose to 4.72% from 4.65%.

The Fed held its benchmark interest rate steady at its meeting this week, but warned that it could raise rates twice more this year. The central bank's next meeting will run from July 25-26, and Wall Street is betting that it will raise rates. Traders are also mostly convinced that will be the last increase of the year, according to data from CME Group.

Before taking its pause this week, the Fed had

raised interest rates at 10 straight meetings since March 2022. Its goal has been to slow the economy to cool inflation but not so much that it causes a recession.

"The idea that the Fed is pausing and taking time to see what the cumulative effect is on the economy from a policy standpoint, is the right move for them," said Charlie Ripley, senior investment strategist for Allianz Investment Management.

The S&P 500 has ripped nearly 15% higher this year because of rising hopes that the Federal Reserve will end its hikes to interest rates soon as inflation cools and that the economy will avoid a severe recession. Most of Wall Street's gains have come from big tech stocks, the ones that would benefit most from easier rates.

The Fed's latest meeting was preceded on Tuesday by a report showing that inflation continued cooling in May.

A closely watched survey on Friday suggested U.S. consumers are also paring back their expectations for upcoming inflation. That's key for the Federal Reserve, which doesn't want high expectations for inflation to kick off a vicious cycle that worsens it.

Asia

Asian shares logged moderate gains on Friday after Wall Street benchmarks swept higher, extending their longest rally in a year and a half.

The Bank of Japan wrapped up a policy meeting by keeping its ultra-lax monetary stance unchanged, as expected. It is a standout among central banks, most of which have sought to rein in inflation by raising interest rates.

The key Japanese rate has stayed at minus 0.1%

for a decade and policymakers have indicated they are not convinced that current inflation, which finally has surpassed the BOJ's target of about 2%, will be sustained.

"With extremely high uncertainties surrounding economies and financial markets at home and abroad, the Bank will patiently continue with monetary easing while nimbly responding to developments in economic activity and prices as well as financial conditions," the BOJ said in a statement.

Tokyo's Nikkei 225 index edged 0.1% higher to 33,518.93. Share prices have been trading around their highest level in more than 30 years, while the Japanese yen has weakened against the dollar and other major currencies - reflecting the gap in interest rates in Japan and elsewhere.

The dollar rose to 140.50 yen from 140.29 yen late Thursday.

In other Asian trading, Hong Kong's Hang Seng index jumped 0.7% to 19,974.26 and the Shanghai Composite index was up 0.4% at 3,265.04. In Seoul, the KOSPI advanced 0.4% to 2,620.40. Bangkok's SET added 0.4% and India's Sensex was up 0.4%.

Oil

In other trading Friday, U.S. benchmark crude oil lost 18 cents to \$70.44 per barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. It surged \$2.35 on Thursday to \$70.62 per barrel.

Brent crude, the international standard, slipped 19 cents to \$75.48 per barrel.

Currency

The euro fell to \$1.0944 from \$1.0946.

Americans increased spending in May

Retail sales rose 0.3% despite pressure from higher inflation

NEW YORK, June 17, (AP): Americans increased their spending at retailers last month despite pressure from still-high inflation and rising borrowing costs.

Thursday's report from the Commerce Department showed that retail sales rose 0.3% from April to May, boosted by stronger sales of auto and parts dealers.

Economists had been expecting a decline in sales for the month. Last month's increase pointed to a still-resilient economy, though retail sales have been bumpy this year after surging nearly 3% in January. Sales tumbled in February and March before recovering in April.

The latest retail sales data follow a government report this week that consumer inflation eased last month. Prices rose just 0.1% from April to May and are up just 4% over the previous 12 months - the lowest such figure in over two years. Americans are still facing surging prices for many items, including rent and used cars, though some of them are expected to slow or even decline in the coming months.

At the same time, closely watched "core" prices, which exclude volatile food and energy costs and are considered better able to capture underlying inflation trends, increased 5.3% in May compared with 12 months earlier. That's still far above the Fed's target of 2%.

The retail figures released Thursday showed that lower gas prices may be freeing up shoppers' budgets to spend on other items. Sales at car and auto parts dealers rose 1.4%. Spending increased 0.3% at online retailers and 0.4% at restaurants and bars.

Some of the discretionary areas, which have been stagnant for several months, showed some modest gains like electronic stores, and furniture stores. Sales were unchanged, though, at clothing retailers.

A closely watched category of retail sales that excludes auto dealers and gas stations rose 0.4%.

"While they are still spending, consumers are becoming more financially cautious as lingering inflation and the Federal Reserve's rate hikes take their toll," Lydia Boussar, senior economist at EY-Parthenon, said in a report. "We expect the slowdown in consumer spending to accelerate in the second half of the year as labor market

gains falter, the buffer from excess savings shrinks and credit conditions tighten further."

The government's monthly retail sales report offers only a partial look at consumer spending; it doesn't include many services, including healthcare, travel and hotel lodging.

Americans have remained resilient in their spending even with signs of weakness elsewhere in the economy, but there are more clouds forming.

A solid job market has helped support spending, though the latest Labor Department report on unemployment claims, issued Thursday, showed that the number of Americans applying for these benefits remained elevated. That's a possible sign that the Fed's rate hikes over the past year might be slowing the job market.

Under the weight of higher prices, some shoppers have slowed their spending or traded down to cheaper goods and less expensive stores like Walmart. Higher interest rates have also made borrowing for a car or getting a mortgage for a house more expensive.

Earlier this month, retailers wrapped up their fiscal first quarter earnings season, which showed how still-high inflation in many areas is forcing shoppers to further cut back on discretionary items like clothing to afford their larger grocery bills.

Among the latest to report: Macy's slashed its annual outlook after a spending pullback this spring, while Dollar General, which caters to low income shoppers, cut its annual sales and profit outlook as consumers turn more cautious.

Costco Wholesale Corp.'s chief financial officer, Richard Galanti, noted that customers are trading down from beef to poultry and pork in recent months. The company noted that even higher-income shoppers were switching to some canned food, like chicken and tuna.

Last month, Home Depot projected its first decline in annual revenue since 2009 in the aftermath of the bursting of the housing bubble and financial crisis.

Home Depot's executive vice president of merchandising, William Bastek, told shareholders at its annual meeting this week that more consumers are buying appliances only when they break, not for upgrading.

"That's become much more of a distress purchase," he said.



A customer checks prices while shopping at a retail store in Vernon Hills, Ill., Monday, June 12, 2023. On Thursday, the Commerce Department releases U.S. retail sales data for May. (AP)

IMF head welcomes Europe's interest rate hikes

FRANKFURT, Germany, June 17, (AP): The head of the International Monetary Fund on Friday praised the European Central Bank's decision to raise interest rates for the eighth time in a row and its pledge to keep going as long as needed to bring down high inflation.

Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva said the IMF welcomed both the ECB's quarter-percentage point rate hike Thursday and President Christine Lagarde's vow that the ECB is "not thinking about pausing." The bank is trying to lower inflation from 6.1% to its goal of 2%.

"Monetary policy should continue to tighten and then remain in restrictive territory for some time until inflation expectations are firmly anchored and inflation trends toward target," Georgieva said.

"We welcome yesterday's decision of the ECB to tighten, we also welcome the communication that surrounded this decision," she added.

The central bank for the 20 countries that use the euro currency is pressing ahead with rate hikes even as the U.S. Federal Reserve put its series of increases on pause to assess their effect on the economy.

Inflation spiked as Russia's aggression against Ukraine sent energy and grain prices higher. Those factors have since eased, but price pressures have spread as workers demand higher wages to make up for lost purchasing power and businesses raise prices to cover higher costs and ensure profits.

The ECB is raising rates despite the potential impact on economic growth. While higher rates fight inflation by raising the cost of borrowing for purchases or business expansion, which cools off demand for goods, they can also risk slowing the economy too much.

Jinping stresses US-China cooperation

Chinese leader Xi Jinping said the United States and China can cooperate to "benefit our two countries" in a meeting Friday with Microsoft Corp. co-founder Bill Gates ahead of a visit by U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken at a time of strained relations.

The state broadcaster CCTV showed Xi saying he was happy to see Gates, who he called an "old friend," after three years without meeting during the pandemic.

"I believe that the foundation of Sino-U.S. relations lies in the people," Xi said to Gates. "Under the current world situation, we can carry out various activities that benefit our two countries, the people of our countries, and the entire human race."

Xi gave no details but emphasized the potential benefits of cooperation that has been hampered by disputes over human rights, Taiwan, security and

technology. Gates told Xi he was "very honored" to meet with Xi.

The visits by leading foreign business people have coincided with efforts by the ruling Communist Party to revive investor interest in China's slowing economy. Apple CEO Tim Cook visited China in March.

Despite his remarks, Xi accused Washington in March of trying to hold back China's development with restrictions on access to U.S. microchips and other technology.

Amazon's \$1.7b deal to buy iRobot gets UK approval

British antitrust regulators cleared Amazon's purchase of robot vacuum maker iRobot on Friday, but the \$1.7 billion deal still faces scrutiny in the United States and Europe.

The Competition and Markets Authority said it decided not to escalate its initial investigation because it concluded that the deal would not result in a "substantial lessening of competition" within the United Kingdom. Amazon said it was pleased with the result.

"We look forward to similar decisions from other regulators soon," the company said in a statement.

Consumer groups have voiced concerns that Amazon's purchase of Bedford, Massachusetts-based iRobot, which makes the popular Roomba robotic vacuum cleaners, would widen the e-commerce giant's dominance in the smart home market.

The acquisition is still facing a

review in the U.S. by the Federal Trade Commission amid worries about Amazon's growing market power. It's also under scrutiny by the European Union's executive arm, which opened a review of the deal this month.

The U.K. watchdog said in its decision that robot vacuum cleaners and the data they collect aren't generally considered an important gateway to the emerging market for smart home devices.

New office 20th globally

DIC opens its first European representative office in London

DUBAI, June 17, (Business Wire): Dubai International Chamber (DIC), one of the three chambers operating under Dubai Chambers, has launched a new international representative office in London, United Kingdom. The office, which is DIC's first in Europe and 20th globally, was inaugurated yesterday during a special ceremony with the participation of H.E. Mansoor Abdullah Khalifan Juma Abulhoul, the United Arab Emirates' Ambassador to the United Kingdom.

Dubai International Chamber's new international representative office in the United Kingdom was inaugurated during a special ribbon-cutting ceremony held yesterday in London, in the presence of Hussein Al Ansari, Senior Manager - International Operations, Dubai Chambers; H.E. Simon Penney, His Majesty's Trade Commissioner for the Middle East & Pakistan and His Majesty's Consul General for Dubai and the Northern Emirates; H.E. Mansoor Abulhoul, Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates to the United Kingdom; Edward Lister, Baron Udney-Lister; Khalid Al Shamsi, Vice President

- Operations, Dubai Chambers; and Noora Al Suwaidi, Regional Director - Europe and Americas, Dubai Chambers.

Mohammad Ali Rashed Lootah, President and CEO of Dubai Chambers commented: "The opening of our 20th international representative office in London is a landmark occasion that will bring far-reaching benefits. Today's inauguration represents another important step on our journey to consolidate Dubai's position as a leading global business destination and further strengthen the close historic economic ties between Dubai and the United Kingdom."

The opening of the London office comes as part of the Dubai Global initiative, which was launched last year to develop a powerful network of 50 international representative offices worldwide by 2030. The offices will support Dubai Chambers' strategic goals of attracting international business and investment to Dubai and driving the global expansion of its members.

According to Dubai Customs statistics, the UK ranked 14th on Dubai's list of trading partners in 2022, with non-oil trade achieving year-on-year growth

of 28.6% to reach AED29.7 billion. The London office will open new channels for communication and economic cooperation between businesses and organisations in the two markets, and is set to further enhance bilateral trade and investments.

Dubai's strategic location and world-class logistics facilities have established it as a leading trade hub for UK companies with global ambitions. The emirate serves as a gateway between East and West that offers access to 2.2 billion consumers and unlocks opportunities for businesses looking to expand their footprints in the GCC, Africa, and South America.

Dubai International Chamber, one of three chambers operating under the umbrella of Dubai Chambers, was established to promote Dubai as a global business hub, attract multinational companies and expand the emirate's trade ties with promising markets. The Chamber has a mandate to meet His Highness Sheikh Mohammed's ambition to increase Dubai's foreign trade from AED 1.4 trillion to AED 2 trillion by 2026.



Ahmad Al Sumait receiving one of the prizes.



Abdulaziz Al-Marzouq receiving another prize.

Role in Islamic finance recognized

KFH wins seven prestigious awards from EMEA Finance

KUWAIT CITY, June 17: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) has won seven prestigious awards from EMEA Finance Magazine at the fifteenth edition of the Middle East Banking Industry Awards 2022, in recognition of its outstanding contributions to the Islamic finance industry and its leading role in the Sukuk market, innovation of financing solutions and products, and its successful acquisition of AUB-Bahrain.

KFH won "Best Islamic finance house", "Best financial institution Sukuk" for Dubai Islamic Bank's USD \$750mn Sukuk Deal, "Best financial institution Sukuk (US \$500 MN)" for First Abu Dhabi Bank's US \$500mn Sukuk Deal, "Best sovereign Sukuk" for Republic of Türkiye's US \$3bn 5-year Sukuk Deal, "Best supernatural Sukuk" for Islamic Development Bank's US \$1.6bn Sukuk Deal, "Most innovative Sukuk" for PD His Highness Sheikh Mohammed Bin Khalid Al Nahyan, "Best Financial Institution M&A Deal" for Kuwait Finance House's acquisition of Ahli United Bank.

The EMEA Finance Awards are among the most important awards in the banking sector in Europe, Middle East and Africa region, which aim to honor banking institutions based on their financial performance, standards of service quality, and excellence in the banking sector. The prestigious financial magazine awards are based on basic criteria in the process of selecting the best banks, including the bank's market share, the growth of its products in the market, profitability, in addition to the quality of its business strategy, contributions, its role in the debt market, and innovation in products and services.

KFH General Manager Treasury Kuwait, Ahmad Al-Sumait said that winning these awards affirms that KFH has contributed to devel-

oping the Islamic finance industry and supporting the financing needs of companies.

He added that KFH's participation in arranging and issuing Sukuk to governments and financial institutions confirms its long-standing reputation, global confidence, and prestigious position in international markets, in addition to its extensive experience in innovating financial solutions and instruments that are in line with the highest international standards and meet the needs of customers in the Islamic finance industry.

Al-Sumait added that KFH's acquisition of AUB Bahrain resulted in the establishment of a huge banking entity through KFH's transformation into the largest bank in Kuwait and the second largest Islamic bank in terms of assets in the world which enabled the bank to consolidate its leadership in the Islamic banking industry and contributed to expanding its geographical reach with stronger capabilities.

Meanwhile, CEO of KFH Capital, the investment arm of KFH, Abdulaziz Al-Marzouq, expressed his happiness at winning five Sukuk awards, and said that KFH has a long history in developing the debt market, which made the bank at the forefront of Islamic financial institutions.

He explained that KFH has a key role in the primary market for Sukuk issuances in addition to its primary role as a market maker, especially since Sukuk as Shariah-compliant financing instruments allow companies to enter the capital markets directly.

It is worth noting that the British financial magazine "EMEA Finance" covers the most prominent financial markets in Europe, the Middle East and Africa through specialized reports and analysis by a team of experts, analysts, and economists.

Kuwait working to be secure source of energy: oil minister

'OPEC, OPEC+ have achieved stable oil price'

BAGHDAD, June 17, (KUNA): Kuwait Minister of Finance, Minister of State for Economic Affairs and Investment and Acting Minister of Oil Manaf Al-Hajeri said Friday that Kuwait is investing and working within its announced strategic plans to continue playing an enhanced role within the world as a secure source of energy and calls on the world to invest in all kinds of energy to ensure that the world's growing needs are met.

This came in a speech delivered by Al-Hajeri at the ceremony hosted by Baghdad to mark the 63rd anniversary of OPEC's founding.

The minister said he was honored to represent Kuwait, one of the five founding countries of OPEC, expressing gratitude to Iraq for hosting this historic event in Al-Shaab Hall, the site of OPEC's founding.

It is remembered that the five founding countries met in Al-Shaab Hall to establish OPEC between September 10-14 in 1960, he said.

OPEC confirms, through its main objectives and in accordance with its basic system and long-term strategy, its commitment to the security and stability of the global oil markets, and is keen to strengthen cooperation frameworks with other producers, dialogue with all influential groups of stakeholders in the industry, and grip concerns such as sustainable development, preserving the environment, energy scarcity and other challenges, he added.

The signing of the historic and unprecedented Declaration of Cooperation (DoC) in 2016 resulted in effectively supporting stability in the global oil market, where according to DoC, OPEC is working with 10 non-OPEC producing countries in order to maintain the stability of oil markets, he mentioned.

The challenges of the future will enhance the role of OPEC to ensure a smooth and balanced transition of energy that supports the global economy and industry and is in the interest of humans and the environment, he pointed out.

He concluded by saying that cooperation and dialogue have played an effective role in OPEC's work for over six decades, and undoubtedly this role will continue in the future for the benefit of producers, consumers, investors and the global economy as a whole.

The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and OPEC+ alliance succeeded in achieving stable oil price that will benefit member states and oil industry in general, Saudi Energy Minister Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman Al-Saud said Friday.

The Saudi minister made the statement during a celebration hosted by the Iraqi capital, Baghdad, marking the Diamond Anniversary of OPEC's founding, in the presence of oil and en-



The Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammad Al-Sudani addressing the gathering

Germany hails EU deal on renewable energy raising target for 2030 to 45%

BERLIN, June 17, (AP): Germany's economy minister welcomed a deal Friday among European Union countries to increase by more than a third the bloc's renewable energy target for 2030.

Representatives of the 27 member states approved a package raising the current goal of 32% to 45% by 2030. About 22% of the EU's total energy consumption came from renewables in 2021, meaning the new target will double the amount in less than a decade.

The deal includes a number of exceptions to cover the interests of various member states, including specific clauses on hydrogen production.

"The new European rules will trigger an investment boom for renewables and make it legally binding," said Economy Minister Robert Habeck, whose portfolio

includes energy and climate.

Russia's war in Ukraine has accelerated the EU's green transition. The bloc reduced its dependency on Russian fossil fuels and increased its renewable energy use over the past year.

Under the new rules, countries that fail to add enough solar, wind and other forms of renewable energy each year could be fined by the EU. The share of renewables must increase by 0.8 percentage points annually until 2025, after which it will have to rise by 1.1 percentage points.

This will amount to more than 100 gigawatts of new wind and solar capacity installations across the bloc each year, Habeck's office said.

The energy, housing, industrial and transport sectors will each have specific targets for renewable

energy use.

Agreement had been held up by France and several eastern European countries demanding that hydrogen produced with nuclear power should be counted toward renewable energy targets. The German government, which opposed this, said that will now not be the case, though there will "a bit more flexibility" on hydrogen targets for countries that meet their renewable energy goals.

Separately, countries agreed to introduce binding quotas for the use of e-fuels - made using renewable energy - in the aviation sector, starting with a share of 1.2% in 2030 that rises to 35% by 2050. Biofuels made from waste products and other renewable resources will need to make up a further 35% of aviation fuels used by mid-century.

towards alternative energy sources.

The Iraqi prime minister made the remark during a celebration marking the 63rd anniversary of the OPEC's founding conference in Baghdad.

"It is imperative that we prepare and develop strategies now to align with the global energy transition towards alternative sources," he said.

Oil remains a crucial global energy source, playing a significant role in politics, economies, development, and the environment, the Iraqi prime minister pointed out.

For his part, Oil Minister Hayyan Abdul Ghani revealed that a memorandum declaring the establishment of the OPEC would be signed in Baghdad later today on the occasion of the 63rd anniversary.

He added that the move would reflect international coordination and cooperation to maintain hydrocarbon sources and reiterate the historically right track.

ergy ministers of some member states, including Kuwaiti acting minister.

The OPEC achieved the purpose of its founding and enhanced its march through the Saudi proposal on founding the OPEC+ alliance, which helped the organization achieve its aims, he said.

Both OPEC and OPEC+ have succeeded in achieved stability in markets, thanks to consensus amongst, and interest of, all OPEC member states, amid these current conditions, economic fluctuations and uncertainty facing the world, he elaborated.

The minister lauded the results of the OPEC meeting in Vienna, stressing that its outcomes supported member states and made tranquillity to oil investors.

Meanwhile, OPEC Secretary General Haitham Al-Gais said the organization played a pivotal role in maintaining stability and balance in energy markets across the world.

Speaking in the same celebra-

tion, Al-Gais indicated that the historical agreement on establishing the organization in 1960 contributed to maintaining the sovereign right of the five constituent countries to their natural wealth, mainly oil, and drawing up a new global path, which benefited all oil-producing countries.

Therefore, the organization normally grew to reach its current position as a vital and effective member in international energy sector, he stated.

Consequently, the number of members rose to 13 that follow the same principles on which the bloc was founded that include cooperation, dialogue and mutual respect, he clarified.

The OPEC will continue playing its pivotal role in energy markets to maintain their balance and stability for the generations of today and future, Al-Gais concluded.

Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammad Al-Sudani said on Friday that it is essential to develop strategies as the global landscape is shifting

number of Americans filing for jobless claims elevated again

The number of Americans applying for unemployment benefits remained elevated last week, a possible sign that the Federal Reserve's interest rate hikes over the past year may be taking hold in what's proved to be a resilient job market.

U.S. applications for jobless claims were 262,000 for the week ending June 10, the Labor Department reported Thursday, more than analysts were expecting. This week's number mirrors last week's, which was revised up by 1,000.

The claims numbers for the past two weeks are the highest since October of 2021.

The four-week moving average of claims, which flattens some of the week-to-week fluctuations, by more than 9,000 to 246,750. That's the highest level since November of 2021.

U.S. employers have added jobs at a furious rate since more than 20 million jobs disappeared during the pandemic purge in the spring of 2020. Americans have enjoyed unusual job security, de-

spite the Federal Reserve's aggressive campaign to cool the economy and labor market in its bid to stifle persistently elevated inflation not seen since the early 1980s.

On Wednesday, Fed officials chose not to increase its benchmark borrowing rate for the first time in 15 months, though some said they expect to add another half-point to rates by the end of the year. The rate hikes have slowly helped to tamp down inflation, though perhaps not as quickly as hoped. (AP)



A hiring sign is displayed at a retail store in Downers Grove, Ill. (AP)

Over 50 asset management firms engaged in 80 meetings with 12 Kuwaiti listed companies over two days

Boursa Kuwait, GCC stock exchanges join forces with HSBC to present investment opportunities in Kuwait, GCC capital mkts to int'l investors



Boursa Kuwait officials and participants pose for a group photo during the tenth Corporate Day in London.

LONDON, June 17: Boursa Kuwait successfully organized its tenth Corporate Day in London, coinciding with the London GCC Conference organized by HSBC, one of Europe's largest banks, from 12-16 June. The prominent event brought together twelve companies listed in the esteemed "Premier" Market, including Boursa Kuwait, with more than 50 globally recognized asset management firms and investment companies. Over the 80 meetings conducted during the conference, international investors were provided with a valuable opportunity to gain in-depth knowledge about the listed companies, as well as a comprehensive understanding of the financial performance and business strategies employed by the companies publicly traded in the Kuwaiti capital market.

Boursa Kuwait's Chief Executive Officer Mr. Mohammad Saud Al-Osaimi expressed his thoughts on the occasion, stating, "As we mark our tenth Corporate Day, a tradition that started in 2017, we remain committed to showcasing our listed companies and investment opportunities to foreign institutional investors through our series of Corporate Days and Roadshows, a tradition we've started in 2017. Our tenth Corporate Day gave us the opportunity to engage with over 50 asset management firms and investment companies and presenting the unique investment opportunities available in Kuwait. The company constantly seeks to provide transparency and ensure that market participants, including both local and international investors, have a voice in shaping our market."



Mohammad Saud Al-Osaimi, Chief Executive Officer.



Abdulaziz Ibrahim Al-Mulla, the Head of the Debt Management Department at the Ministry of Finance.

Al-Osaimi expressed his optimism for the future, anticipating a productive period ahead and highlighting ongoing developments in the Kuwaiti market. He emphasized that Boursa Kuwait remains committed to enhancing the market in line with international standards and practices and stated that the upcoming launch of the Central Clearing Counterparty system (CCP) is expected to reduce systematic risks in capital markets.

"Boursa Kuwait aims to introduce additional products and services, focusing on key objectives such as fostering an attractive issuer base, expanding the range of products, diversifying the investor base, and upgrading infrastructure and business practices to meet international standards," he added.

The conference also brought together CEOs and senior executives from the GCC stock exchanges, as representatives from Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates showcased the benefits and prospects of investing in their respective countries. This conference marked the second meeting of GCC exchanges and featured a panel discussion that provided valuable insights into each country's economic outlook. Representing Kuwait on the panel were Boursa Kuwait's Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Mohammad Saud Al-Osaimi and Mr. Abdulaziz Ibrahim Al-Mulla, the Head of the Debt Management Department at the Ministry of Finance, which was moderated by HSBC.

Global Research's Chief CEEMEA Economist Mr. Simon Jon Williams.

For his part, Head of the Debt Management Department at the Ministry of Finance Mr. Abdulaziz Ibrahim Al-Mulla thanked Boursa Kuwait and HSBC for inviting him to the conference, which was an opportunity to showcase the State of Kuwait's National Development Plan for diversifying the economy to international investors, adding that the private sector has an integral role in that plan. Al-Mulla also showcased the national debt market and the need to develop it in line with the tenets of the "New Kuwait 2035" vision.

Boursa Kuwait has been a key driver in the development of the Kuwaiti capital market and the diversification of the national economy, in line with the goals of the "New Kuwait 2035" vision. Since its establishment, the company has been dedicated to building a reputable exchange founded on efficiency and transparency, fostering a liquid capital market and developing an advanced exchange platform through a comprehensive set of reforms and enhancements that has allowed it to compete on an international level. Over the past five years, the company has rolled out numerous market reforms and new initiatives as part of its comprehensive multi-phase market development (MD) plans.

China's gov't calls hacking report 'far-fetched', accuses US of targeting cybersecurity industry

Chinese spies breached hundreds of public, private networks, security firm says

BEIJING, June 17, (AP): China's government on Friday rejected as "far-fetched and unprofessional" a report by a U.S. security firm that blamed Chinese-linked hackers for attacks on hundreds of public agencies, schools and other targets around the world.

A foreign ministry spokesperson repeated accusations that Washington carries out hacking attacks and complained the cybersecurity industry rarely reports on them.

Mandiant's report came ahead of a visit to Beijing by Secretary of State Antony Blinken aimed at repairing relations that have been strained by disputes over human rights, security and other irritants. Blinken's visit was planned earlier this year but was canceled after what the U.S. government said was a Chinese spy balloon flew over the United States.

The report said hackers targeted email to engage in "espionage activity in support of the People's Republic of China."

"The relevant content is far-fetched and unprofessional," said the Chinese spokesperson, Wang Wenbin.

Exploited

The latest attacks exploited a vulnerability in a Barracuda Networks email system and targeted foreign ministries in Southeast Asia, other government agencies, trade offices and academic organizations in Taiwan and Hong Kong, according to Mandiant.

It described the attacks as the biggest cyber espionage campaign known to be conducted by a "China-nexus threat actor" since a 2021 attack on Microsoft Exchange. That affected tens of thousands of computers.

China is regarded, along with the United States and Russia, as a leader in the development of computer hacking for military use. Security consultants say its military also supports hobbyist hacking clubs that might work for outsiders.

Barracuda announced on June 6 that some of its email security appliances had been hacked as early as October, giving the intruders a back door to compromised networks.

Mandiant said the email attacks focused on issues that are priorities for China, particularly in the Asia Pacific region. It said the hackers searched for email accounts of people working for governments of political or strategic interest to China at the time they were participating in diplomatic meetings.

Earlier this year, Microsoft said state-backed Chinese hackers have been targeting U.S. critical infrastructure and could be laying the technical groundwork for the potential disruption of critical communications between the U.S. and Asia during future

Jehad Al-Humaidhi awarded the MENA Islamic Banker of Year '23

KUWAIT CITY, June 17: The global prestigious magazine MEED has honored the efforts and achievements of Mrs. Jehad Al-Humaidhi, Chief Executive Officer and Board Member of Ahli United Bank by awarding her the MENA Islamic Banker of the Year at the MENA Banking Excellence Awards 2023. The award recognizes Al-Humaidhi's exceptional leadership, support for technological innovation in the banking sector, diverse expertise, and active membership in several boards of emerging institutions in the fields of electronic payment, credit monitoring, risk assessment, and Takaful insurance.

Throughout her professional career spanning over 38 years since joining Ahli United Bank after graduating, Al-Humaidhi held several supervisory and leadership positions within the bank. She has amassed extensive knowledge in technology and banking advancements, and has not hesitated to diversify and integrate her holistic banking experiences. Consequently, she has emerged as a pioneer in innovation in banking services, serving as a role model and a source of inspiration for professionals in the banking industry.

Mrs. Jehad Al-Humaidhi has achieved notable success in all the supervisory and leadership positions she has held, ultimately reaching the po-



Jehad Al-Humaidhi

sition of Chief Executive Officer and being selected as a board member of the Bank. She has been able to make a noticeable difference in the performance of Ahli United Bank, leaving a distinctive mark as the first woman to hold the position of CEO in the Islamic banking sector in Kuwait.

The selection of Mrs. Jehad Al-Humaidhi for the MENA Islamic Banker of the Year 2023 award was not solely based on her impressive record of accomplishment since joining Ahli United Bank, but also her contribution to

the banking industry as a whole was taken into consideration. Al-Humaidhi holds the position of Vice Chairman of the Shared Electronic Banking Services Company (K-NET). She is also a board member of AIHilal Takaful Insurance Company and AIHilal Life Company. She previously served as Vice Chairman of the Shared Credit Information Company (Ci-Net).

The Bank was presented this award after an independent judging panel from MEED magazine assessed all the nominees and compared them based on points for each aspect of excellence. Each nominee was assessed and assigned points, which were then combined and compared to determine the winner.

In her comment on receiving this prestigious award, Mrs. Jehad Al-Humaidhi expressed her heartfelt gratitude to the organizers of the award, emphasizing that it is a tribute to the entire team at Ahli United Bank and a recognition of the excellence of the Islamic banking services provided to the bank customers. She highlighted that the award reflects the efforts made in various sectors of the bank, in line with a clear vision and strategy.

Mrs. Jehad Al-Humaidhi also underscored the support of AUB Board of Directors, which serves as the primary driver behind every success achieved by the bank and all its members. She expressed her deep gratitude to the Central Bank of Kuwait for the support and assistance it provides to women leaders and the banking sector in general.

Al-Humaidhi highlighted the role of the exceptional work environment and the family spirit at Ahli United Bank in retaining and refining national talents, as well as providing equal opportunities for the outstanding individuals. She emphasized that sustaining success requires a positive and stable work environment.

Al-Humaidhi considered that presenting her any award or honor is a recognition of the excellence of Kuwaiti women and their ability to achieve success and excellence through dedication and commitment to their work.



Jehad Al-Humaidhi MENA Islamic Banker of the Year 2023 award.

crises.

Suspected state-backed Chinese hackers used a security hole in a popular email security appliance to break into the networks of hundreds of public and private sector organizations globally, nearly a third of them government agencies including foreign ministries, the cybersecurity firm Mandiant said Thursday.

"This is the broadest cyber espionage campaign known to be conducted by a China-nexus threat actor since

the mass exploitation of Microsoft Exchange in early 2021," Charles Carmakal, Mandiant's chief technical officer, said in a emailed statement. That hack compromised tens of thousands of computers globally.

In a blog post y, Google-owned Mandiant expressed "high confidence" that the group exploiting a software vulnerability in Barracuda Networks' Email Security Gateway was engaged in "espionage activity in support of the People's Republic of China." It said

the activity began as early as October.

The hackers sent emails containing malicious file attachments to gain access to targeted organizations' devices and data, Mandiant said. Of those organizations, 55% were from the Americas, 22% from Asia Pacific and 24% from Europe, the Middle East and Africa and they included foreign ministries in Southeast Asia, foreign trade offices and academic organizations in Taiwan and Hong Kong, the company said.

'Experience is too often devalued'

Nearly half of marketers say ageism tolerated more than other forms of discrimination: CMA

TORONTO, June 17, (AP): New research released today by the Canadian Marketing Association (CMA) found that nearly half (44 per cent) of marketers believe that age discrimination is tolerated in their workplaces more than other forms of discrimination.

The CMA's new report found that most Boomers (81 per cent) and Gen Xers (62 per cent) reported feeling disadvantaged by an image-conscious marketing industry. Only half (49 per cent) of Millennials reported feeling the same. This was felt most acutely in agency settings as 13 per cent of marketers in agencies considered employees in their thirties to be "older", double the rate of client companies.

"Our latest research shows that experience is too often devalued in the marketing profession," said Alison Simpson, president and CEO, CMA. "DEI initiatives should take age into consideration as well as other harmful forms of discrimination. Age should not be a barrier to hiring, working with, or promoting a deserving employee."

The vast majority of respondents agreed that having a leadership team that is well-diversified supports business growth (96 per cent) and offers many benefits (98 per cent). Notably, employees in organizations with diverse leadership feel valued and included and are invested in the organization's success. This brings tremendous business value to organizations.

DEI in the Marketing Profession: Progress and Challenges also found that in workplaces where leadership is not diverse, employee disengagement rates due to discrimination are rising (60 per cent in 2023 compared to 52 per cent in 2022). When these employees feel disengaged, most (65 per cent) will start looking for a new job.

In contrast, in organizations with well-diversified leadership, a minority (14 per cent) said they feel disengaged at least sometimes, and only a small percentage (17 per cent) said they

would look for another job if discriminatory policies or action impacts their level of engagement. Employees in these organizations are much more likely to talk to peers and try to determine how to address the situation (42 per cent) than employees in workplaces where leadership is not diversified (26 per cent).

"The positive business impact of well-diversified leadership is undeniable," said Patrick Bhang, co-chair of the CMA's DEI Committee, and director, retail merchandising at RBC. "Having employees who feel valued and are invested in the success of your organization not only contributes to your internal culture, but strengthens external customer and partner relationships. Our research found that engagement has a direct impact on employee retention, further solidifying the positive impact of diversity in the workplace."

DEI in the Marketing Profession: Progress and Challenges also found that job satisfaction is not felt equally. About two-thirds (67 per cent) of non-marginalized women say they look for employment elsewhere when they feel disengaged due to discrimination and nearly half (48 per cent) of marginalized women say the same. Around one-third (30 per cent) of marginalized men start looking for a new job; however, none (0 per cent) of the non-marginalized men indicated they do so.

DEI in the Marketing Profession: Progress and Challenges explored what steps can be taken to have a meaningful impact on diversity in the workplace for the marketing industry. While fewer respondents report witnessing discriminatory behaviour than they did last year (78 per cent in 2023 compared to 85 per cent in 2022), the number of people who report experiencing microaggressions in the past 12 months remains high (42 per cent). The industry is moving in the right direction, but there is still work to be done.

ABK joins in CBK, KBA's 'Eidity' initiative

Meeting great customer demand, Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) announced its participation in the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) and Kuwait Banking Association's (KBA) 'Eidity' initiative which aims to provide eidia in various Kuwaiti Dinar denominations on the blessed occasion of Eid Al Adha.

ABK clarified that eidia will be provided to customers who visit any of the Bank's branches across Kuwait by placing a request with one of the present employees. Furthermore, ABK will be providing eidia delivery service for

its Elite customers where the money can be transported to their preferred location.

ABK's participation highlights the Bank's eagerness to provide convenient banking services to all segments of society and to encourage financial inclusion.

On this occasion, Johar Marafi, Acting General Manager of Retail Banking at ABK, extended her greetings and said, "In cooperation with CBK and KBA, our branches are ready to provide eidia across the country."

Gulf Bank offers 'Ayadi' at branches, ITMs

On the occasion of Eid Al-Adha, Gulf Bank is providing the "Ayadi" service at its branches and ITMs located across Kuwait; including the newly launched ITM drive thru at Sharq branch.

The bank is providing "Ayadi" at all Gulf Bank branches – excluding the Kuwait International Airport branch – and at the ITMs located in 12 branches, of which include: Sharq branch, Crystal Tower, Jabriya, Al-Shaab, Al-Adan, Al-Fanar Mall,

Al-Salam (South Surra), Fahaheel (Al-Ghanim Electronics Complex), Hawally, Kuwait International Airport (T1), and Mishref, including the first ITM drive thru in Sharq.

The "Ayadi" service provides customers with brand new KD 20, KD 10, KD 5, and KD 1 banknotes to meet the growing demand for brand new bank notes during the Eid period.

Gulf Bank's vision is to be the leading Kuwaiti Bank of the Future.



Eidity logo

stc family participates in campaign organized in collaboration with Central Blood Bank

stc holds blood donation drive to mark World Blood Donor Day

KUWAIT CITY, June 17: Kuwait Telecommunications Company – stc, a world-class digital leader providing innovative services and platforms to customers, enabling the digital transformation in Kuwait, held its annual blood donation drive for the stc family in line with the World Blood Donor Day, a worldwide initiative that falls on June 14th of every year focusing on donating blood for a good cause. The initiative was organized especially for stc employees in collaboration with the Kuwait Central Blood Bank, and aimed to spread awareness on the significant benefits of donating blood.



stc employees participate in blood donation campaign.

stc's blood donation drive aligns with its extensive corporate social responsibility framework, that focuses on the primary areas of

health, education, preserving environment, youth empowerment and community. In addition to donat-

ing blood, the campaign focused on familiarizing employees with the importance of this kind act, as well

as the positive impacts and benefits associated with the selfless action. The internal event witnessed a high level of participation from employees who were eager to contribute to support those who are in need of blood in the community.

Collaboration

Danah AlJasem, General Manager of Corporate Communications at stc, said, "Our collaboration with the Kuwait Central Blood Bank in this and other initiatives is a proud reflection of our dedication to the community, in line with stc's CSR strategy. This annual initiative amplifies the importance of blood donation and its numerous health benefits, serving to foster a culture of giving back to the community while involving our employees in numerous initiatives designed to

uplift and support society.

AlJasem added, "stc is committed to engaging its employees in various cause-oriented activities. The blood donation drive signifies stc's enduring dedication to the community and to its CSR framework, especially within the area of health. By organizing such initiatives for employees to donate blood, our goal is to make a significant contribution to supporting Kuwait's healthcare system. To create a wider impact, stc actively collaborates with entities within the government and private sectors, to maintain this momentum and strengthen its relationships with various entities through community driven initiatives."

AlJasem concluded by expressing her gratitude to the Kuwait

Central Blood Bank for their unwavering collaborative efforts, and to all the stc employees, including executive management, whose participation was instrumental in making this blood donation drive a success. She also mentioned that stc will continue to expand its CSR initiatives that focus on supporting the healthcare sector in Kuwait, as well as the key pillars defined under the Company's CSR framework.

To find out more about stc's events, promotions, and sponsorships, follow stc's official social media platforms, visit one of stc's branches, download mystc mobile application, visit www.stc.com.kw or contact the customer service center by dialing 102 for around the clock assistance.



A photo from the event.

New destinations

Kuwait Airways launches flights to Athens, Greece

KUWAIT CITY, June 17: Kuwait Airways announced the launch of its first flights to the city of Athens, Greece with two flights per week on Fridays and Mondays, commencing from 16 June 2023.

The Chief Executive Officer of Kuwait Airways, Eng. Maen Razouqi stated, "Kuwait Airways is pleased to launch its first scheduled commercial flights to the city of Athens in the Republic of Greece as part of the implementation of its objectives to launch new and permanent destinations that was announced earlier."

Razouqi added, "The city of Athens is an excellent summer destination, both for travel and tourism. It is considered as one of the most beautiful cities in the world, famous for its history, rich culture and ancient heritage dating back to centuries. Taking this into account, Kuwait Airways launched this destination to suit the preferences of our valued customers, as well as to meet their requirements to diversify the network of routes and expand around the world by including new and diverse destinations."

Razouqi indicated that choosing the destination of Athens came after comprehensive research to meet the growing demands for destinations such as these and to different markets for our customers. Moreover, Kuwait Airways is diligently striving to provide customers with the opportunity to select what suits them the most, especially with recovery of the summer travel season and the diversity of destinations.

Razouqi concluded that passengers travelling on the national carrier can enjoy a unique experience on board with advanced technology, as well as comfortable and distinguished services provided by the cabin crew who are ready to assist them with their requirements.

On his part, the Ambassador of Greece to the State of Kuwait, H.E. Konstantinos Piperigos stated, "The launching of flights to Athens is an important part of the joint cooperation between Kuwait and Greece, contributing significantly to the consolidation of relations between the two countries, and enhances development in several other fields."

KIB announces 'winner' of Al Dirwaza digital account draw

KUWAIT CITY, June 17: Kuwait International Bank (KIB) announced the name of the winner of its Al Dirwaza digital account opening campaign for the month of June, whereby customer Faraj Mousa Faraj Behbahani won the draw. This draw comes after the Bank renewed the campaign designed to provide a distinctive digital banking experience and to reward customers who opened an Al Dirwaza account through digital platforms, whether KIB Online or the KIB Mobile application.



Al-Khrayef

Commenting on the draw, Nawaf Al-Khrayef, Assistant General Manager of the Retail Banking Department at KIB, said: "The draws and prizes of this distinctive campaign continue to encourage customers to save while allowing them to enjoy the latest innovative digital banking solutions. Al Dirwaza account, the best of its kind in Kuwait, continues to attract customers interested in economizing, saving, and profiting, thanks to KIB's professional team and its continuous efforts, in addition to the loyalty and constant support of existing customers."

Al-Khrayef added: "The continuous development of this unique campaign reaffirms the vital role played by KIB in innovation and providing an integrated banking experience with exceptional advantages, as it focuses on customers' priorities and meets all their needs. We continue to bear witness to the constant success of the Al Dirwaza digital account opening campaign, thanks to a set of factors that include team competency, swift response for accessing digital services, the added value of prizes and rewards, and the maximum possible use of the best banking product in its category. The Al Dirwaza account provides customers with the highest expected monthly returns, in addition to draws for excellent cash prizes, while being fully compliant to the provisions of Islamic Sharia and approved by the KIB Sharia Supervisory Board."

It is worth noting that KIB seeks to constantly enrich its customers' banking experience, by developing advanced digital solutions to ensure greater ease and a higher level of performance and efficiency in banking operations. The Bank also aims to keep pace with the modern lifestyle of its customers, as well as rewarding all segments through innovative offers and promotional campaigns, in a way that realizes their aspirations and meets their needs.

Enabling

"It is crucial for energy companies to believe in digitalization and the role technology plays in enabling them to keep up with the huge changes in today's markets. Companies must set up a digitalization strategy and office within their operations, and we are ready to be their success partner in bringing this vision to reality," Al Marzouq added.

Al Marzouq went on to highlight one of Zain's recent energy projects with the Government of Kuwait: "Zain has a distinguished long list of fruitful partnerships with the public sector, and one of the top examples that come to mind within the energy sector is the smart meters project. Since 2017, we've partnered with the Ministry of Electricity, Water, and Renewable Energy to install 800,000 smart meters and operate the entire digital system of the project across Kuwait."

Al Marzouq added: "We offer a number of key tools to oil & gas companies, including migrating infrastructures to more agile ones on the cloud; where 5G technologies play a big role, as well as a wide range of reliable, secure, and efficient datacenter, cloud, and connectivity solutions. We also cover an extensive range of cybersecurity solutions, as well as rig connectivity tools through our UAV division, Zain Drones."

Al Marzouq continued: "Our customers also benefit from our extensive and solid strategic partnerships with the globe's biggest hyper-scal-

Company sponsors Energy Year event

Zain showcases strategic efforts to digitalize local energy sector

KUWAIT CITY, June 17: Zain sponsored the book launch and awards ceremony of The Energy Year, the prestigious magazine specializing in the oil, gas, and renewable energy industries. During the event, the company showcased its top strategic efforts to enable and accelerate digital transformation within the local energy sector by empowering national institutions to embrace digitalization.

Zain's support to this event came to further affirm the prominent role the company plays as one of the Kuwaiti private sector's leaders in supporting digital transformation projects across the biggest sectors. This is especially true within the local oil & gas sector, which is considered the backbone of Kuwait's economy as one of the world's biggest oil producers.

The event's program featured a special excellence awards segment that recognized a number of the most contributing companies to the development of the local energy sector. CEO of Kuwait Oil Company, Ahmad Al Eidan, was recognized along with executives and officials representing the biggest local and regional oil & gas companies.

During his keynote speech, Zain Kuwait's Chief Enterprise Business Officer Hamad Al Marzouq showcased some of the top strategic efforts Zain introduced recently to push the digital transformation wheel within the local energy sector: "During the past years, we doubled down on technology in our efforts to digitalize the local oil & gas industry. We heavily invested in tech solutions such as 5G, drones, digital applications, managed cloud services, and more to empower companies to embrace digitalization."



A group photo from the event.

Strategic move

Warba joins Gulf Payment System 'Afaq'

KUWAIT CITY, June 17: Warba Bank has recently announced its participation in the "Afaq" Gulf Payment System, following the successful completion of all required tests and procedures in collaboration with the Central Bank of Kuwait. This strategic move is designed to enhance the banking experience for Warba Bank customers conducting financial transactions within the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries, ensuring speed and security. The "Afaq" service streamlines the process of executing financial transfers in the currencies of GCC countries for the participating banks in the "Afaq" Gulf Payment System, guaranteeing efficiency and a secure environment.

Layali Mustafa Al-Fahad, Chief Operations Officer, Operations Group at Warba Bank, emphasized the bank's commitment to providing cutting-edge financial and digital solutions. With a focus on continuous improvement, Warba Bank tailors its services and financial transfers to cater to the needs of both individual and corporate customers. The bank remains vigilant in keeping up with the evolving banking landscape, striving to deliver exceptional services to its clientele.

Al-Fahad further highlighted Warba Bank's proactive role in adopting the latest technologies to

enhance efficiency and minimize reliance on external financial systems and transfer networks. This strategic approach aligns with the Central Bank of Kuwait's vision of developing regional payment systems. By embracing innovative solutions, the bank contributes to reducing costs for customers and streamlining the transfer process. Al-Fahad further explained that Warba Bank has started reaping the rewards of its efforts and investments in the field of technological and digital services in recent years. These advancements ultimately benefit both individual and corporate customers.

She highlighted that this system is an integral part of a regional infrastructure operated and developed by the company. It serves as the underlying framework for shared regional payment systems among Gulf countries. The system enables instant settlement between Gulf central banks, facilitates transactions in local currencies, and simplifies clearing and settlement processes.

Al-Fahad emphasized that the

new system ensures swift and secure completion of cash transfers while standardizing their format. This will significantly contribute to enhancing shared Gulf payment systems and implementing effective strategies to mitigate various financial risks. Moreover, it will promote advanced levels of economic and financial integration among Gulf countries.

Furthermore, she noted that Warba Bank's accomplishment adds to its extensive track record of services and notable system updates, enabling it to stay at the forefront of the evolving market and meet the requirements set by the Central Bank of Kuwait. This commitment ensures a competitive advantage and excellence in delivering services to the bank's customers.

It is noteworthy that Warba Bank has achieved remarkable success within a short span of time, establishing itself as a leading player in the domain of Islamic digital banking services for individuals. Moreover, it stands out among local banks due to its large number of shareholders, fostering a close connection with all segments of society. Additionally, Warba Bank has gained recognition as one of the top 50 banks in the Middle East in terms of market value for the year 2023, according to Forbes Middle East's rankings.

ers like Google, Microsoft, Amazon Web Services (AWS), and Oracle. By collaborating with our global partners, we bring the latest technologies to empower our customers to embrace digitalization within their operations at the highest efficiency and lowest cost."

"Our main goal is to contribute to empowering the New Kuwait 2035

vision, and we aspire to be a main partner in achieving it. We will continue to invest in building robust capacity and help achieve this vision's goals," Al Marzouq concluded.

The Energy Year is a prestigious global magazine that specializes in the oil, gas, and renewable energy industries in over 30 countries. The magazine presents the views and

opinions of more than 2000 key energy decision-makers, alongside up-to-date licensing and infrastructure maps, project reports, articles, partnership and investment opportunities, forums and debates, resources and statistics, and more. The latest edition, Kuwait 2023, focuses on digital transformation in the local oil and gas sector.



AviClear 12 month results.

FDA clears AviClear as long-term treatment for acne

Cutera, INC (Nasdaq: CUTR) a global leader in aesthetic and dermatology solutions, has announced a new US Food and Drug Administration Clearance of AviClear as a long-term treatment for mild to severe inflammatory acne vulgaris. This is the first acne therapy to claim long term effectiveness for mild, moderate and severe acne. AviClear initially received FDA clearance in March 2022 following an extensive clinical trial. Now after months of clinical data evaluation, the FDA has additionally recognized AviClear as a clinically efficacious and proven

treatment for the long-term treatment of acne. AviClear selectively targets and suppresses the sebaceous glands, eliminating acne at the source, offering a durable and prescription free option for patients and providers. "Those of us who have been using AviClear on our patients since the initial FDA Clearance recognized that the results of the treatment get progressively better with time," said Emmy M. Graber, MD, MBA, the Founder of The Dermatology Institute of Boston and an internationally known acne expert. "I am thrilled that the FDA has now acknowledged these

long-lasting results, giving both patients and dermatology providers greater confidence in the efficacy and durability of AviClear results." As the first 1726nm laser to be introduced to the market, AviClear continues to challenge the status quo in the acne landscape. In three, 30-minute treatment sessions 90% of patients experienced visible improvement in their acne six months after their third session.1 According to 12-month clinical data, improvement increases to 92%2, confirming long-term efficacy of acne clearance and skin quality over time. (AP)

Follow world scientists on their journey to a game-changing therapy

Cancer Vaccine: Imagine a world where cancer is not a killer

WASHINGTON, June 17: National Geographic has announced the greenlight of The Cancer Vaccine (w.t.), a new documentary special that will take viewers to the frontlines of the fight against a devastating disease. With National Geographic's signature exclusive inside access, The Cancer Vaccine will follow Uğur Şahin and Özlem Türeci – husband-and-wife team who built German biotechnology giant BioNTech – alongside their dedicated teams, on their journey to pioneer a potential groundbreaking class of medicines harnessing the body's own defenses to fight cancer.

cer forever. From the construction of a machine-controlled factory capable of manufacturing individualized drugs to the crucial trials with select patients whose lives are on the line, this documentary dives into the complexities as well as the achievements the BioNTech team faces on their journey towards these groundbreaking cancer therapies.

The Cancer Vaccine begins with the inspiring story of Şahin and Türeci's fight against COVID-19 with the development of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine. For years, mRNA, the technology that the couple had championed, was regarded as useless. But the COVID-19 pandemic proved that mRNA could work and deliver a vaccine that would protect millions of people around the world against COVID-19.

Cancerous

However, a cancerous tumor is a far harder foe than this novel virus. SARS-CoV-2 is the same person to person. But every tumor is different in every-one who suffers from it – which is why most current treatments only work in a fraction of the people given them and usually only then if the cancer is caught early.

Şahin, Türeci and their teams as well as collaborators have set an incredibly difficult task for themselves – to create utterly personalized medicines that are meticulously tailored according to the unique traits of each patient's cancer. They will deliver bespoke instructions to each individual patient's immune system on how to destroy cancer in their body. Their aspiration extends beyond merely making a new treatment against cancer but to transform medicine, creating entirely new therapies that work with our body's defenses, not against them.

Preliminary outcomes from early patient trials show encouraging results. The team at BioNTech underscores that this is merely the beginning stage of a comprehensive scientific endeavor.

This documentary will intimately follow the journey of the BioNTech team as they navigate the path from preliminary patient successes to potentially catalyzing a revolution in medical treatment.

From National Geographic Content, The Cancer Vaccine is produced in partnership with Oxford Films.

"The Cancer Vaccine will give viewers a front-row seat and insightful perspective to the dedicated efforts of scientists in real time as they navigate the complex and multifaceted process of developing a potential therapeutic solution for cancer," said Tom McDonald, executive vice president of global factual and unscripted content, National Geographic. "With unprecedented inside access, we are honored to be able to shine a light on the heroes – the scientists, patients and people, who are working to combat this disease that affects far too many of our friends, families and neighbors."

Imagine a world where a cancer diagnosis of even the most aggressive kind no longer means brutal chemotherapy or a death sentence; a world where every individual cancer patient gets a bespoke drug, individually tailored to the unique genetics of their tumor; and which could change the fate of cancer patients for the better.

Frontlines

The Cancer Vaccine will take viewers to the frontlines of breakthrough science alongside the scientists, researchers and patients at the heart of this extraordinary endeavor, culminating in a story of inspiration, heartbreak, suffering and joy.

From Academy- and BAFTA-winning Oxford Films ("Hilary and Jackie," "Restoration" "Diana, Our Mother") and directed by BAFTA-winning filmmaker Patrick Forbes ("The Phantom," "Wikileaks: Secrets and Lies"), The Cancer Vaccine takes viewers to the heart of the cutting-edge research and patient trials that could have the power to change the way we treat can-

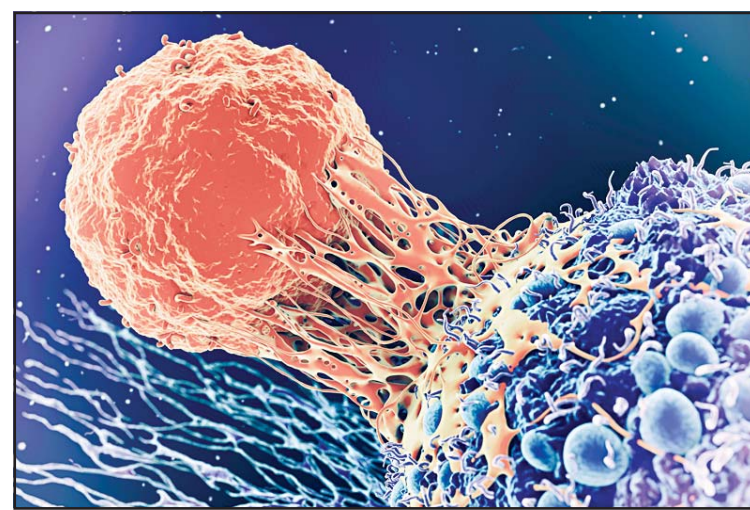
Safety, tolerability of radiopharmaceutical being studied

First ever PET test aims to monitor early response to 'cancer immunotherapies'

CHALFONT ST. GILES, England, June 17: With immunotherapy emerging as one of the most important treatment options in oncology, GE HealthCare has announced the first patient scanned in a Phase 1 clinical trial 2 of a first-of-its-kind fluorine-18 PET radiopharmaceutical ([18 F]GEH200521) specific for CD8, which is expressed on CD8+ T cells - a subpopulation of white blood cells which fight cancer.

There are around 5000 immunotherapies in development today, almost all of which work by activating CD8+ T cells both within and outside a tumor. The clinical trial will use this investigational radiopharmaceutical to help understand if patients have CD8+ T cells in their tumors and will, therefore, be more likely to respond to immune checkpoint inhibitors, the main class of immunotherapies currently approved for use. The study will also then help identify early response to immunotherapies, using sequential whole-body imaging to monitor CD8 changes over time, enabling physicians to switch patients who are not responding to alternative treatment options sooner.

The clinical trial, initiated in the Netherlands, is studying the safety and tolerability of the 18F-labeled radiopharmaceutical in patients with solid tumor malignancies. It will also determine the optimal timing for a patient scan following the administration of 18F-CD8 PET, which would be within the same day and, potentially, as soon as one hour, reducing the need for separate or multiple visits - providing more convenience for patients. 18F-CD8 PET may enable sequential imaging which could increase the likelihood of capturing even modest spatial



T cell (orange) interacting with cancer cell (blue).

and temporal changes in CD8+ T cells as soon as two to four days after an initial dose of immunotherapy or combinations of agents, compared to months with the standard RECIST (response evaluation criteria in solid tumors) approaches.

Offered

Only 20-40 percent of patients typically respond to immune checkpoint inhibitors. If successful, this tracer could help select patients more likely to respond to the appropriate immunotherapy. This could also avoid unnecessary treatment for those less likely to respond, or those not responding, who could be offered alternative treatment options earlier. For pharmaceutical companies and researchers, using this tracer to better understand the mechanism of action - i.e. the effect of im-

munotherapies on a patient's immune response to their cancer - could, potentially, enable them to better select patients to participate in clinical trials and bring new immunotherapies to market.

Dr. Ken Herrmann, Section Editor of the Journal of Nuclear Medicine, said: "The clinical translation of a fluorine-18 PET tracer that targets CD8 would be a significant breakthrough in the field, not just for patients but also in the world of drug development."

Dr. Paul Evans, Head of Global Research & Development with GE HealthCare's Pharmaceutical Diagnostics segment, said: "Immunotherapies can transform patients' lives but low response rates, the potential of serious adverse effects, and high costs present

challenges. That's why research in this area is so important, to help individualize diagnosis and treatment for each patient. We will continue to innovate in this space, working alongside pharmaceutical companies and the oncology research community to develop a new class of complementary and companion imaging diagnostics."

GE HealthCare's Pharmaceutical Diagnostics segment is a global leader in imaging agents used to support around 100 million procedures per year globally, equivalent to three patient procedures every second. Its Molecular Imaging portfolio combines established proprietary products across cardiology, neurology, and oncology, with an innovative pipeline, all aimed at enabling better-informed diagnosis and monitoring for improved therapy decision-making and clinical outcomes.

GE HealthCare is a leading global medical technology, pharmaceutical diagnostics, and digital solutions innovator, dedicated to providing integrated solutions, services, and data analytics to make hospitals more efficient, clinicians more effective, therapies more precise, and patients healthier and happier. Serving patients and providers for more than 100 years, GE HealthCare is advancing personalized, connected, and compassionate care, while simplifying the patient's journey across the care pathway. Together our Imaging, Ultrasound, Patient Care Solutions, and Pharmaceutical Diagnostics businesses help improve patient care from diagnosis, to therapy, to monitoring. We are an \$18.3 billion business with 50,000 employees working to create a world where healthcare has no limits.



National Geographic announced the greenlight of The Cancer Vaccine (w.t.), a new documentary special that will take viewers to the frontlines of the fight to cure cancer. The Cancer Vaccine will follow Uğur Şahin, (right), and Özlem Türeci – husband and wife team who built German biotechnology giant BioNTech – as they and their team race competitors, skeptics, governments and cancer itself to create an entirely new class of medicines that use the body's own defenses to defeat cancer.

Breast Suite offers highest level of patient care

Paige expands AI tools for breast cancer diagnosis

NEW YORK, June 17: Paige, a global leader in end-to-end digital pathology solutions and clinical AI applications that assist in diagnosing cancer, has launched the enhanced Paige Breast Suite, a complete set of products designed to empower pathologists in their diagnosis of breast cancer, reduce the subjectivity and tedium of manual diagnosis, and increase diagnostic efficiency and confidence. The Paige Breast Suite includes Paige Breast Detect, Paige Breast Neoplasm, Paige Breast Mitosis, Paige Breast Lymph Node and HER2Complete, a comprehensive group of AI tools that help to support every step of breast cancer di-

agnosis and to streamline pathologists' day-to-day workflows.

The Suite offers a state-of-the-art AI-powered tool for mitotic counting, which is a critical element of breast cancer diagnosis that is currently time consuming and subjective. In addition, Paige Breast Detect and Neoplasm enable pathologists to better prioritize their review of slides or entire cases by providing AI results throughout the diagnostic workflow to enhance efficiency. The Suite is built using the most advanced training techniques to be able to adapt to any lab without on-site tuning or calibration.

"At the heart of every Paige offer-

ing is the highest level of patient care," said David Klimstra, M.D., Founder and Chief Medical Officer at Paige. "With the addition of Neoplasm and Mitosis detection to our Breast Suite, we assist pathologists in gaining greater efficiency and confidence in everyday tasks like mitotic counting. There are too few pathologists for the increasing demands of breast cancer diagnosis. Paige tackles the pathologist shortage by supporting breast cancer diagnosis and simultaneously providing greater confidence, reducing false negatives and increasing pathologists' efficiency."

The Paige Breast Suite is clinical-grade and built to the highest regula-

ry standards. Leveraging the same core technology that earned Paige FDA-approval for Paige Prostate Detect*, which was built on thousands of slides from hundreds of global institutions, the Paige Breast Suite delivers high performance across diverse datasets and is fit for use in real-world clinical settings.

Paige uses the power of AI to drive a new era of cancer discovery and treatment. To improve the lives of patients with cancer, Paige has created a cloud-based platform that transforms pathologists' workflow and increases diagnostic confidence as well as productivity, all on a global scale.

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Film includes transgender flag

New Spider-Man film pulled from cinema programs in Arab world

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates, June 17, (AP) — The new blockbuster movie “Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse” was abruptly removed from cinema listings in more than a dozen Muslim-majority countries without explanation, apparently over the inclusion of a blink-and-you-miss-it transgender poster in the background of one frame.

Empire Entertainment, the Middle East distributor for the computer-animated Sony Pictures film, did not respond to multiple requests for comment.

No explicit bans of the film were announced, but there were indications that it will not reach screens.

For example, there is no expectation that “Across the Spider-Verse” will be shown in the United Arab Emirates, said a source close to the film who was not authorized to speak publicly. The source cited rigorous censorship of movies for children and younger viewers.

On the official Saudi Cinema twitter page, a statement with a poster of the film attached said the organization will not approve any film that contradicts the nation’s media content regulations and whose “production companies do not commit to implementing the required amendments.”

The superhero film featuring the Marvel Comics character Miles Morales as Spider-Man debuted in US cinemas at the beginning of

June, tripling the domestic opening weekend revenue of its Oscar-winning prequel.

Initially, it was scheduled to open in the Mideast on June 22, ahead of the Muslim holiday of Eid al-Adha. The film was listed in cinema programs as recently as last week in countries such as Kuwait, the UAE, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Bahrain, Lebanon, and Egypt, but was abruptly and quietly pulled.

No reasons were given, but the brief transgender reference might have caused offense in Arab countries where Muslim majorities, guided by Islamic law, or Sharia, often consider homosexuality and transgender identity as sinful and contrary to their religious beliefs and societal norms.

Character

The film includes a scene where a transgender flag printed with the words “Protect Trans Kids” is hanging in the room of Gwen Stacy, a spider superhero and character voiced by actress Hailee Steinfeld.

The UAE, home to the futuristic city of Dubai and the world’s tallest skyscraper, has not officially banned the movie. The federation of seven sheikhdoms once reported an end to its censorship of cinematic releases in an effort to boost its brand as a liberal hub attractive to foreigners, but it has continued to pull some movies

from its theatres.

Emaar Entertainment, a state-owned entity and parent company of major UAE cinema company Reel Cinemas, confirmed to The Associated Press that it won’t be screening “Across the Spider-Verse”. The company attributed the decision to Empire Entertainment, the exclusive theatrical distributor for Sony Pictures movies in the Middle East.

Empire Entertainment, the UAE Ministry of Youth and Culture and the Saudi Ministry of Communications and Information Technology could not be reached for comment.

In a similar incident last year, Disney’s “Lightyear” was banned in 13 Muslim-majority nations for featuring a scene with a lesbian kiss. The moment had been earlier cut from the film but was restored after Pixar employees protested Disney’s response to Florida legislation that opponents dubbed as the “Don’t Say Gay” bill.

“Into the Spider-Verse,” the prequel to “Across the Spider-Verse,” had a successful run in the region when it premiered in 2018. Children in Lebanon sport backpacks featuring Miles Morales, the main character of the franchise and the first Black Spider-Man, while malls across the UAE sell action figures of the movie’s superheroes.

“Across the Spider-Verse” is part two in a trilogy that will conclude with a third chapter scheduled to hit regional cinemas next year.

Variety



This image released by Netflix shows Chris Hemsworth in a scene from ‘Extraction 2.’ (AP)

Film

Rake pulls you completely in as a gun-for-hire

Hemsworth returns in ‘Extraction 2’

By Mark Kennedy

Tyler Rake was clinically dead when we last saw him at the end of “Extraction,” tumbling over a bridge in Bangladesh with a fatal, burbling bullet wound to his neck. But death is no match for Netflix.

Chris Hemsworth returns as the sad-sack, gun-for-hire Rake in “Extraction 2” and you’ll thank the giant streamer for such a nifty bit of resurrection because this franchise is pure cinematic adrenaline.

The new movie comes two years after a surprisingly good first installment, which saw Rake intervene in a feud between two rival drug dealers, survive numerous double-crosses, ask things like “How many hostiles onsite?” and lob an inexhaustible number of grenades.

How he survived it all stuns even his friends. Emerging from a coma in “Extraction 2,” he is stashed in a remote chalet in Gmunden, Austria, and told to chill out - learn to knit, go on hikes, try to reach mindfulness. “Enjoy retirement,” he is told. If he did there would be no “Extraction 2.”

Inevitably, a new extraction job comes along, so cue the getting-in-shape montage of Hemsworth doing pushups in the snow, splitting firewood, pushing a sled filled with rocks and some light ax throwing. Somehow, the “Extraction” movies lean into all the clichés but they don’t feel old.

Hemsworth is re-joined here by Marvel Comic Universe-screenwriter Joe Russo and stunt-specialist-turned-director Sam Hargrave, but their ace-in-the-hole is their cinematographers, who create impossibly long single takes of complicated fighting or driving scenes that put the viewer directly into the action like few other thrillers.

Last time it was Newton Thomas Sigel. This time, Greg Baldi stages a breathless rescue from inside the winding tunnels of a brutal Georgian prison, complete with a full riot, a flaming police shield used as a weapon, a car chase with motorcycles and rockets, a race through a factory and then onto a train moving 40 mph, where helicopters are shot down and there’s more hand-to-hand combat aboard. It’s a 20-minute tour-de-force - the kind of sequence that brings you up from your seat to applaud, even if you’re on your couch. And there’s more than an hour to go.

“Extraction 2” seems to have more money this time around - I’m sure they’d like to apologize for using a lot of it to trash downtown Vienna - but unlike other action franchises, it doesn’t waste it on pretty excursions to Paris museums or five-star Tokyo hotels.

The strength of these movies has always been being down in the mud, streets and dirt, with the sound of spent cartridges ping off concrete. These characters sweat and they bruise, even if many look fabulous in sunglasses.

The baddies here are similar to the first installment - a pair of powerful, scarred brothers who run heroin and guns in Georgia and are quiet-talking psychopaths, the kind who whisper a metaphor and then plunge a rake into your throat.

We learn a bit more about Rake and even meet members of his extended family, but he remains a one-note emotionally suppressed man. One knock on the franchise is that it hasn’t been able to take advantage of Hemsworth’s humor, like Marvel has done with his Thor.

Family is at the heart of “Extraction 2” as Rake gets in between this Georgian clan and also seeks to keep alive his trusted handler, Nik Khan (Golshifteh Farahani, seriously good, a franchise spin-off anyone?) and her cool-as-silk sidekick brother (Adam Bessa).

Death will only free one side and, along the way, a fancy rooftop gym will be turned into a charnel house, a skyscraper will be virtually razed by rocket fire, an airfield will explode in a fiery mess and a church will be wrecked - sorry, God. But death isn’t the final word - in this franchise, that’s relative.

“Extraction 2,” a Netflix release that airs Friday, is rated R for “strong, bloody violence throughout and language.” Running time: 123 minutes. Three stars out of four.

Also:

WASHINGTON: President Joe Biden and director Eva Longoria welcomed hundreds to the White House lawn Thursday to screen the new movie, “Flamin’ Hot,” a feel-good story about how a Mexican American janitor working at Frito-Lay sold his superiors on his idea to spice up the crunchy snack’s cheesy coating.

They held out the tale of one-time janitor Richard Montañez, which is based on his memoir, as an inspi-

ration account of how one man reached for a dream and overcame the odds - gliding past indications that Montañez’ account is dubious.

Biden told the crowd: “When I think about tonight’s movie, I think about courage. So many of you, your ancestors left behind all that they knew to start a new life in the United States.”

Longoria said Montañez’ story inspired her because she has been told “no” during her career, that ideas don’t come from people like her, that she couldn’t do certain jobs because she is a woman. She said she and her team worked hard “to produce this authentic film steeped in inclusion.”

First lady Jill Biden said Montañez helped change the way companies think about Latino customers, adding: “This film isn’t just about Richard. It’s about everyone who has been overlooked or underestimated.”

But The Los Angeles Times has published allegations that Montañez fabricated his role in the snack’s creation. And Frito-Lay says he “was not involved.”

A White House official defended the decision to screen the film, saying it is not a documentary and was shown to give Americans from different backgrounds a chance to see themselves reflected in film and celebrated by the president, as was done with other movie screenings this year. The official spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss internal White House deliberations.

In the film, actor Jesse Garcia stars as Montañez, a one-time Frito-Lay floor-sweeper in southern California who persuaded his bosses to make a snack that celebrates the flavors of Mexico.

The Bidens and Longoria stressed what they said was the movie’s broader message of inclusion.

“Richard Montañez disrupted the food industry in the ‘90s by channeling his Mexican American heritage to help turn Flamin’ Hot Cheetos into a multibillion-dollar brand today and a cultural phenomenon,” Longoria said. “We are telling a story that celebrates the American entrepreneurial dream without sidestepping the fact that the dream isn’t available in the same way for everyone.”

Biden said it was the first White House screening of a film focused on Hispanic characters. (AP)

LOS ANGELES: Al Pacino is a father for the fourth time.

Pacino’s publicist, Stan Rosenfield, confirmed to The Associated Press on Thursday that the actor, 83, and 29-year-old Noor Alfallah welcomed a son named Roman.

No other details, including when or where the baby was born, were released. The news was first reported by TMZ.

He is Pacino’s fourth child and first with Alfallah. Pacino has a 33-year-old daughter, Julie Marie, with acting coach Jan Tarrant and 22-year-old twins Anton and Olivia with actor Beverly D’Angelo.

Pacino and Alfallah reportedly began dating last year. She describes herself as a “raconteur” on her Instagram page and her IMDb page notes that she’s a producer on two movies currently in post-production, including “Billy Knight,” starring Pacino.

Pacino’s baby news follows close on the heels of that of long-time friend and fellow actor Robert De Niro. A representative for the 79-year-old actor confirmed last month that De Niro had become a father for the seventh time. (AP)

LOS ANGELES: Los Angeles prosecutors charged former “Saturday Night Live” star Pete Davidson with reckless driving Friday, three months after authorities said he crashed into a Beverly Hills home.

The Los Angeles County District Attorney’s Office filed one misdemeanor count of reckless driving against the actor and writer but did not release details about the March 4 collision in Beverly Hills.

“We believe that Mr. Davidson engaged in reckless driving, which ultimately resulted in his involvement in a serious collision into a home,” the DA’s office wrote. “Luckily, no one was seriously injured as a result of this collision.”

Davidson’s arraignment is set for July 27. His representatives and Beverly Hills police did not immediately return requests for comment.

Prosecutors used the high-profile case to highlight the “devastating consequences” of reckless driving.

“In 2022, traffic fatalities in Los Angeles have reached the highest levels seen in 20 years,” the office wrote in its statement. “This is an alarming trend that we cannot ignore. As a result, it’s crucial that

we take all allegations of reckless driving seriously and hold those responsible accountable.”

Davidson’s latest show, “Bupkis,” debuted on Peacock last month. (AP)

LONDON: Hans Zimmer, the two-time Academy Award-winning



Davidson



Pacino

composer, proposed to his partner on stage in London, prompting raucous applause from the audience.

As his performance at the O2 arena was drawing to a close Thursday evening, the 65-year-old German asked his partner to join him on stage - and then proceeded to declare his love.

Addressing her directly he said:

“Why did I bring you up here? I was going to ask you something really important. Did you lock the back door? Is the milk in the fridge? Do we have any sorbet in the freezer?”

And then, he got to the point: “Will you marry me?”

The couple embraced and the audience erupted into applause

after she appeared to accept.

A spokesperson for Zimmer confirmed that he had proposed to his partner, whose name and age were not provided.

Zimmer’s fans were treated to an array of music he has composed for hit films over the past few decades, including “Gladiator,” “The Dark Knight” and “Inception.” (AP)

People & Places

MILAN
a guy thing



Billionaire

Billionaire

Valentino

Billionaire

Billionaire

Above and below: Models wear creations as part of the Billionaire and Valentino men's Spring Summer 2024 collections presented in Milan, Italy, Friday, June 16. (AP)

Menswear previews

Valentino challenges notions of masculine

MILAN, June 17. (AP) The cries of adoring fans filled the air as stars like actor Jacob Elordi and Italian singer Elodie arrived for the Valentino show, which opened Milan Fashion Week menswear previews on Friday.

The Milan menswear calendar was missing some mainstays, but the return of Valentino's menswear for this season kicked off the week with high energy. American performer d4vd provided a live soundtrack from center stage, pumping music into the colonnaded courtyard of Milan's state university.

Students, taking a break from their regular class schedule, watched from beneath the colonnade, while the fashion crowd tented show notes on their head to protect from the beating sun - many regretting dressing in black.

The show was a homecoming of sorts for the French-owned Italian brand: Fashion house founder Valentino Garavani staged his first menswear runway show in Italy's fashion capital in 1985, and regularly showed menswear in Milan until his retirement in 2008.

Some highlights from Friday's show of mostly menswear previews for next spring and summer:

Valentino

Valentino creative director Pierpaolo Piccioli's collection for next summer is rooted in tailoring with some feminine flair, seen in softening colors and flowing shapes. But it was the floral detailing that lifted the collection.

The suit is the bedrock look, starting with monochromes in white: jacket, shirt, tie and a thigh-revealing Bermuda short. Black footwear, socks and accessories ensured the urban edge.

The shorts were sometimes transformed into a skirt. And tailored bottoms - short, pant or skirt - could be paired with a shirt, boxy top or a silken V-neck with contrasting ties that billowed in the welcome breeze.

Floral notes elevated the looks, like forever boutonnieres giving life to garments in sequins, appliques, embroidery and graphic prints - never the same. From white and then black, the color palette exploded into fuchsia and pink, red and royal blue, with notes of gray, always in clean, studied monochromes.

The fashion house announced a donation to the university for scholarships for the next academic year. It also said it is working with a company to recycle, reuse or resell runway materials, and it is planting trees in Milan's Public Gardens, close to Valentino's Milan offices.

DSquared2

Dean and Dan Caten, the Canadian twins behind the D-Squared2 label, unabashedly mixed 1980s teen innocence with a crude twist for their own take on risky business.

The designers took preppy scholastic cues, like argyle knits, sports jerseys and basketball shorts, and glammed them up with crystals, sequins and lace, for him or for her.

Summer was signified in the skin-baring ultra-mini skirts and shorts were mini, while T-shirts were cropped and sometimes shredded.

The casting summed up the collection's risqué ambitions: Actress and model Julia Fox wore a white slip dress with a pretty ruffle hem, and a large shell necklace. A lobster pin cinched a tight black dress that showed off Spanish supermodel Esther Canada's legs and torso.

Style



Billionaire

Billionaire

Valentino

Valentino

Fashion

would be combining podcast networks Parcast and Gimlet into its Spotify Studios operation.

Prince Harry has been at the High Court of London this month. He is accusing the publisher of the Daily Mirror of using unlawful techniques on an "industrial scale" to score front-page scoops on his life. The Duke of Sussex became the first senior member of the royal family to testify in more than a century. (AP)

LONDON: Glenda Jackson, a two-time Academy Award-winning performer who had a second career in politics as a British lawmaker before an acclaimed late-life return to stage and screen, has died at age 87. Jackson's agent Lionel Lerner said



Harry



Meghan

she died Thursday at her home in London after a short illness. He said she had recently completed filming "The Great Escaper," in which she co-starred with 90-year-old Michael Caine.

Born into a working-class family 1936 in Birkenhead, northwest England, Jackson trained at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art in London. She performed with the Royal Shakespeare Company - where she starred in the cutting-edge drama "Marat/Sade" directed by Peter Brook - and became one of the biggest British stars of the 1960s and 70s, winning two Academy Awards, for "Women in Love" in 1971 and "A Touch of Class" in 1974.

On television, she took home two Emmy Awards in 1972 for her performance as Queen Elizabeth I in "Elizabeth R.," and secured a place in British pop-culture history by playing Cleopatra in a classic sketch on "The Morecambe & Wise Show" in 1971. "All men are fools," she proclaimed in what became a famous one-liner, "and what makes them so is seeing beauty like what I have got."

In her 50s Jackson went into politics, winning election to Parliament in 1992. She spent 23 years as a Labour Party lawmaker, serving as a minister for transport in Prime Minister Tony Blair's first government in 1997. She came to be at odds with Blair over the 2003 invasion of Iraq. She said Blair's decision to enter the U.S.-led war without United Nations' authorization left her "deeply, deeply ashamed."

"The victims will be as they always are, women, children, the elderly," she told The Associated Press before the invasion.

Jackson's blunt manner and outspokenness continued throughout her political career, and may have helped keep her from high government office. After former Conservative Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher died in 2013, she eschewed politeness about the dead to rail in Parliament against the "heinous social, economic and spiritual damage wreaked upon this country" by the late leader.

Jackson returned to acting after leaving Parliament in 2015 and had some of her most acclaimed roles, including the title character in Shakespeare's "King Lear." It opened at London's Old Vic in 2016 and later played on Broadway.

She had her first film role in a quarter-century in the 2019 movie "Elizabeth is Missing." Jackson won a BAFTA award. Britain's equivalent of an Oscar, for her performance as a woman with Alzheimer's trying to solve a mystery. (AP)

Variety

LOS ANGELES: The production company founded by Prince Harry and his wife, Meghan, is splitting ways with Spotify less than a year after the debut of their podcast "Archetypes."

It is unclear why the podcast, hosted by Meghan, is leaving the platform but

Spotify and Archewell Audio said in a joint statement that the decision was mutual.

Archewell landed a multiyear partnership with Spotify in 2020 to create podcasts and shows that would tell stories through diverse voices and perspectives.

The podcast premiered in August last year with tennis great Serena Williams as a guest and it was an instant hit.

It topped Spotify charts in seven countries, including the U.S. and the U.K., and it won the top podcast award at the People's Choice awards last year.

"I loved digging my hands into the process, sitting up late at night in bed, working on the writing and creative. And I loved digging deep into meaningful conversation with my diverse and inspiring guests, laughing and learning with them, and with each of you listening," Meghan, the Duchess

of Sussex, said at the time.

The show also had as guests Mariah Carey, Trevor Noah, Mindy Kaling and Paris Hilton.

Tech companies have been cutting costs in a rough economic environment and Spotify has not been immune. Six months after announcing that it would cut 6% of its global workforce, or about 600 jobs, Spotify said last week that it was trimming another 200 jobs. The company said at the time that it

Park

First outside the US

SeaWorld launches its orca-free park in UAE

ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates, June 17, (AP): The US theme park chain SeaWorld, mired in controversy in recent years over its treatment of killer whales and other marine mammals, has opened a massive new aquatic life park in the United Arab Emirates, its first outside the United States.

The \$1.2 billion venture with state-owned developer Miral features the world's largest aquarium and a cylindrical LED screen. There are no orcas here, but the park houses animals like dolphins and seals, whose captivity and training for profit and entertainment purposes are also often criticized as unethical by animal rights advocacy groups.

The new facility, which opened to visitors last month, gives the Orlando, Florida-based company a foothold in a fast-growing international tourism destination and the opportunity to continue its rebranding after years of criticism and allegations of animal cruelty.

SeaWorld and Miral declined multiple interview requests from The Associated Press. They also did not answer written questions or grant AP journalists access to the park.

Scrutiny of SeaWorld reached a crescendo following the release of the 2013 documentary "Blackfish." The documentary focused on the life of Tilikum, a 12,000-pound orca that killed trainer Dawn Brancheau when he dragged her into a pool at SeaWorld Orlando in 2010. The film implied that orcas become more aggressive in captivity.

The film caused visitor numbers to plummet across SeaWorld's three parks in the United States. SeaWorld Entertainment Inc. later agreed to pay \$65 million to settle a lawsuit in which it was accused of misleading investors over the impact the documentary was having on its bottom line.

In the face of mounting criticism, SeaWorld halted its orca breeding program and live performances featuring the whales in 2016. That same year, it announced plans to build a park without orcas in Abu Dhabi in the UAE.

Rehabilitating

The company's promotional materials say it is committed to rescuing and rehabilitating animals, and that a full-time staff of veterinarians ensures they are well cared for. Last year, its Orlando theme park opened a facility to care for Florida manatees that were dying from starvation in their natural habitat. The company says it has raised \$17 million to support hundreds of research and conservation projects around the globe.

"By leveraging a fundamental SeaWorld design principle of putting animal well-being and care at the core of the design, SeaWorld Abu Dhabi is set to redefine the standards of excellence for marine life theme parks across the world," the company's chairman, Scott Ross, said in a statement.

The park is certified by the international brand of American Humane, which is behind the end-credit certifications that no animals were harmed in the making of films. The Association of Zoos and Aquariums, widely seen as the gold standard for humane certifications, has certified SeaWorld's US facilities, but the Abu Dhabi park has not submitted an application for accreditation, according to Jennifer DiNenna, director of accreditation at the AZA.

Steps taken since the "Blackfish" controversy have yet to silence some of SeaWorld's critics.

"SeaWorld is part of an industry built on the suffering of intelligent, social beings who are denied everything that's natural and important to them," said Jason Baker, senior vice president of international campaigns at People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, or PETA.

"In nature, dolphins live in large, complex social groups and swim vast distances every day. In captivity, they can only swim in endless circles inside tanks that, to them, are the equivalent of bathtubs."

During a scheduled inspection of SeaWorld Orlando last December, the U.S. Department of Agriculture cited the company for animal welfare violations after discovering a dolphin "actively bleeding" from "many deep rake marks," and excessive chlorine levels in the dolphin tanks.

There have been no reports of abuse at the newly opened Abu Dhabi park which did not answer questions about its treatment of dolphins.

"In the wild, if there is aggression between two animals, they can simply swim away into the open ocean," said John Jett, a former orca trainer at SeaWorld Orlando who spoke out against it in "Blackfish." "But in captivity, the animals are trapped, and what you find is dolphin-on-dolphin aggression that is manifested quite often in broken teeth and rakes up and down their bodies."

Captivity

At the same time, he says, such animals would be poor candidates for being released into the wild, as most are born in captivity and rely on humans to survive. Plans to release Lolita, a killer whale held captive at the Miami Seaquarium for more than a half-century, have raised fears among some of her former caregivers that she might not survive the ordeal.

For the United Arab Emirates, home to the futuristic city of Dubai, the world's tallest skyscraper, and the Louvre Abu Dhabi, the arrival of SeaWorld adds yet another major tourist attraction.

The partnership with Miral brings SeaWorld into a larger plan to transform Abu Dhabi's Yas Island into a theme park hub to rival Orlando. The island already boasts a Formula 1 circuit, a water park and a Warner Bros. theme park, and celebrities like Kevin Hart and Jason Momoa have been enlisted to promote it.

"It's a form of non-oil diversification and soft power," said Christopher Davidson, a former professor of Middle East politics at Durham University in Britain. "Association with big brands like this serves as a ready-made import to the UAE and will automatically translate into increased tourist numbers."

SeaWorld pays homage to Abu Dhabi's cultural heritage with a themed "realm" of traditional houses and sailboats evoking a simpler time before the discovery of oil, when the sparsely populated emirates largely relied on fishing and pearl-diving.

An in-house research facility will study aquatic life in the Arabian Gulf and support the conservation of local species, including the manatee-like endangered dugong.

Jett, the former orca trainer, acknowledges that companies like SeaWorld have a role to play in conservation, saying they've done "really good work" on animal rescue and rehabilitation.

"I wish they would focus more of their energy, expertise, and finances on taking a lead role in moving global policy and helping animals in the wild, rather than figuring out ways to keep them alive in captivity," he said.



Brancheau



John Simon, a teenager who had a bariatric surgery in 2022, walks along the hallway of his school in Los Angeles, Monday, March 13, 2023. (AP)



This aerial photo taken in February 2023 shows two wolf pups frolicking in the snow at Michigan's Isle Royale National Park. Gray wolves are thriving at Isle Royale National Park five years after authorities began a last-ditch attempt to prevent the species from dying out on the Lake Superior island chain, scientists said Wednesday, June 14. (AP)



Aguilar



Tuell

Discovery

Bronze Age sword found: A bronze sword made more than 3,000 years ago that is so well-preserved it "almost still shines" has been unearthed in Germany, officials say.

Bavaria's state office for the preservation of historical monuments says the sword, which is believed to date back to the end of the 14th century B.C. - the middle of the Bronze Age - was found during excavations last week in Noerdlingen, between Nuremberg and Stuttgart in southern Germany.

It has a bronze octagonal hilt and comes from a grave in which three people - a man, a woman and a boy - were buried in quick succession with bronze objects, the Bavarian office said in a statement this week. It is not yet clear whether the three were related to each other and, if so, how.

"The sword and the burial still need to be examined so that our archeologists can categorize this find more precisely," said the head of the office, Mathias Pfeil. "But we can already say that the state of preservation is extraordinary. A find like this is very rare."

It's unusual to find swords from the period, but they have emerged from burial mounds that were opened in the 19th century or as individual finds, the office said. (AP)

'Mummy' discovered: Archeologists have found a pre-Hispanic mummy surrounded by coca leaves on top of a hill in Peru's capital next to the practice field of a professional soccer club.

A team from The Associated Press viewed the skeleton with long black hair lying face up with its lower extremities tied with a rope braided from vines of vegetable origin. Stones surrounded the mummy buried one meter (three feet) down.

Miguel Aguilar, a professor of archeology at Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos, said the mummy was buried in a ritual that included coca leaves and seashells.

The burial was on top of a destroyed U-shaped clay temple, a characteristic of some pre-Hispanic buildings. The mummy has not yet been subjected to radiocarbon dating to determine its age, Aguilar said.

He said old fly eggs were found next to the male skeleton, leading them to believe the body was exposed for at least several days before being covered with dirt.

It was found in Rimac, a district separated by a river of the same name from the oldest part of Lima. Aguilar also heads the Historical and Cultural Center of the Municipality of Rimac.

Pieter Van Dalen, a professor at Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos who is an expert on archeology of the Peruvian coast but was not involved in the project, said the rope binding the lower extremities of the mummy is an example of the pattern seen in ceremonies. He cited another mummy found in a different area of Lima whose body was also tied with vegetable ropes.

Health

'It's a biologically driven disease'

Obese teens turning to surgery

NEW YORK, June 17, (AP): John Simon III was a hungry baby, a "chunky" toddler and a chubby little boy, his mother said. But by age 14, his weight had soared to 430 pounds and was a life-threatening medical condition.

Nine months after weight-loss surgery that removed a portion of his stomach, John has lost about 150 pounds, boosting his health - and his hopes for the future.

"It was like a whole new start," said John, who will start high school in California this fall.

In Minnesota, Edward Kent was diagnosed with fatty liver disease. The 6-foot, 300-pound high school sophomore started using the obesity drug Wegovy in January - just a month after federal regulators approved it for children 12 and older - and has lost 40 pounds.

"It's a huge deal and it will affect him for the rest of his life," said his mother, Dr. Barbara Van Eeckhout, an obstetrician-gynecologist. "This is about his health."

John and Edward are among a small but growing group of young teens turning to treatments like body-altering surgery and new drugs that rewire metabolism to lose large amounts of weight. Critics urge caution at intervening so early, but the kids and their parents say the aggressive - and often costly - measures are necessary options after years of ineffective diet and exercise programs.

"John has tried with all of his might," said his mother, Karen Tillman, 46, an accountant. "It's not because he couldn't try. It was getting harder and harder."

Eighty percent of adolescents with excess weight carry it into adulthood, with potentially dire consequences for their health and longevity. Obesity was first classified as a complex, chronic disease a decade ago by the American Medical Association, but meaningful treatments have lagged far behind, said Aaron Kelly, co-director of the Center for Pediatric Obesity Medicine at the University of Minnesota.

"It's a biologically driven disease. It's not a behavioral disease," Kelly said. "We need to get on it early. Don't wait until later in life because it's too late."

In January, the American Academy of Pediatrics issued guidelines that call for considering obesity drugs for kids as young as 12 and surgery for those

as young as 13. The recommendations were immediately controversial.

Mental Health America, an advocacy group, called them "dangerous" and "disheartening," saying they would increase eating disorders and perpetuate harmful stigma regarding weight. Some on social media accused doctors and parents of taking the easy way out, blaming things like junk food or video games - or accusing parents of "child abuse."

Dr. David Ludwig, an endocrinologist and researcher at Boston Children's Hospital, warned that the "justified excitement" over new weight-loss medications shouldn't eclipse non-drug options.

"Especially for children, diet and exercise must remain at the forefront of obesity prevention and treatment," he wrote in JAMA.

But medical experts who treat kids with severe obesity say research is clear: Diet and exercise alone aren't enough. More than 240 diseases are associated with excess weight - including liver problems, diabetes and inflammation - and the signs show up early, said Dr. Janey Pratt, a Stanford University surgeon who performed surgery on John Simon.

Exercise

"It's already affecting major organs by the time they get to me," Pratt said. "You're dealing with a train that's headed over a cliff."

Starting in elementary school, John struggled with joint pain, shortness of breath and sleep apnea so severe that, at age 12, he needed coffee to stay awake. He developed anxiety triggered by daily bullying at school and was hospitalized as a sixth grader for two months with post-traumatic stress disorder.

"They call me names, hit me, push me, all of the above," John said. "It was a lot of hardship I had to go through."

He tried diets and exercise, losing up to 40 pounds. But intense food cravings meant the weight always came back - plus more. By the time John met Dr. Callum Rowe, a pediatric resident in a public health clinic at Children's Hospital, Los Angeles, John had a body mass index of 75. It was way off of the charts that measure body-mass index, or BMI, which is regarded as a flawed tool but widely used by doctors

to screen for obesity.

John, who has a shy smile and a soft voice, asked for help. He said he wanted to go on a "journey to wellness," Rowe recalled.

"I found that very profound for a 13-year-old. He's an old soul to have that level of insight about what I can do to change my situation?" said Rowe, who referred John to the Stanford Medicine Children's Health weight-loss program.

It meant traveling to Palo Alto, 350 miles north, but Karen Tillman said she was ready to do anything.

"His weight was just going up by the minute," she said.

Sign-ups for the Stanford surgery program have doubled since the release of the AAP guidelines, Pratt said. It's among the busiest sites in the U.S., performing more than 50 of the 2,000 pediatric weight-loss surgeries logged each year.

John was fortunate; fewer than 1% of children who qualify for metabolic surgery go through with the procedure. Doctors can be reluctant to refer, and families either don't know it's an option or it costs too much, experts said. Fees run upwards of \$20,000 and can be as much as \$100,000.

John's surgery was covered by Medi-Cal, California's Medicaid program, which paid for 47 operations for kids ages 11 to 17 last year, according to state health records. Across the U.S., Medicaid coverage of weight-loss surgery for kids varies significantly by state.

On average, children who receive weight-loss surgery lose about a quarter to a third of their body weight, studies show. But about 25% of kids regain the pounds and need further treatment, Pratt said.

With Wegovy, adolescents lost about 16% of their body mass over nearly 16 months in a clinical trial. Those who take obesity drugs - requests for which have soared at Stanford and nationwide - regain weight once they stop, research shows. Some taking the drugs see potentially serious side effects like gallstones and inflammation of the pancreas.

Edward Kent has responded well to the obesity medication, which has turned off his ravenous appetite "like a light switch," his mother said. At a recent exam, Edward's liver function had returned to normal.

The team of excavators worked the first months of this year collecting up to eight tons of garbage that covered the top of the hill, which is next to the training field and headquarters for the Sporting Cristal soccer club. Police also removed homeless people and drug addicts who camp out around the hill.

The hill, which has remains of ancient mud walls, was a "huaca," a Quechua word meaning oracle or sacred place. There are more than 400 huacas in Lima, according to the Ministry of Culture.

Mummies and other pre-Hispanic remains have been found in unusual places in

the city. Workers installing natural gas lines or water mains have found mummies, sometimes children, inside large clay vessels.

There are even cases of discoveries by residents, such as Hipólito Tica, who found three pre-Hispanic mummies in a hole in the patio of his house. He kept quiet about them for a quarter century, until in 2022 they were removed by archaeologists with permission from Peru's Ministry of Culture. (AP)

Gray wolf released into wild: A female Mexican gray wolf that a group of schoolchildren nicknamed Asha has been returned to the wilds of Arizona after she was found wandering in northern New Mexico outside of a zone set up for the recovery of her subspecies, the US Fish and Wildlife Service said.

The wolf was headed north into the southern Rocky Mountains of New Mexico in January when the wildlife service captured her outside the recovery area. The Fish and Wildlife Service says it does not anthropomorphize wild animals by using human or pet names favored by the public and nongovernmental groups and calls her Female Wolf 2745.

"Wolves like Asha have shown, time and time again, that this purely political boundary is ecologically irrelevant," said Cyndi Tuell, Arizona and New Mexico director of the nongovernmental Western Watersheds.

Tuell and other environmentalists say the zone is arbitrary and that the animals should be able to roam freely, potentially introducing them to other wolves for breeding and increase their genetic diversity, conservationists insist. (AP)



People enjoy riding on a roller coaster at the SeaWorld on Yas Island in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, on May 26, 2023. It's the first venture outside the United States for the theme park chain, which had been mired in controversy in recent years over the treatment of captive killer whales. The \$1.2 billion Abu Dhabi venture with state-owned developer Miral features the world's largest aquarium and cylindrical LED screen, as well as state-of-the-art facilities housing dolphins, seals, and other animals. (AP)

SPORTS

Bangladesh 'trounce' Afghanistan by 546 runs for biggest ever Test victory

Najmul hits hundreds in each innings

MIRPUR, Bangladesh, June 17, (AP): Bangladesh beat Afghanistan by 546 runs on Saturday to record its biggest ever test victory in terms of runs.

It's the third biggest victory in test cricket history in terms of runs, and Bangladesh appeared to do it easily.

Fast bowler Taskin Ahmed claimed career-best figures of 4-37 as Afghanistan was dismissed for 115 on Day 4 after being set a daunting target of 662.

Najmul Hossain helped the hosts set the tone for the victory with hundreds in each innings, becoming the second Bangladesh batter to achieve that milestone.

Bangladesh's biggest previous win was by 226 runs against Zimbabwe in 2005. The margin in Mirpur was lower only than England's 675-run win over Australia in 1928 and Australia's 562-run win over England at The Oval in 1934.

Bangladesh's pace attack dominated at the ground which has tended to assist spin in the past. As well as the wickets tumbling, Afghanistan had to deal with two batters being unable to continue their innings after being hit by rising deliveries - including last batter Zahir Khan.

"It was amazing to see the way bowlers responded in this heat," Liton Das said after picking up a victory on his captaincy debut.

"Now we can say we have a quality pace attack. The spinners also bowled well. It was a good team game but credit to Najmul Hossain, Zakir and Mominul. Najmul got two centuries which was not easy in this heat."

Taskin led the three-pronged pace attack, a rarity for Bangladesh at home, which claimed 14 wickets in the match.

Bangladesh broke through in the third over on Day 4 when Nasir Jamal nicked to the wicketkeeper as fast bowler Ebadot Hossain (1-22) straightened one off the pitch to take the outside edge. Nasir added just one to his overnight tally to be out on 6.



Najmul

CRICKET

Amid the resistance of Rahmat Shah, who made a team-high 30, Bangladesh's fast bowlers kept striking with left-arm paceman Shoriful Islam getting a double breakthrough in consecutive overs.

Shoriful, who returned figures of 3-28, had Afsar Zazi (6) caught at gully with a short-length delivery and then dismissed Bahir Shah (7), who was substituted in when skipper Hashmatullah Shahidi (13) was unable to continue after being hit by a Taskin bouncer on Day 3.

Taskin then got into the act, breaking the defense of Rahmat, who was caught behind with Afghanistan on 91-6.

He also got the better of Karim Janat (18) and Yamin Ahmadzai (1) to stand on the brink of his first five-wicket haul in an innings, but drama unfolded as last batter Zahir Khan survived twice in consecutive deliveries.

Firstly, he survived an appeal for caught behind when DRS showed no evidence of an edge, and then the next delivery rattled his stumps but was called a no-ball.

Two balls later, he was hit on the elbow while trying



Australia's Travis Head plays a shot during day two of the first Ashes Test cricket match between England and Australia at Edgbaston, Birmingham, England. (AP)

to duck a short ball and had to retire hurt.

"It didn't go our way from the start of the match but we had some positives," Afghanistan captain Hashmatullah said. "The thing was we played after a long break in tests. We will learn much more as we play test cricket."

Bangladesh was dismissed for 382 runs in its first innings, after a counterattacking 146 by Najmul. The hosts decided against enforcing the follow-on when Afghanistan, playing its first test since 2021, was dismissed for 146 in reply.

Najmul posted 124 in the second innings, making him the second Bangladeshi batter to hit centuries in each innings of a test. Mominul Haque ended a two-year century drought with 121 not out, helping his side reach 425-4 before declaring and setting Afghanistan an improbable 662-run target.

The teams will play three ODIs and two T20s in the next month.

Denver wraps up 1st offseason program under Payton

Broncos aspire to match Nuggets, Avs success

ENGLEWOOD, Colo., June 17, (AP) — The Denver Broncos wrapped up their first offseason program under head coach Sean Payton in relative isolation about 20 miles south of the Nuggets' championship celebration that drew tens of thousands of revelers downtown.

Rejecting the "field day" finishes that some of his predecessors preferred, Payton ran a spirited indoor practice before dismissing his players for their five-week summer break.

"Definitely seeing another team in the same city win it all" is an inspiration, veteran safety Kareem Jackson said. "Those guys had a great year. It's definitely encouraging for us. We definitely want to do the same thing."

The Nuggets dispatched the Miami Heat in five games in the NBA Finals, winning the franchise's first championship in 47 years in the league.

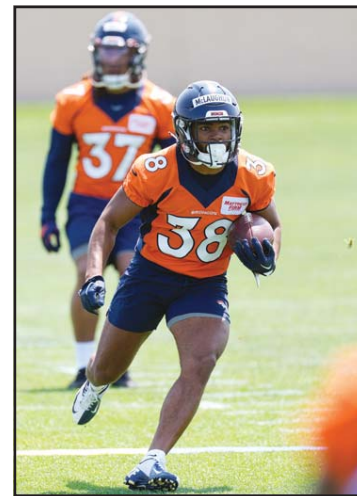
Their fellow Ball Arena tenants won the Stanley Cup last summer when the Colorado Avalanche topped Tampa Bay in six games.

That makes Denver the only city that's celebrated an NBA, NHL and NFL champion since 2015, although the Broncos haven't made the playoffs since winning Super Bowl 50 seven years ago.

Since beating Carolina 24-10 in Hall of Famer Peyton Manning's final game, the Broncos have churned through 13 starting quarterbacks and Payton is their fifth head coach since Gary Kubiak stepped away a year after winning it all.

Payton was a courtside mainstay during the Nuggets' playoff run along with Manning and current quarterback Russell Wilson, and the coach donned a Nuggets visor on Thursday as an homage to the NBA champions.

"Well, the first thing that I'm going to tell you is I have a big dome, so it clearly looks small on my head," Payton said on an early morning



Denver Broncos running back Jaleel McLaughlin takes part in drills during NFL football practice in Centennial, Colo. (AP)

Zoom call accommodating the reporters covering the basketball parade.

"If I showed you the back of it, you would see that I'm on the last button. (Chief Communications Officer) Patrick Smyth had this thing on my desk this morning at 6 a.m. because we knew the parade was taking place."

"Obviously, there is a lot of excitement in the city. It was the perfect time to show our support," Payton added. "I know that the fans are excited. We are proud of the Nuggets organization. ... Those guys will walk together forever. The parade is the culmination of so much work by so many different people. It's amazing. It's great for them to experience it today, and we'd like to be there."

Payton may not have taken it easy on his team this week by letting them goof around with dunk tanks and golf challenges as the Broncos have done on the final day of their mandatory minicamps in recent years. But unlike his predecessor Nathaniel

Hackett, Payton took it easy on them this offseason with designs on a more rugged training camp.

Hackett operated what came to be known as "Camp Cupcake" last summer with walkthroughs, jog-throughs and no-contact days dominating the schedule in hopes of maintaining the team's health.

It backfired as the Broncos lost a slew of players during a 5-12 debacle that cost Hackett his job before the season was over.

FOOTBALL

Payton has scoffed at the notion of ditching 7-on-7 drills in training camp or holding starters out of preseason games as Hackett did, saying players need to get their bodies calloused at practice and participate in the preseason to really get ready for the grinds of the 17-game schedule.

Jackson, who's entering his 14th NFL season, said he's never worked under a head coach more focused on strength and conditioning as a foundation.

"A lot of the head coaches have so much other stuff going on" that they don't get involved with the training, Jackson said. "But you know, just seeing how involved he is with it and how much he harps on it in meetings and things like that, I think it's pretty amazing."

Payton's parting message to his players was not to stray too far from their conditioning during vacation lest they fall out of shape by the time the real evaluation begins in late July.

"I'm anxious to see what kind of team we have," Payton said. "There are a lot of things that can dictate that, especially in the first four weeks of the season. To the conditioning level, to the strength, to the running, and to the offseason program, I like where we are at now."



New Orleans Saints wide receiver Kirk Merritt (33) runs through drills at the team's NFL football minicamp in Metairie, La. (AP)

Fast bowler Afridi set to return to Test cricket

Pakistan doesn't have approval of govt 'yet' to go to Cricket World Cup in India

ISLAMABAD, June 17, (AP) — Pakistan doesn't have approval from its government yet to compete in the Cricket World Cup in India in October.

Cricketer board chairman Najam Sethi said on Friday he has written to the International Cricket Council to say the PCB cannot unilaterally approve the World

Cup draft schedule which has the marquee match between Pakistan and India at Ahmedabad on Oct. 15.

"We have written to the ICC that we can't give approval or disapproval to this (schedule)," Sethi said in Lahore.

"It's our government who has to decide, just like when it comes to India, it's their government that decides when they go to play. There is no point asking us if we will play in Ahmedabad."

"When the time comes, first, the government will decide whether we are going or not, then the government decides where we will play (the matches). Our decision will rest on these two important conditions."

Pakistan is also down to play in Hyderabad, Bangalore, Chennai and Kolkata.

"When I discussed this issue with the prime minister (Shahbaz Sharif), he hasn't yet decided about this (participation in the World Cup), so it's premature to say anything," Sethi said.

The neighboring countries haven't played any bilateral cricket series for more than a decade for political reasons. They have regularly met in ICC tournaments, though. The last time Pakistan toured India was in 2016 for the T20 World Cup.

India has already said it will not travel to Pakistan for the Asia Cup in August-September. The Asia Cricket Council on Thursday approved Pakistan's proposal to host four games and Sri Lanka to stage nine games.

Shaheen Shah Afridi is set to return to test cricket after being included in Pakistan's squad for next month's two-test series against Sri Lanka.

CRICKET

The 23-year-old left-arm fast bowler sustained a knee injury during a test in Sri Lanka in July last year and has since missed home test series against England and New Zealand.

"I dearly missed test cricket and it was tough for me to be away from this format," Afridi said Saturday. "After missing our entire home season because of the injury, I'm eager to make an impactful comeback in the same country and complete a century of wickets in test cricket."

"I want to thank my fans who have provided me support in tough times and I am ready for the challenges ahead."

Afridi has 99 wickets in

25 test matches since making his test debut in 2018.

The Pakistan Cricket Board said the itinerary for the two test matches will be announced by Sri Lanka Cricket in due course, but a short camp will be organized at Karachi from July 3.

Pakistan's 16-member squad includes uncapped 21-year-old batter Mohammad Huraire and allrounder Aamir Jamal. Selectors kept faith in former captain Sarfaraz Ahmed as the second wicketkeeper option.

Huraire has been Pakistan's leading run-scorer over the last two seasons in domestic first-class cricket. He smashed 1,024 runs with four centuries and two half-centuries in the last season and led his team, Northern, to its maiden first-class title in the Quaid-e-Azam Trophy.

Huraire became Pakistan's second-youngest batter to score a first-class triple century behind legendary Javed Miandad when he made 311 against Baluchistan during the 2021-22 season.

The 27-year-old Jamal took 31 wickets with his fast bowling in the last domestic season, including two five-wicket hauls. He was also the leading wicket-taker in the recent six-match ODI series while representing Pakistan Shaheens against Zimbabwe Select with 16 dismissals.

Jamal came into the spotlight when he defended 15 runs against England in his Twenty20 debut last year and earned Pakistan a thrilling six-run victory.

The series will be the first assignment for former South Africa international Morne Morkel as Pakistan's bowling coach after he was appointed on a six-month contract.

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Top-ranked team to face Crusaders in all-New Zealand final

Chiefs beat Brumbies in thrilling Super Rugby semifinals

HAMILTON, New Zealand, June 17, (AP) — The top-ranked Chiefs will play 11-time champions the Crusaders in an all-New Zealand final in the Super Rugby Pacific after beating the ACT Brumbies 19-6 Saturday.

All the points in the semi-final had come from penalty goals, four to Damian McKenzie for the Chiefs and two by Noah Lolesio for the Brumbies, until the veteran All Blacks lock Brodie Retallick scored the only try in the 77th minute.

Until then, the Brumbies' defense had held on magnificently against steadily increasing pressure from the Chiefs. The Brumbies still were in the match when they trailed 9-6 after 57 minutes, and at 12-6 when McKenzie struck a magnificent goal from half-way.

The decisive moment came when the Chiefs' replacement flyhalf Josh Ioane fielded a short clearing kick by the Brumbies and McKenzie sliced through a rare gap in the defense. He passed wide to winger Shaun Stevenson and when play came back to the goalline, Retallick was there to pick the ball up and score.

"I feel like we've won in every way possible this season and that was just a helluva grind against a good Brumbies team," Chiefs captain Brad Weber said. "It took 77 minutes and that's when your big-time players step up."

"Damian through the middle and then Guzzler (Retallick) does what he does best. He's still going at the 80th minute just as he is in the first minute. He's got a helluva engine on him."

The match began in heavy rain and continued on a wet field which dictated the style of play. It was in total contrast to the first semifinal in Christchurch on Friday, when the Crusaders beat the Blues 52-15.

The two sides booted the ball more than usual Saturday, with 30 kicks in play in the first 15 minutes alone. As the rain stopped, both sides carried and recycled the ball continually and with great precision in the conditions, 18 minutes elapsing before the first handling error occurred.

Both defenses were tested throughout the 80 minutes and the fact that the only try of the match didn't come until almost fulltime showed just how accurate and determined they were.

There were a few moments late in the second half that turned the match in the Chiefs' favor. Trailing 9-6, the Brumbies decided to kick for touch from a penalty in the 64th minute and backrower Pita Gus Sowakula produced a brilliant play to disrupt the Brumbies' lineup drive.

Had they kicked for goal from close range, the Brumbies might have tied the scores and made the last 15 minutes more tense for the Chiefs. But the home side began to gain momentum from that incident and it led to Retallick's late try.

"We knew it was going to be a helluva of a wrestle. We said we were going to come over here and throw everything at it and we did," Brumbies captain Nic White said. "They held on, we held on and it was always going to come down to one moment."

RUGBY

"They're a very good side but we did everything we could out there."

The Chiefs now host the Crusaders in Hamilton next Saturday. They last won the Super Rugby title when they beat the Brumbies at the same venue in 2013.

The Crusaders have won the last six titles in various formats and the final between the two best teams after the regular season is a promoter's dream.

"I couldn't ask for anything more than (a home final) and I'm stoked that it's against the Crusaders too," Weber said. "They've been the benchmark for about 90 percent of my career and if you want to be the best, you have to beat the best."

Becky to WCup with foot injury

WASHINGTON, June 17, (AP) — U.S. national team captain Becky Sauerbrunn has a right foot injury that will keep her out of the Women's World Cup next month.

Sauerbrunn took to social media on Friday night, saying: "Heartbroken isn't even the half of it."

"I had hoped and worked and hoped some more to make it back in time to help lead the team at this World Cup, but after lots of discussion, unfortunately, there's just too much variability in my return to play timeline," she wrote. "So, I'll be home, working as hard as I can to get back on the field as quickly as I can."

The U.S. women's national team is expected to unveil its 23-player roster for the World Cup next week. The two-time defending World Cup champions will play a send-off match against Wales in San Jose on July 9 before departing for the tournament, co-hosted by Australia and New Zealand.

The United States, winner of four World Cups overall, opens the World Cup with a match against Vietnam on July 22 in Auckland.

The loss of Sauerbrunn is a blow to the team. The 38-year-old defender is considered among the top players in the world at center back and anchored the backbone for the World Cup champions in 2015 and 2019.

Turner powers Red Sox past Yanks

Milwaukee takes over top spot in NL Central



Philadelphia Phillies center fielder Cristian Pache catches a line drive by Oakland Athletics' Aledmys Diaz during the seventh inning of a baseball game in Oakland, Calif. (AP)

BOSTON, June 17, (AP): Justin Turner had a grand slam, a two-run home run and a double, Masataka Yoshida drove in three runs and the Boston Red Sox routed the New York Yankees 15-5 on Friday night.

Turner tied his career high with six RBIs and scored three runs. Boston earned its third victory in four meetings with its rival after winning two of three during last week's series in New York. Yoshida had four hits. Boston's 15 runs and 17 hits marked season highs, and the Yankees tied their season high for runs allowed.

Tanner Houck gave up one run and four hits, with two strikeouts and a walk before leaving in the fifth after being struck in the face by a line drive by Kyle Higashioka. The team announced he suffered a facial contusion.

Houck was replaced by Joe Jacques (1-0), who gave up three runs over two innings.

Aaron Judge missed his 10th game since sprained his right toe. Yankees starter Domingo Germán (4-4) was chased in the third inning. He gave up seven runs while allowing seven hits, with two walks and a wild pitch.

Diamondbacks 5, Guardians 1
In Phoenix, Zac Gallen struck out seven in six effective innings and Arizona ended a three-game losing streak by beating Cleveland.

The Diamondbacks bounced back from losing three of four to Philadelphia with a solid all-around game to kick off Cleveland's first series at Chase Field since 2017.

Gallen (8-2) was sharp coming off a rare shaky start, giving up a solo homer to José Ramírez in the fourth inning and four singles.

Arizona's offense took advantage of five walks issued by last-minute Cleveland starter Touki Toussaint (0-1) to take an early lead. The Diamondbacks kept tacking on runs, finishing with five players who had an RBI and 11 hits.

Giants 7, Dodgers 5, 11 innings
In Los Angeles, Brandon Crawford singled in the go-ahead run in the 11th inning and San Francisco rallied to beat Los Angeles after getting no-hit for six innings by Emmet Sheehan in his debut in the major leagues.

The Dodgers' bullpen imploded once again, giving up five runs after Sheehan departed. Alex Vesia (0-4) was the loser.

The Giants have won five in a row and eight of 11. They are 20-9 since May 15.

Tyler Rogers (3-2) got the win with one hit in one inning of relief. Jakob Junis got the last three outs for his first save.

Brewers 5, Pirates 4
In Milwaukee, Joey Wiemer homered and Blake Perkins drove in two runs as Milwaukee beat Pittsburgh to stop a six-game losing streak and take over first place in the NL Central.

Brewers manager Craig Counsell tried to have the game end on a pitch clock violation with the bases loaded in the ninth when Jason Delay stepped out with an 0-2 count and about 5 seconds left on the timer. Plate umpire Ramon DeJesus told Counsell that he had

MLB Results/Standings

WASHINGTON, June 17, (AP): Results and standings from the MLB games on Friday.			
Chicago Cubs	10	Baltimore	3
Boston	15	NY Yankees	5
Detroit	7	Minnesota	1
Cincinnati	2	Houston	1
Toronto	2	Texas	1
LA Angels	3	Kansas City	0
Philadelphia	6	Oakland	1
Arizona	5	Cleveland	1
Tampa Bay	6	San Diego	2
Seattle	3	Chicago W. Sox	2
NY Mets	6	St. Louis	1
Atlanta	8	Colorado	1
Miami	6	Washington	5
Milwaukee	5	Pittsburgh	4
San Francisco	7	LA Dodgers	11 inn 5

American League				
East Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Tampa Bay	51	22	.699	—
Baltimore	43	26	.623	6
New York	39	31	.557	10-1/2
Toronto	39	32	.549	11
Boston	35	35	.500	14-1/2
Central Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Minnesota	35	35	.500	—
Cleveland	32	37	.464	2-1/2
Detroit	29	39	.426	5
Chicago	30	41	.423	5-1/2
Kansas City	18	51	.261	16-1/2
West Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Texas	42	27	.609	—
Houston	39	31	.557	3-1/2
Los Angeles	40	32	.556	3-1/2
Seattle	34	34	.500	7-1/2
Oakland	19	53	.264	24-1/2

National League				
East Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Atlanta	44	26	.629	—
Miami	39	31	.557	5
Philadelphia	36	34	.514	8
New York	33	36	.478	10-1/2
Washington	27	41	.397	16
Central Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Milwaukee	35	24	.597	—
Cincinnati	35	35	.500	-1/2
Pittsburgh	34	34	.500	-1/2
Chicago	32	37	.464	3
St. Louis	27	43	.386	8-1/2
West Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Arizona	42	28	.600	—
Los Angeles	39	31	.557	3
San Francisco	37	32	.536	4-1/2
San Diego	33	36	.478	8-1/2
Colorado	29	43	.403	14

ordered the clock reset before Delay left the batter's box.

Devin Williams picked up his 11th save in 12 chances as Milwaukee (35-34) moved a half-game ahead of the Reds (35-35) and Pirates (34-34).

Pittsburgh starter Rich Hill (6-6) allowed four runs, three earned, and three hits in five innings with six walks, one shy of his career high.

Milwaukee's Julio Teheran (2-2) allowed two runs and one hit in six innings, a solo home run by Carlos Santana in the second. Teheran, who pitched in the minors in 2022, has a 1.78 ERA in five starts.

Mets 6, Cardinals 1
In New York, Tylor Megill won for the first time in almost a month, slumping Daniel Vogelbach homered in his return to the lineup and New beat skidding St. Louis.

Brett Baty hit a two-run double off Miles Mikolas in a three-run first inning, and Tommy Pham added a pair of two-out RBI singles against his former team as the Mets won their second straight after losing nine of 10.

Willson Contreras homered for the Cardinals (27-43), who have dropped six in a row and 13 of 16. Mikolas (4-4) lost his third consecutive start after winning his previous four decisions. He permitted six runs and eight hits in six innings.

Megill (6-4) allowed four hits in six

innings, striking out seven and walking none for his first victory since May 18 against Tampa Bay.

Marlins 6, Nationals 5
In Washington, Luis Arraez broke out of an 0-for-15 slide with a 5-for-5 night that included three RBIs, raising his major league-leading batting from .378 to .390 and helping Miami beat Washington.

Arraez hit a two-run homer in the second, ending a 52-game homerless streak dating to April 11.

Garrett Cooper hit a tiebreaking single in the eighth inning off Carl Edwards Jr. (1-3), and the Marlins won for the 10th time in 13 games.

Andrew Nardi (4-1) allowed one hit in 1 2/3 scoreless innings, and A.J. Puk earned his eighth save in nine chances.

Lane Thomas had his seventh lead-off homer for Washington. Jeimer Candelario tied the Nationals record with three doubles.

Braves 8, Rockies 1
In Atlanta, Travis d'Arnaud hit two massive homers and Atlanta won for the 11th time in 13 games.

D'Arnaud hit a two-run shot in the first for the 100th homer of his career to stake Jared Shuster to a 3-0 lead. He added another two-run homer in the third.

Eddie Rosario also hit a two-run shot for the Braves to make it 7-0 in the fourth.

Shuster (4-2) went 5 2/3 innings for the win, giving up five hits with three walks while surrendering the only Rockies run.

Limet (1-4) went four innings for Colorado, allowing all eight Atlanta runs on five hits and five walks.

Reds 2, Astros 1
In Houston, rookie Andrew Abbott had another scoreless outing and Tyler Stephenson homered among his two hits to help Cincinnati beat Houston.

Abbott (3-0) allowed four hits in six innings to become the first MLB pitcher since 1893 when the mound was moved to its current distance to open his career with three consecutive scoreless starts of at least five innings. Alexis Diaz picked up his 18th save.

Stephenson hit his fifth homer of the season off J.P. France (2-2) with one out in the seventh to put the Reds up 1-0.

Will Benson walked before scoring on a two-out double by Kevin Newman. The double banged off the wall in left field and skidded away from left fielder Mauricio Dubón, allowing Benson to slide in safely just ahead of the tag.

The Astros got on the scoreboard

when José Abreu scored on a grounder by Jeremy Peña.

Tigers 7, Twins 1
In Minneapolis, Matt Vierling hit two solo homers, Javier Báez had a three-run shot that capped a five-run third inning and Detroit beat Minnesota.

Detroit, which hasn't won a season series against the AL Central-leading Twins since 2016, entered the series having lost 13 of 15. The Tigers have won the first two games by a combined 15-5 score.

Detroit's Jonathan Schoop added an RBI single against his former team. Alex Kirilloff hit his fourth homer for Minnesota.

Mason Englert (2-2) got the victory with two innings in relief of opener Will Vest. Six Tigers pitchers combined to allow seven hits and strikeout 10.

Twins right-hander Joe Ryan (7-4) allowed a season-high six runs in seven innings, giving up seven hits and striking out seven.

Blue Jays 2, Rangers 1
In Arlington, Danny Jansen homered for the third time in two games, Kevin Gausman worked six innings to win his fourth consecutive decision and Toronto beat slumping AL West-leading Texas.

Jansen hit a two-run homer in the fifth off Martín Pérez (6-3).

Gausman (6-3) struck out four to increase his AL-high total to 121 while allowing one run and four hits over six innings. Jordan Romano, the third Blue Jays reliever, got four outs for his 20th save in 23 chances.

BASEBALL

Leody Taveras homered leading off the third for the Rangers (42-27), who lost for the seventh time in nine games. It was the No. 9 hitter's seventh homer this season, all in 39 games since the start of May.

Cubs 10, Orioles 3
In Chicago, Christopher Morel homered and drove in three runs, and Chicago beat Baltimore for its fourth straight win.

Dansby Swanson and Miguel Amaya also connected for Chicago, which broke open a close game with six runs in the sixth inning. Nico Hoerner had two hits and two RBIs, and Kyle Hendricks (2-2) pitched five effective innings for his second straight victory.

Ryan O'Hearn had three hits for Baltimore, which had won six of seven. Austin Hays collected two hits and

two RBIs and Cole Irvin took the loss.

Angels 3, Royals 0
In Kansas City, Brandon Drury drove in two runs, Patrick Sandoval threw seven innings and Los Angeles handed Kansas City its 10th straight loss.

Sandoval (4-6) didn't retire the Royals in order until he struck out the side in the seventh. He gave up four hits, four walks and hit a batter, and had six strikeouts. Sam Bachman pitched the final two innings his first save.

Royals starter Brady Singer (4-6) allowed two runs on eight hits in 5 1/3 innings, walking two and striking out five. Kansas City was shut out for the ninth time this season.

Phillies 6, Athletics 1
In Oakland, Kyle Schwarber homered on the first pitch of the game, J.T. Realmuto and Alec Bohm also went deep and Philadelphia beat the Oakland for its fourth straight victory.

Oakland lost its third in a row. At 19-53, the A's are just above Kansas City (18-51) for worst record in the major leagues.

Taijuan Walker (7-3) allowed one run and seven hits in a season-high eight innings. He walked none and tied a season high with eight strikeouts as the Phillies won for the 11th time in 13 games.

JP Sears (1-4) gave up four runs and four hits in seven innings, including three home runs. He has allowed 17 home runs this season.

Mariners 3, White Sox 2
In Seattle, Teoscar Hernández hit a go-ahead home run in the seventh inning, rookie Bryan Woo struck out nine and Seattle beat Chicago for its third victory in four games.

Four Seattle pitchers combined to walk none and strike out 16, including Luis Robert four times and Jake Burger and Andrew Vaughn three times each. The White Sox have struck out 32 times in their last two games, sliding to their sixth loss in eight games.

Hernández broke a 2-2 tie against Tanner Banks (0-1), driving a fastball 432 feet to center.

Gavi Sheets homered in the fifth to put Chicago ahead and Andrew Benintendi chased Woo with a home run in the sixth that put the White Sox ahead 2-1.

Woo allowed three hits, combining with Matt Brash (4-3), Andrés Muñoz and Paul Sewald on a five-hitter. Sewald struck out two in a perfect ninth for his 13th save in 14 chances.

Rays 6, Padres 2
In San Diego, Shane Bieber pitched into the seventh inning to get his major league-leading 11th win, Randy Arozarena homered and drove in four runs, and Tampa Bay beat San Diego.

Tampa Bay is now 51-22 (.699 winning percentage) - easily the best record in baseball, seven wins more than the Atlanta Braves. The Rays have won 11 of their last 14 games and are 15-7 in interleague play.

McClanahan (11-1) allowed just one run and three hits with five strike outs in 6 2/3 innings. Reliever Pete Fairbanks earned his seventh save.

The Rays teed off on San Diego starter Yu Darvish (5-5), who gave up six runs, eight hits - including two home runs - in five innings. He struck out five.

Nelson Cruz hit a solo homer and Xander Bogaerts had an RBI double for the Padres.



Seattle Mariners' Teoscar Hernandez hits an RBI double against the Chicago White Sox during the fifth inning of a baseball game in Seattle. (AP)



United States' Frances Tiafoe returns the ball to Hungary's Marton Fucsovics during a semi-final match of the Stuttgart Open, in Stuttgart, Germany. Tiafoe won 6-3, 7-6 (11). Tiafoe will play Jan-Lennard Struff in Sunday's final after the home crowd cheered the German player past Hubert Hurkacz 3-6, 6-3, 6-3. (AP)

Sports

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Giroud, Kane extend scoring records, France & England win Euro qualifiers

Nike sticks with star

Morant 'suspended' 25 games by league

WASHINGTON, June 17, (AP): Memphis guard Ja Morant has been suspended 25 games by the NBA - his second ban in four months - and Commissioner Adam Silver made clear Friday the star must stop his "alarming" habit of flashing guns on social media.

The suspension for the upcoming season comes a month after a second video of Morant flashing a handgun was streamed online. The video of Morant showing a gun while sitting in the passenger seat of a car was posted after his eight-game suspension in March for a video in which he flashed a handgun in a Denver-area strip club.

Morant is due to make around \$33.5 million this season. He now stands to lose just over \$300,000 per game - or approximately \$7.5 million. He also will have to adhere to certain conditions before being reinstated, the



Morant

NBA said.

Silver made clear the two-time All-Star's decision-making is "disconcerting."

The league said Morant "will be ineligible to participate in any public league or team activities, including preseason games" during his suspension.

The Grizzlies suspended Morant indefinitely from team activities after the second video surfaced, and they said Friday they respect the punishment for this "latest episode."

Morant apologized again Friday to the league, the Grizzlies, his teammates and the city of Memphis in a statement issued through his representatives. He specifically told Silver, Grizzlies owner Robert Pera and Memphis general manager Zach Kleiman he is sorry.

The guard with his own signature Nike shoe also apologized to children who look up to him for failing them as a role model. Morant made clear he's had time to reflect and understands the hurt he might have caused.

Morant said he'll keep working on both his mental health and decision-making.

BASKETBALL

On May 24, police conducted a welfare check on Morant and said he was "fine" after cryptic messages appeared on the guard's Instagram account only to be deleted. A police spokesman said Morant told officers he was "taking a break from social media." "I hope you'll give me the chance to prove to you over time I'm a better man than what I've been showing you," Morant said Friday.

NBA executive director Tamika Tremaglio said the players association thinks the NBA went too far punishing Morant, calling it "excessive and inappropriate" and inconsistent with the league's past discipline.

"We will explore with Ja all options and next steps," Tremaglio said in a statement. Nike also is sticking with Morant, whose Ja 1 shoe line debuted earlier this year.

"We are pleased that Ja is taking accountability and prioritizing his well-being," Nike said.

Silver's stance is clear: Morant's actions, even without being charged with a crime, have severe consequences, particularly with gun violence a massive problem and the guard one of the league's most popular players.

"Waving them around ... is not consistent with gun safety and is not the proper message that an NBA player, particularly one at Ja's level, should be sending to the tens of millions of followers he has - and particularly when it's an incident once again, where it's been streamed live on social media," Silver said earlier this month at the NBA Finals.

The suspension almost certainly means that Morant will not be eligible for any end-of-season awards in 2024, such as MVP and All-NBA. Under the new Collective Bargaining Agreement that goes into effect July 1, a player must appear in 65 games (with limited exceptions) to be eligible.

It's also reasonable to think Morant will miss the league's inaugural in-season tournament expected to start this fall and end sometime in December.



Turkey's Umut Nayir (right), and Latvia's Daniels Balodis challenge for the ball during the Euro 2024 Group D qualifying soccer match between Latvia and Turkey at Skonto Stadium in Riga, Latvia. (AP)

Wales lose to Armenia, blow chance to go top; Turkey lead

PARIS, June 17, (AP): Strikers Olivier Giroud and Harry Kane extended their national team scoring records as France and England maintained perfect starts to European Championship qualifying with third straight wins.

Switzerland also has a maximum nine points after a 2-1 success at Andorra.

Giroud took only three minutes to head home Kingsley Coman's right-wing cross to make it 54 goals for Les Bleus in a 3-0 win at Gibraltar in Group B.

Kane's penalty in a 4-0 romp at Malta made it 56 goals for his table-topping nation in Group C.

World Cup runner-up France, which opened its campaign with wins against Ireland and the Netherlands, has yet to concede a goal.

Amid intense speculation regarding his Paris Saint-Germain future, Kylian Mbappé captained Les Bleus at the 30,000-capacity Estádio Algarve in Faro, Portugal.

Mbappé calmly slotted in a penalty in first-half injury time for his 39th France goal. He's only two behind fellow great Michel Platini, who's fourth

SOCCER

on France's all-time scoring list.

But coach Didier Deschamps was not satisfied, and demanded more from his team.

Midfielder Giorgos Masouras scored the winner as second-placed Greece won at home to Ireland 2-1 in the other Group B match.

Greece travels to play France at Stade de France on Monday.

England took the lead at Ta' Qali National Stadium through an early Malta own goal, before Liverpool right back Trent Alexander-Arnold - with a brilliant strike - and Kane netted in quick succession for coach Gareth Southgate's team.

Callum Wilson's late penalty completed the scoring.

In another game, Ukraine rallied from 2-0 down to win 3-2 at North Macedonia with forward Viktor Tsygankov grabbing a late winner for the visitors.

With Croatia playing in the Nations League final, Wales blew the chance to go top after losing at home to Armenia 4-2.

Instead, Turkey moved into first place with six points after a dramatic 3-2 win at Latvia.

Irfan Kahveci scored Turkey's winner five minutes into stoppage time, and one minute after Latvia equalized.

Wales was level on four points with Croatia but behind on goal difference.

With four teams level on six points, Denmark moved top on goal difference after beating Northern Ireland 1-0 at home thanks to Jonas Wind's goal early in the second half.

Kazakhstan was second after a 3-0 victory at San Marino.

Forwards Joel Pohjanpelto and Oliver Antman scored as Finland beat previous leader Slovenia 2-0 at home to move into third spot.

The Swiss lead by two points from Romania, which drew at Kosovo 0-0.

Oscar Gloukh netted an injury-time winner as third-placed Israel won at last-placed Belarus 2-1.

Poland paid tribute to former captain Jakub Blaszczykowski and defeated Germany 1-0 in his last game for the country. Jakub Kiwior scored for Poland and goalkeeper Wojciech Szczesny produced a fine display to deny Germany, which was again left to stew on its shortcomings, mired by a lack of confidence after three straight friendly games without a win.

Germany has beaten only Peru since it was knocked out in the group stage of the World Cup and remains in dire

Jordan selling majority ownership stake in Hornets

CHARLOTTE, N.C., June 17, (AP): Michael Jordan is finalizing a deal to sell the majority share of the Charlotte Hornets, the franchise announced Friday, leaving the 30-team NBA without any Black majority ownership.

Jordan is selling to a group led by Gabe Plotkin and Rick Schnall, the Hornets said. Plotkin has been a minority stakeholder in the Hornets since 2019. Schnall has been a minority owner of the Atlanta Hawks since 2015 and is in the process of selling his investment in that team.

It's not clear how long the process of selling will take to be finalized by the NBA's Board of Governors. Jordan plans to keep a minority stake in the Hornets, the team he bought in 2010 for about \$275 million.

Jordan's decision to sell ends his unsuccessful 13-year run overseeing the organization.

"In the same way that it's wonderful that one of our greatest, Michael Jordan, could become the principal governor of a team, he has the absolute right to sell at the same time," NBA Commissioner Adam Silver said earlier this month at the NBA Finals. "Values have gone up a lot since he bought that team, so that is his decision."

In that same news conference at the finals, Silver said the Board of Governors are focused on diversity in ownership groups.

The sale price was not immediately announced; ESPN,

citing sources, said the franchise was being valued at \$3 billion. The most recent sale of an NBA team came when Mat Ishbia bought the Phoenix Suns, a deal that when struck in December valued that franchise at \$4 billion.

Jordan declined comment on the sale through his spokesperson, Estee Portnoy. For as great as Jordan was on the court - national champion at North Carolina, two-time Olympic gold medalist, six-time NBA champion and in the never-ending conversation for best player ever - the Hornets never reached a championship level during his time as the owner.

Charlotte went 423-600 in his 13 seasons in charge,

BASKETBALL

the 26th-best record over that span. It never won a playoff series in that time and hasn't even been to the post-season in the last seven seasons.

Other members of the new potential Hornets ownership group - pending the approval - are recording artist J. Cole, Dan Sundheim, Ian Loring, country music singer-songwriter Eric Church, Chris Shumway and several local Charlotte investors, including Amy Levine Dawson and Damian Mills.

need of improvement before it hosts the European Championship next year.

"I'm very confident about our path," Germany coach Hansi Flick said with a view to the tournament. "We'll have

a team that works next June."

The 37-year-old Blaszczykowski, who made 109 appearances for Poland, fought tears as he went off in the 16th minute - his number for the national

team - and was clapped by teammates and feted by the home support.

There was a lengthy hold up in play for the tributes as Blaszczykowski bowed to each side of the stadium and was embraced by his family when he came off the field.

Blaszczykowski played most of his club career in Germany, winning two Bundesliga titles with Borussia Dortmund in 2011 and 2012.

Flick made a host of changes to the team that was fortunate to draw with Ukraine 3-3 on Monday, with Marc-André ter Stegen starting in goal and defender Malick Thiaw making his Germany debut.

Thilo Kehrer, Jonas Hofmann, Benjamin Henrichs, Emre Can, Florian Wirtz, Kai Havertz and Jamal Musiala also started, meaning nine changes altogether, while Thiaw's inclusion meant yet another unfamiliar backline.

Though Thiaw and others played well individually, Flick's changes just seemed to add to the players' uncertainty and perhaps belied his own.

Germany dominated possession but struggled to break through Poland's hard-working defense. Kehrer and Havertz tried their luck from distance. Szczesny was able to handle both before Kiwior scored with a header to a corner in the 31st. The home team went on to finish the first half in the ascendancy.



England's Harry Kane (right), challenges for the ball with Malta's Teddy Teuma during the Euro 2024 Group C qualifying soccer match between Malta and England at the National stadium in Ta' Qali, near Valletta, Malta. (AP)