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'Amend Constitutional Court law on dissolution'

MP Al-Ghanim queries foreign affairs minister on alleged 'meetings'

By Saeed Mahmoud Saleh
Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, June 25: MPs Khalid Al-Otaibi, Osama Al-Shaheen, Jarrah Al-Fawzan and Falah bin Jame'e have submitted a bill on amending Constitutional Court Law No. 14/1973.

The bill states that the decrees on dissolving the National Assembly, call for fresh parliamentary elections, electing the MPs and specifying constituencies should be referred to the Consultative Chamber at the Constitutional Court upon issuance.

It mandates the Constitutional Court to issue its ruling on the constitutionality of the decrees within one week and within 10 days for the bills.

MP Muhammad Al-Hewaila submitted a bill on amending Civil Service Law No. 15/1979 to add an article allowing public sector officials to complete their higher studies while working. He suggested that the Civil Service Commission (CSC) shall issue the executive regulations, specifying the conditions and requirements.

MPs Adel Al-Damkhi, Hamad Al-Medlej, Abdulkareem Al-Kandari, Muhammad Al-Mutair and Mubarak Al-Tasha submitted a bill on establishing the national fund that will deal with the consequences of real estate fraud.

According to the bill, the fund will be affiliated to the Council of Ministers and its tasks include determining the damages suffered by real estate fraud victims due to the exhibitions held from 2003 to 2017. The fund must complete the task within three years maximum. The Board of Directors will be appointed to manage the fund, while the Council of Ministers shall specify the salaries of the chairman and members.

The fund will form committees to conduct researches on the cases that will be submitted by the victims and present reports on each of them. The reports will be referred to a judicial committee formed by the Council of Ministers to review the reports and calculate the amount of compensation for each case.

The fund shall inform the Ministry of Finance about the decisions of the judicial committee to provide the specified compensation; which should not exceed KD400,000. In case the compensation is more than KD400,000; the fund will pay 70 percent of the excess amount. Once the compensation is paid, the Ministry of Finance will replace the beneficiaries or their inheritors; such that it will file lawsuits against the erring real estate companies to recover the compensation through

court rulings.

Meanwhile, MP Marzouq Al-Ghanim released a press statement; enumerating the bills he has submitted so far.

One of these bills stipulates adding a new clause to Article Two of Law No. 35/1962, stating that the disqualification of a candidate for offending HH the Amir is not applicable if the crime is committed before the enforcement of this legislation — whether the court ruling is issued earlier or later.

He also proposed adding an article to the abovementioned law, stating that the number of parliamentary election winners in each constituency must be 20 percent of the total number of voters regardless of gender. He explained this will prevent attempts to specify the quota for women, stressing this is unconstitutional.

He submitted a bill on the strategic alternative to the salary scale, disclosing former MP Khalil Abul previously presented the same proposal. He said the bill stipulates increasing the salaries of almost 90 percent of nationals working in the public sector.

He submitted a bill, previously presented by former MP Nasser Al-Dousari, on increasing the allowance of university students. He clarified that he amended

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Opinion

Your Highness PM ... who is without mistake among us?

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

PROPHET Muhammad (PBUH) said, "Every son of Adam commits mistakes, but the best among those who commit mistakes are those who repent".

From the time of liberation until today, the majority of our officials have committed mistakes. A few of them realized that, and they acknowledged their mistakes and worked to correct them, but others continued with their mistakes. Such persistence could either be due to hesitation or ulterior motives. Things were made worse by the fact that the deep state worked to capitalize their gains through these mistakes. All of this left a negative impact on the country and the people.

Unfortunately, everyone commits mistakes. Officials did not realize that inaction leads to corruption, and they did not act according to the words of the Messiah Jesus (PBUH) who said, "He who is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her". In this regard, a mistake can be forgiven by correcting it and not by persisting on it. This is due to the fact that "countries are built neither by obstinacy nor by claiming incorrect actions as achievements."

Kuwait, for 34 years, has been living in disarray that was affecting even the quality of life of citizens. The matter has led to resentment on everyone, especially when the citizens see that the Gulf countries, and some regional countries, have been able to surpass their country in the field of development and modernization, and enhance opportunities for personal initiative by working on the basis of competence before loyalty and honesty.

That is why its train is moving very rapidly towards the future, while Kuwait appears to be on a standstill as if time stopped in the mid-seventies, because it simply relied on the rule - "This is our son, take his hand."

As a result, the country has recorded backwardness in all fields including health as well as education, which has declined in the past three decades to levels unworthy of a country like Kuwait.

This is in contrast to what the Gulf states have achieved in the past years of openness and capitalizing on all energies, which raised their national competence because they relied on providing opportunities, not squandering them as is the case with us. Here everyday there is a wrong decision or a law that has been detailed for the sake of certain people.

Those countries worked to create an industrial infrastructure that today is competing with the quality of developed countries. They have also turned the desert into gardens either for food sufficiency, or to reduce temperatures. Although Kuwait, according to the principle of proportionality, is wealthier than them, it still revolves in a vicious circle as if it has been afflicted by impotence of ideas and visions.

We are still floundering while the Gulf countries have worked to benefit from privatization in all fields, starting with electricity and ending with public utilities. They have a good educational structure, because they opened the way for the privatization of universities and schools, as well as centers and hospitals, and attracted major international institutions.

While these countries managed to solve the housing problem a long time ago, the Kuwaiti citizens are currently obsessed with obtaining their dream house.

As for loans, they are a major scourge in Kuwait, while the Gulf citizens in other countries no longer have any concern in this regard.

Due to all of this, a vision is necessary, even if there are some mistakes in it. The one who does not work does not make mistakes, and the outcome is what matters, instead of hesitating and taking the opinions of advisors who work for their personal interests and not for the sake of the homeland and its people.

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Vulnerabilities exposed

Revolt against Moscow fizzles

MOSCOW, June 25, (AP): Russian troops deployed to protect the capital withdrew Sunday after mercenary forces beat a retreat. But the short-lived revolt could have long-term consequences for President Vladimir Putin's two-decade hold on power and his war in Ukraine.

Putin's image as a tough leader had already been badly bruised by the Ukraine war, which has dragged on for 16 months and claimed huge numbers of Russian troops. Saturday's march toward Moscow by forces under the command of his onetime protegee, Yevgeny Prigozhin, exposed further weaknesses, many analysts said.

It also meant some of the best forces fighting for Russia in Ukraine were pulled from that battlefield: Prigozhin's own Wagner troops and Chechen ones sent to stop them.

After calling for an armed rebellion aimed at ousting Russia's defense minister, Prigozhin and his fighters appeared to seize control of the Russian military headquarters in Rostov-on-Don that oversee fighting in Ukraine.

They then advanced towards Moscow largely unhindered. Russian media reported that they downed several helicopters and a military communications plane. The Defense Ministry has not commented.

They were halted only by a deal to send Prigozhin to neighboring Belarus, which has supported Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Charges against him of mounting an armed rebellion will be dropped, according to Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov, and Prigozhin ordered his troops back to their field camps.



Thousands of Muslim pilgrims circumbulate around the Ka'aba, the cubic building at the Grand Mosque, during the annual Hajj pilgrimage, in Makkah, Saudi Arabia, Sunday, June 25, 2023. Muslim pilgrims are converging on Saudi Arabia's holy city of Makkah for the largest Hajj since the coronavirus pandemic severely curtailed access to one of Islam's five pillars. (AP)

Newswatch

CAIRO: Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sissi on Sunday bestowed Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Egypt's highest honor as the two countries tightened their partnership.

El-Sissi welcomed Modi at the presidential palace in Cairo with the Order of the Nile, the Egyptian presidency said in a statement. The leaders signed a declaration elevating Egyptian-India ties to a "strategic partnership," which means the two nations agreed to intensify their cooperation and hold periodic talks, the statement said. (AP)

JISR AL-SHUGHUR: An airstrike early Sunday over a busy vegetable market in northwestern Syria killed at least nine people, activists and local first responders said.

Activists and Britain-based opposition war monitor the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said that Russia, a top ally of Syrian President Bashar Assad, launched the strike over the strategic opposition-held town of Jisr al-Shughur near the Turkish border. (AP)

ISLAMABAD: The supreme leader of the Taliban released a message Sunday claiming that his government has taken the necessary steps for the betterment of women's lives in Afghanistan, where women are banned from public life and work and girls' education is severely curtailed.

The statement from Hibatullah Akhundzada was made public ahead of the Eid al-Adha holiday, which will be celebrated later this week in Afghanistan and other Islamic countries. (AP)

PESHAWAR: Gunmen shot and killed a member of Pakistan's minority Sikh community in an overnight attack in the northwestern city of Peshawar, police said Sunday.

Gauhar Khan, a local officer, said the attack on Manmohan Singh, 35, appeared to be a targeted killing. A police investigation continues, Khan said, into the motive. Khan said the assailants opened fire at Singh while he was returning home from a suburban area. The assailants fled the scene. (AP)

Bid to defuse crisis

Israel freezes Golan project

JERUSALEM, June 25, (Agencies): Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has ordered a brief freeze in construction on a wind turbine project in the Israeli-controlled Golan Heights that set off a rare clash between Druze residents and police.

Netanyahu said late Saturday he agreed to a pause on the project during this week's Muslim Eid al-Adha holiday, which is meant to allow time for talks to defuse the crisis. The project is expected to resume next week. A statement from Netanyahu's office said he made the decision based on advice from security officials.

The Druze oppose the plan, which would install more than two dozen 200-meter (660-foot) tall turbines throughout their land. The landowners said the turbines will harm their agricultural output and that the energy company behind the project didn't consult with them in good faith, a claim the company denies.

Last week, thousands of residents demonstrated against the project, storming a police station, throwing stones and fireworks, setting tires on fire, vandalizing police cars, blocking roads and even shooting live fire into the air, according to police.

Israel captured the Golan, a strategic plateau overlooking northern Israel, from Syria in the 1967 Mideast war. Israel subsequently annexed the area in a move that was recognized by former U.S. President Donald Trump in 2019. But most of the international community considers the area to be occupied territory.

While Druze leaders still profess allegiance to Syria, relations with Israel are normally good. The Golan is a popular vacation destination for Israelis and is filled with hotels and restaurants, and most residents speak Hebrew fluently. Violent clashes with Israeli authorities are rare.

Meanwhile, a Palestinian man succumbed Saturday to his injury one day after being shot in the abdomen by Israeli forces during their incursion into the West Bank of town of Nablus.

Tareq Edris, 39, breathed his last at Al-Arabi Specialized Hospital in Nablus, according to a statement from the Palestinian Ministry of Health.



KUNA photo

Palestinians affected by the recent Israeli aggression on Gaza Strip receive 210 coupons funded by Kuwait's International Islamic Charity Organization. This move comes before Eid Al-Adha to alleviate sufferings of the families affected by the aggression, enhance their steadfastness, and help them obtain their basic needs, head of Zakah Abdulkader Abulnour said in a press statement. Abulnour thanked Kuwait, His Highness the Amir, the government and institutions for their support.

Saudi in full pilgrim capacity

Hajj pilgrims in Makkah to perform final rituals

MAKKAH, Saudi Arabia, June 25, (AP): Pilgrims streamed into Makkah's Grand Mosque on Saturday to perform their final rituals before heading to Mina in preparation for the Hajj, the fifth pillar of Islam and one of the largest religious gatherings in the world.

They moved through the white marble courtyards of Islam's holiest site to perform the tawaf, the walking circuit around the Ka'aba, the cube-shaped structure covered in a black, gold-embroidered cloth, their fervent recitations ringing through the air.

People on the ground floor closest to the Ka'aba shuffled due to the sheer number of participants. Those on the upper floors were able to walk more briskly, even run. Pilgrims raised their hands in supplication, took selfies or video, and phoned their relatives as they performed the tawaf.

They then walked or ran between two hills in a re-enactment of Hagar's search for water for her son, Ismail, a story that occurs in different forms in Muslim, Christian and Jewish traditions.

Pilgrims must enter a state of spiritual purity, known as ihram, for the Hajj.

Men wear seamless white robes, a rule intended to promote unity among rich and poor. Women cover their body and hair.

In between rituals and the five daily prayers, which bring the area to a solemn standstill, pilgrims sought out shade, snacked and flocked to the many shops and air-conditioned malls encircling the Grand Mosque to relax before the arduous days ahead.

Saudi Arabia has restored full pilgrim capacity for this year's Hajj, following three years of dramatically reduced numbers due to the pandemic, with more than 2 million Muslims expected

to take part.

"I think this year (the) crowd is too much" said Mahboub Morshed, a 42-year-old software engineer from Bangladesh, referring to the thinner attendance of previous years. "But the government and this management (Ministry of Hajj and Umrah) is trying to manage this very smoothly."

Over 2 million Muslims will take part in this week's Hajj pilgrimage to the holy city of Makkah in Saudi Arabia, as one of the world's largest religious gatherings returns to full capacity following years of coronavirus restrictions.

The Hajj is one of the five pillars of Islam, and all Muslims are required to undertake it at least once in their lives if they are physically and financially able to do so. For the pilgrims, it is a profound spiritual experience that wipes away sins, brings them closer to God and highlights Muslim unity.

For the Saudi royal family, which captured Makkah in the 1920s, organizing the pilgrimage is a major source of pride and legitimacy. Authorities have invested billions of dollars in modern infrastructure, but the Hajj has occasionally been marred by tragedy, as in 2015, when over 2,400 pilgrims died in a stampede.

Here's a look at the pilgrimage, which begins on Monday, and its meaning.

The pilgrimage draws Muslims from around the world to Makkah, in Saudi Arabia, where they walk in the footsteps of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and retrace the journey of Ibrahim and Ismail, or Abraham and Ishmael as they are known in the Christian and Jewish traditions.

As related in the Holy Quran, Ibrahim is called upon to sacrifice his son Ismail as a test of faith, but God stays his hand at

Continued on Page 4

Prayer Timings

Fajr	03:14	Asr	15:24
Sunrise ..	04:50	Maghrib ..	18:51
Zohr	11:50	Isha	20:23

Local

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

Expected weather for the next 24 hours:

By Day: Hot with moderate to fresh northwesterly wind with speeds of 22-55 km/h causing rising dust.

By Night: Hot to rather hot

Weather

with light to moderate freshening at times northwesterly wind with speeds of 12-40 km/h.	Abdaly	46	31
	Jahra	47	32
	Salmiyah	42	33
	Ahmadi	44	35
	Nuwaisib	44	32
	Wafra	46	31

SMEs owners to get social allowance

Conditions for medical specialties direct scholarship announced

KUWAIT CITY, June 25: The Acting Undersecretary of the Ministry of Higher Education, Lamia Al-Mulhim, announced the opening of direct scholarship for medical specialties at the Koc University in the Turkish Republic for 2023/24 academic year, saying registration at Hacettepe University will also be opened for students who have admission in the field of human medicine as of 2024/2025 academic year, reports Al-Anba daily.

Al-Mulhim said the number of seats is increasing annually thanks to the efforts of the cultural offices in concluding new agreements and increasing the number of seats in existing agreements, noting that Kuwait annually provides approximately 1,100 seats for those wishing to enroll in medical specializations, whether at the Kuwait University or in global universities through foreign scholarships according to agreements that have already been signed.

Al-Mulhim also indicated the availability of medical seats in a number of countries for the current 2023/24 year, including the United Kingdom, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, Malta, the United Arab Emirates, the State of Qatar, and the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Al-Mulhim added that the Ministry is continuing to enhance the competitive



Al-Mulhim

position of Kuwait upon the directives of Minister Dr. Hamad Al-Adwani and students wishing to join the direct dispatch of medical specialties at the Koc University in the Republic of Turkey must use the following link: apply.ku.edu.tr.

On the other hand, Al-Mulhim stressed the keenness of the Ministry of Higher Education to provide seats for foreign scholarships for all Kuwaiti students based on percentages and those fulfilling the conditions.

With regard to what was reported about private education students acquiring 100% for scholarships medical specialization seats, the Undersecretary for Higher Education said that it is completely untrue, as the percentage of the number of those admitted to the annual scholarship plan for the last year 2022/2023 from government school students was 75% in all specialties and 62% in medical specialties.

Biometrics center: The head of the dermatology department at the Jahra Hospital, Dr. Muhammad Al-Otaibi, has suggested that the Ministry of Health request and coordinate with the Ministry of Interior to allocate a biometric fingerprint center for health workers, including administrators, doctors and technicians, similar to the Ministry of Interior, which allocated a center for its employees, reports Al-Anba daily.

Al-Otaibi said doctors are always busy with their work and this requires facilitating them by providing them the means to do their biometric fingerprinting,

especially for the benefit of doctors.

He said "we hope the First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, Sheikh Talal Al-Khaled, will give importance and implement it as soon as possible to serve the MOH workers, especially as we approach the travel season."

Social allowance: The ministries of Finance and Commerce, Civil Service Commission (CSC) and Public Authority for Manpower (PAM) have reached an agreement on granting social allowance to Kuwaitis who own small businesses operating in the country, reports Al-Anba daily.

A report will be submitted soon to the Council of Ministers to issue a decision regarding the social allowance.

Sources disclosed the Ministry of Commerce and Industry is obliged to submit periodic reports about the beneficiaries of the social allowance to PAM.

The social allowance for a married Kuwaiti small business owner with one or more children aged 18 and below is KD287 per month, KD190 for bachelors who are 21-47 years old. The beneficiaries exclude retirees who are receiving pension, and those enrolled in any academic stage or training courses organized by the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET). This condition is not applicable to those who are 25 years old and above, if they are married with one or more children whose age does not exceed 24 years old.

'Kuwaitization proves success'

73% Kuwaiti doctors in dental sector

Other Voices

The kidnapped country and the series of crises

By Ahmad alsarraf

With the unprecedented formation of the National Assembly, political writing has become like walking in a minefield!

I have lived through the independence of the state and all the events of the following period, and I have not witnessed major dramatic political changes.

Kuwait may be the only country that surprises its citizens, at least twice that it has run out of stock of vehicle plate numbers. Surprisingly, the citizens have been informed, also twice, that it has run out of stock of passport copies.

The same thing happens every time a new government is formed when the relevant institutions find out that they are in urgent need of someone to be assigned a specific ministerial position. Then, the issue develops and many names of put forward to end up with a humble result which does not match the big argument and confusion.

This happens every time because of the lack of planning or more accurately because of the lack of desire to have a plan. Over 60 years, there was not a single institution to provide a data base with regular upgrades and showing the bio data of senior officials to help nominate the efficient person to occupy ministerial positions.

This results in waiting for the last moment to search for a Shiite person to this ministry and tribal one to that ministry. This position led the person responsible for forming the government to accept any names only to get rid of the stress.

Later on, it is found out that the choice was wrong because of many reasons such as the minister was convicted of a crime or because of holding fake certificates.

This happened in the recent government formation when HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al Ahmad Al Sabah was obliged to assign an MP as Deputy Prime Minister and Minister while the later was lying in the hospital only to accomplish the government formation.

Since before the death of the late Amir Sabah Al-Ahmad in September 2020, we have been living in a political crisis that appears from the outside to be

a result of a struggle between parties, blocs and parliamentary forces.

However, the truth is, while not underestimating the importance of these conflicts, the crisis is a crisis between those who want stability for the homeland and those who seek dominant positions either directly or indirectly.

These conflicts were reflected in the performance, or rather in the interruption of the performance of the National Assembly, and the complete absence of a mechanism for approving various urgent and important legislations.

That is why, the Amiri decree was issued in April 2023 to dissolve the 2020 parliament and call for new parliamentary elections to elect efficient MPs capable of lifting off the nation. However, the results of the elections disappointed hopes for the best, as the alliance of the two currents, religious and tribal, managed to win the majority of seats, while it came as a surprise to many.

With all manifestations of cautious calm, the political arena is preparing for an upcoming conflict, especially since one party has begun to try to liquidate those affiliated with the other, in a war of exclusion, which may cause us to return again to the square one of governmental and parliamentary deficit.

For the first time in the history of the Kuwaiti elections, one team did not hide its extreme happiness and the other team showed its extreme dissatisfaction with the results.

What was remarkable was the hidden solidarity between the religious and tribal forces, which enabled them to win the majority of the seats and on the committees.

Some observers see this as a warning of the state's continued decline towards extremism of an already narrow margin of freedom diminishing, and the minority's arbitrariness increasing in imposing its visions and perceptions related to morals and freedoms, on the overwhelming, more educated and developed majority, and this will further widen the 'civilizational' gap between Kuwait and its Gulf sisters, let alone the other developed nations.

The council's character is religious par excellence, especially since the compliments, known to backward peoples, will push even those who claim liberalism, if they are in the council, to go along with the religious extremists, especially with the apparent absence of faces that could have confronted the extremists forcefully, such as former MP Ahmad Al-Fadhil.

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KUWAIT CITY, June 25: Given the big difference in the number of Kuwaiti doctors and their non-Kuwaiti colleagues, there has been a drop in this difference to less than 27 percent in the government dental sector, reports Al-Rai daily.

The number of local dentists working in the government sector is about 2,450, compared to about 900 non-Kuwaiti doctors, which means that the percentage of Kuwaitis is more than 73 percent compared to less than 27 percent of non-Kuwaitis.

As the government dental sector approaches nationalization with the increasing number of national graduates, the gap increases in the private sector in this field, as the number of Kuwaiti doctors in it reaches 150, compared to more than 2,000 non-Kuwaiti doctors. This means that the percentage of Kuwaiti doctors is not more than six percent, compared to more than 94 percent of non-Kuwaitis.

According to health sources, the wide difference in the private sector is due to the low salaries of non-Kuwaitis, and the inability of many Kuwaiti doctors to establish a clinic or center with the financial capabilities, time and great effort required to establish this project at its inception, to face the challenges in terms of operating costs, rental value, equipment, employee salaries and other requirements.

Dentists

The percentage of non-Kuwaiti dentists in the government sector continues to decrease due to a number of reasons, most notably the increasing number of graduates from national elements, especially with the expansion of studying dentistry abroad, in addition to the previous reason related to the reluctance to work in the private sector.

The sources said, "Dentistry is the closest medical profession to nationalization in the government sector, as its need for doctors from abroad continues to decrease in conjunction with resignations or the termination of the services of non-Kuwaiti doctors.

In order to continue the nationalization of the government sector, a number of procedures have been adopted in this regard, most notably discussing the regulatory procedures for appointment tests for newly graduated doctors to obtain a license to practice the profession, organizing training courses to qualify doctors who face some challenges in passing the test, and discussing a mechanism for providing them with appropriate training and qualification."

They highlighted the need to discuss approving the addition of more specializations with regard to the Kuwait Board of Dentists, and increasing the number of admissions annually, in line with the increase in dental services, and empowering national competencies in line with the ministry's policy aimed at limiting the recruitment of medical personnel from abroad.

In this regard, the sources noted the equality of those who obtained the first part of the Kuwaiti board with those who obtained a master's degree, which serves the segment of dentists.

Minister approves 604 KFF officers promotion

KUWAIT CITY, June 25: First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Talal Khaled Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah has approved the promotion of 604 officers and non-commissioned officers in Kuwait Firefighting Force (KFF) to various ranks, reports Al-Qabas daily.

In a recent press statement, KFF confirmed this promotion is in line with the vision of Sheikh Talal Al-Khaled, who is keen on granting the rights of all employees and to fully support them.

It added that the minister is hoping the promotion will motivate the officers to further improve their performance at work in the interest of the nation and its people.

Violations detected: The Ministry of Health, through the Drug Inspection Department, confirmed the recent inspection of a cosmetics storage in Salmiya; in cooperation with the ministries of Interior and Commerce, reports Al-Anba daily.

The campaign resulted in the discovery of grave violations in the storage; which is located in the basement of a building measuring 1,000 square meters, such as operating without obtaining permits from the Ministry of Commerce and Kuwait Firefighting Force.

Other violations uncovered include the failure to meet the conditions and specifications regarding the environment or storage for cosmetics, expired items - samples of which were submitted to the competent department, labels with new dates, and failure to present registration certificates issued by the Ministry of Health and purchase invoices issued by the local agent.

HH Amir welcomed by Crown Prince

KUWAIT CITY, June 25, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received a cable of congratulations on Saturday from His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, marking his safe return home after a private visit to Italy.

In his cable, His Highness the Crown Prince expressed pleasure and comfort after completing a medical with good results. In turn, His Highness the Amir sent a cable to His Highness the Crown Prince thanking him for his kind words and sentiments.

Meanwhile, Kuwaiti Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Ahmad Fahad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah received a phone call from Iraqi Defense Minister Thabet Al-Abbasi, congratulating him on his new ministerial post.

In a statement on Sunday, Kuwait Army General Staff said that Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad expressed gratitude for Al-Abbasi's call, which reflects the depth of Kuwaiti-Iraqi ties.

During the call, the two sides exchanged views on issues of common interest and reviewed the latest regional and international developments.

Eid Message from Pakistan Ambassador

On the auspicious occasion of Eid-ul-Adha, I extend warm greetings to His Highness Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the Amir of the State of Kuwait, His Highness Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the Crown Prince of the State of Kuwait, the government and people of Kuwait, the vibrant and dear Pakistani community, and the entire Muslim ummah.

Eid-ul-Adha, also known as the Festival of Sacrifice, is highly significant and commemorates Prophet Ibrahim's (PBUH) willingness to sacrifice his son, signifying his unwavering faith and submission to the divine will of Allah. This occasion reminds us of the values of sacrifice, compassion, and unity.

We express our sincere gratitude to the distinguished leadership of Kuwait for their continued support and cooperation, fostering strong ties between our nations. May this blessed occasion further strengthen the bonds of friendship and cooperation between Pakistan and Kuwait, leading to a brighter future for our bilateral relations.

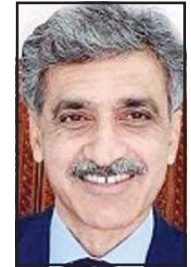
I also would like to convey my

best wishes to my Pakistani compatriots living in Kuwait and Pakistan on this sacred occasion. Their contributions, resilience, and dedication are a testament to the strong

bonds between our two nations. The generosity, kindness, and open-heartedness of our Kuwaiti friends is truly commendable. On this auspicious day, may your homes be filled with joy, prosperity, and the company of loved ones.

I pray that Eid-ul-Adha strengthens our collective resolve to uphold the principles of faith, compassion, and harmony. Let us embrace the spirit of sacrifice and reflect upon the lessons of Prophet Ibrahim's (PBUH) unwavering devotion to Allah. May this Eid bring peace, prosperity, and blessings to all the Muslims around the world.

Malik Muhammad Farooq
Ambassador of Pakistan



Malik M. Farooq



The feast ram is waiting for the customer.

KUNA photo

Prices hover around KD 100-200

'Al-Nuaimi' sheep tops Eid demand

Report by Faisal Al-Khamili

KUWAIT CITY, June 25, (KUNA): Despite its remarkably high price, Kuwaiti local sheep "Al-Nuaimi" is highly demanded by many people to offer as sacrifices on the occasion of the Muslim Eid Al-Adha, which falls on Wednesday (June 28).

Kuwait's local livestock market is now swarming with various types of animals, mainly including Al-Shafali, Jordanian Al-Nuaimi and hybrid sheep. Still, the local Al-Nuaimi is now deemed number one at the market.

Speaking to KUNA, Abdullah Al-Shimmari, a sheep merchant, said that there are different types of livestock in Kuwait, but there is currently high demand for Kuwaiti and Saudi sheep in spite of their high prices.

He estimated that local sheep prices range between KD 150 and KD 200, depending on size, age and weight, while Syrian and Jordanian livestock prices are worth KD 110-150 per sheep.

However, hybrid and Australian sheep is also available at the livestock market, with

prices being estimated from KD 70 to KD 110, but Kuwaiti citizens do not like them since they are not familiar with their taste and they do not even know how they were raised.

Al-Shimmari added that local cattle cannot cover the needs of the market owing to high breeding costs, especially feed prices.

For his part, Ahmad Al-Rasheed, also a livestock merchant, said people should have the ability to recognize local sheep just to avoid cheating since some traders tend to sell imported sheep as local ones.

He expounded that local sheep always have a big head and soft wool.

Saud Saad, a Kuwaiti citizen, said he prefers locally raised sheep regardless of the price, hailing their delicious taste, especially for sacrifices on the occasion of Eid Al-Adha.

Bader Al-Otaibi, also a Kuwaiti citizen, he and his family always buy Kuwaiti or Saudi sheep, rather than imported ones, thanks to their quality-quality meat.

Power load up as temp hits 48C

'Switch off unnecessary gadgets'

KUWAIT CITY, June 25: The Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy said "Despite the high rates of electricity and water consumption at the moment, the ministry's production capacity is sufficient to meet the country's needs for energy and water but has requested consumers not to operate high power consuming electrical appliances, reports Al-Rai daily.

The ministry added the electrical load index Friday recorded the highest for the current summer, due to the rising temperatures, which hit 48 degrees Celsius.

The increase in the load index was accompanied by an increase in water consumption rate which reached 489 million imperial gallons, a difference of less than 11 million gallons from the production rate of half a billion.

The sources expect the consumption rates during the remainder of the period

from June to July next will remain high, due to the high temperatures, but the ministry is counting on the travel season to reduce part of the loads during the summer season.

Vacancies filled: The Minister of Justice Dr. Amer Al-Rattam announced that the Ministry of Justice has filled the vacant supervisory positions in the ministry to ensure smooth and regular workflow in all sectors and departments, reports Al-Anba daily.

He affirmed the application of the rules of justice and equality among employees, and the empowerment of national cadres with experience and competence, and who meet the conditions for occupying supervisory positions (Director of department, Supervisor and Head of Department) contained in Civil Service Council's resolution No. 25/2006 amended by resolution No. 30/2015.

'Govt needs to identify defects, upgrade services for everyone to feel tangible real achievements'

"HIS HIGHNESS, the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince, Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad, thankfully over the course of two days diagnosed the disease and prescribed the medicine. During the reception of the members of the new government, he drew up an action plan and a road map for the next stage whose motto is cooperation for the sake of Kuwait and the assertion that the interest of Kuwait is above all considerations, which is what required of the government and the Council and the nation must cooperate to achieve the aspirations of the people, to advance development and to resolve outstanding issues of concern to the citizen," columnist **Tarek Hamadeh** wrote for **Al-Anba** daily.

"In the opening session of the National Assembly, he sent clear messages to the two authorities to the effect that there is no longer room for wasting effort, time and capabilities in conflicts, settling scores, fabricating crises and irresponsible practices that have become a source of resentment and an obstacle to achievements.

"Indeed, Your Highness, Deputy Amir, Kuwait is the greatest trust, safeguarding it and providing a decent life. Its people have a collective responsibility. This matter and lofty utterances must be applied, not only with feelings and good intentions, but with action plans and programs implemented on the ground, through the consolidation of the rule of law and institutions, the embodiment of justice and equality, and putting the interest of Kuwait first and above all.

"His Highness the Deputy Amir mentioned the government is aware of the responsibilities and duties imposed by this important stage, which really requires diligent work to continue the reform process, by starting a new stage of ministerial work, full awareness and vigilance to preserve the interests of the homeland and citizens, and the willingness of His Highness, by virtue of his long experience, to provide guidance and sincere security advice, which gives the government of His Highness Sheikh Ahmed Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah strength to manage the stage based on a reference of strong love for this country and the renaissance of its citizens.

"Therefore, the government is required to identify defects and shortcomings, touch the concerns of citizens, upgrade services and develop infrastructure, so that everyone feels tangible real achievements.

"In conclusion, I congratulate the choice of Big Brother Ahmed Al-Saadoun as Speaker of the National Assembly, and I pray to God Almighty to grant His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmed Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah success, and I congratulate the First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Talal Al-Khaleel on his blessed return, and we value his great efforts, and I also congratulate the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Ahmed Al-Fahd for the supreme and precious trust, and I pray to God protect Kuwait from all harm.

"At last on the occasion of the advent of the blessed Eid Al-Adha, I congratulate His Highness the Amir, Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad, may God protect him, and to His Highness the Deputy Amir and his trustworthy Crown Prince, Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad, and to the Kuwaiti people and the wise government, and to the brothers, colleagues working in the Ministry of Interior. May God bring it back to us and the Arab and Islamic nations all goodness."

Also:

"We thank God that the elections took place peacefully, and here is a new National Assembly full of hopes to achieve the aspirations of the Kuwaiti people, and we congratulate the deputies who have gained the confidence of the Kuwaiti people," columnist **Adel Nayef Al-Mezel** wrote for **Al-Anba** daily.

"We are waiting for the laws and legislation for the long-awaited next stage, we have lived through years of stress until development and projects have declined, without focusing on a new thought that addresses and deals with the data of the era in which we live.

"We are looking forward to forming a new cabinet of people of experience. Even if the position of minister is a political one, he must have high experience and humility.

"Experience is first and second, and the vision and purpose of the ministers and their management methods must be clear.

"We want a minister who understands the finer details of his ministry, understands his responsibilities and the finer details of his work, we want planners and an accurate account of what the situation will be like in the coming years.

"We want qualified advisors, our children have been waiting for years to get housing, and we have crowded streets and difficulty in passing, broken streets, water and electricity problems, and education, health and housing tragedies.

"We want the parliament members, through their parliamentary sessions, to enact laws that help eliminate nepotism, pay attention to young people, reduce their waiting time for a job, and help the country's economy so that our economy becomes better than it was.

"Unite and cooperate, O members of the parliament and the government, for the reconstruction of our country, Kuwait."



"Every person has unforgettable achievements, which remain a beacon that everyone is proud of at different ages and times," columnist **Faisal Jassem Al-Barjas** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

"At present, the efforts and achievements of Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al-Jaber in the service of Kuwait and its people will remain in the memory of everyone forever. This is in addition to the efforts of Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad. Here, we also mention the efforts of our Ambassador to France Muhammad Al-Judaea and the embassy staff.

"We do not forget as well the efforts of Military Attaché Nasser Al-Ghanim and the public relations officer who are helping the Kuwaitis in Paris — students, patients, tourists and others.

"I was recently honored to visit His Excellency

Ambassador Mohammed Al-Judaea in Paris, specifically in his office at the embassy. I was briefed on his great and relentless efforts in serving Kuwaitis during their stay in France. He personally monitors their situation at various levels.

"In fact, I am proud of the tremendous efforts exerted by His Excellency the Ambassador and the embassy personnel in serving Kuwaitis — providing their needs and facilitating procedures in different fields including health, treatment, education, commercial and economic."



"I had earlier hoped that the concerns and grievances of retirees would be among the priorities of the National Assembly representatives, and that they would demand the formation of a temporary committee for retirees — similar to the temporary committees formed during the inaugural session of the Assembly," columnist **Yousif Haji** wrote for **Annahar** daily.

"This committee is supposed to work towards improving the living conditions of retirees, and follow up their needs and the services offered to them in coordination with the government and the concerned ministers. Unfortunately, the concerns of retirees are not among the priorities of the nation's representatives.

"Since the first session, the representatives have been rushing to submit proposals and bills to the government, such as amending certain laws and the electoral system. So far, no one among them has proposed anything for the welfare of retirees like pension increment, addressing the problem of those who did not receive their end-of-service pay, amending some of the terms of retirees' loan and exorbitant fees for certain government procedures.

"We have not seen anything about the retirees, although their concerns were among the issues in the electoral programs of some lawmakers during their campaign, indicating the retirees are on top of their priorities.

"Today, we call on the parliamentarians to take care of this segment. We also call on the government to pay attention to the retirees' needs and find solutions to their problems."



"The most basic requirement is to pay attention to the human wealth in Gulf countries and include it in the strategic plans for the future. This could be done through several steps, such as a new method in overturning the concepts of 'creating job opportunities', linking work with efforts to stimulate productivity, focusing on digital transformation, reviewing private sector labor laws and studying the causes of early resignations," columnist **Dr. Nada Suliman Al-Mutawwa** wrote for **Al-Jarida** daily.

"Recently, there has been a lot of talk about standards and units of measurement for many variables in the Middle East and the world as a whole, including the standards of development and modernization with which the Gulf countries compete from time to time to highlight their efforts in strengthening all sectors — oil and non-oil.

"In the midst of all this, we ask: What is required? The most basic requirement is to focus on the human resources in Gulf countries. Second is linking work with efforts to increase productivity, and connecting it to the promotion system. Third is focusing on digital transformation and ensuring that laws related to enhancing transparency and combating corruption are updated to keep pace with the online transition."



"The democratic wedding ended comfortably and smoothly, thanks to God and thanks to all the men of the Interior Ministry, Kuwait Municipality, Health Ministry and Kuwait Firefighting Force who dedicated themselves to ensuring it was an honorable day that brightened the face of the whole world," columnist **Abdulaziz Al-Tuwaijri** wrote for **Al-Qabas** daily.

"Therefore, whoever succeeds must return the greeting and brighten the faces of these men who worked days and nights to guarantee the success of the democratic wedding, as well as the voters who believed in you and your ideas. It is necessary to focus on the next stage and discard differences, quarrels and cartoons that some have invented to ruin others. What will they accomplish?

"The challenges are big. In the coming days, you are required to pause for reflection in order to advance the country through unprecedented cooperation with the government, which justified the legislative failures over the past years.

"Look around you and understand well that what happened is not in our interest. It is rather the same scenario in some countries in which the hostility began in the legislature and ended on the street."



"There is no sincere Arab who does not love good — all good — for Kuwait. There is no follower or intellectual throughout the region who has not witnessed Kuwait's cultural, parliamentary and journalistic renaissance over the past years," columnist **Dr. Abdullah Al-Hawaj** wrote for **Annahar** daily.

"I am fortunate because I completed my university education in Kuwait, so I lived the glorious days in the vibrant homeland of Arabism. I witnessed the peak of Arab political movement and nationalist scenes in the 1970s.

"I witnessed how Kuwait was throbbing with life. I witnessed the national movement of various tendencies. I was fond of that democracy and the atmosphere of freedom, as everyone was open to anyone with opinion, argument and proof. I witnessed how, we the Bahraini students, looked with great admiration at Kuwait's democratic experience, and how it cast a shadow on freedom of the press and on content, by attracting the most prominent Arab writers who contributed to the establishment of **Al-Arabi** magazine, Kuwaiti daily newspapers, and some cultural platforms.

"I am proud that I was here during those times — a future participant in many details of the national pan-Arabist movement that speaks with love and faith about the central cause of the Arabs — the Palestinian cause. It will remain a chronic pain in the heart of every sincere Arab who believes in the justice of his cause and the rights of his people. Here I am today, living, following and intently reading about the current Kuwaiti scene."

— Compiled by **Mai Elsoukary**

HH the Crown Prince and HH PM send similar cables

HH Amir congratulates Slovenia on National Day

KUWAIT CITY, June 25, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent on Sunday a cable of congratulations to the President of Slovenia Natasa Pirc Musar on her country's National Day.

His Highness the Amir wished the president lasting good health and her country more progress and prosperity.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a

cable of congratulations to President Natasa Pirc Musar on her country's National Day.

His Highness the Crown Prince wished the president lasting good health. National Day

'Secret husband' held for killing his wife, cutting her body into 20 parts

'Search still ongoing to uncover details of the case'

KUWAIT CITY, June 25: A Kuwaiti man in his 50s has been arrested for murdering a Kuwaiti woman and chopping her body into 20 pieces after which he threw them in garbage containers in various parts of the country, reports Aljarida daily.

This crime was committed in a professional manner that is strange to the Kuwaiti society.

According to the case file, a missing report was filed by a Kuwaiti woman a few days ago, stating that her sister had been missing for more than seven months, specifically since last October.

She said she did not know her sister's whereabouts, and she suspects that something bad had happened to her, especially since she did not attend the wedding of two of her children during this period.

The woman explained that her sister had been separated from her husband - the father of her children - a long time ago and was living alone. However, she was secretly married to a citizen, and no one knew this secret except for her.

According to informed sources, the detectives summoned the 'secret husband' and asked him her whereabouts. He denied knowing anything about her since last October when she left her house and went to her place of residence. However, the detectives doubted his testimony, especially since he seemed nervous and confused. When they checked his phone, it became clear that his last call to the victim was in October last year.

The detectives continued to grill him, and after vigorous efforts, the citizen finally confessed to killing her and cutting her corpse into twenty pieces, after which he threw the body parts in several garbage containers in more than one governorate. He then got rid of her phone and her clothes.

The detectives seized the suspect's vehicle, which he claimed was used to transport the body parts, and transferred it to the General Directorate of Criminal Evidence. The experts there found traces of blood and hair, which turned out to belong to the missing woman.

Despite instructing the suspect to show them the places where he dumped the body parts of the murdered woman, the investigation and criminal evidence officers were unable to find any of these parts. Search is still ongoing to uncover the details of the case.

Officer cadet course draw 'postponed'

KUWAIT CITY, June 25: The Saad Al-Abdullah Academy for Security Sciences announced the postponement of the lottery draw for the officer cadet course, batch 48 due to the severe pressure on the electronic permit system, which caused a technical defect and temporarily stopped sending confirmation messages, reports Al-Rai daily.

The Public Relations and Security Media Department of the Ministry of Interior stated that to address this fault, the date for holding the lottery will be postponed for applicants who pass the conditions for joining the course will be held on Saturday, July 8, noting that this is out of concern and confirmation from the First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Talal Al-Khalid to give equal opportunities for all applicants and to give them the opportunity to attend the public lottery.

'Immoral acts being practiced'

16 expatriates including a European in police custody

KUWAIT CITY, June 25: Personnel from the Public Morals Protection Department have seized 16 expatriates of several nationalities including a young European woman, for practicing immoral acts, reports Al-Rai daily.

The Ministry of Interior stated among the arrested are two people, one of whom managed several sites in various regions to promote illegal activities, and a camera system was found in his possession to document and monitor the entry and exit of people.

After the ministry added 9 women and 4 men have been arrested from Mahboula and charged with practicing vice in exchange for money; and further investigations resulted in the arrest of the European woman who managed an account for illegal and immoral activity.

After the arrest CID men discovered



Al-Rai photo
Two of the arrested persons with gadgets in front of them.

she belongs to an international network. All those arrested have been referred to the competent authorities.

DGCA said ready for Hajj season

Awqaf says dedicated to provide best services to Kuwaiti pilgrims

KUWAIT CITY, June 25: The Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs keeping in mind that to serve the pilgrims of the Sacred House of God a great honor, especially amid the unlimited support of the political leadership, which clearly expresses the keenness and the greatest motivation to serve those worshippers, says it dedicated to work to improve the service of Kuwaiti pilgrims and facilitate their Hajj pilgrimage, reports Al-Qabas daily.

In accordance with its perseverance in improving its procedures and steps year after year, the Ministry says it will do everything that would facilitate the pilgrims.

Nonetheless, Awqaf is doing a good job in developing its service system and all that is necessary for all pilgrims from Kuwait and providing comfort and their needs by registering them electronically or securing housing and service to and from the airport.

In this regard, the Assistant Undersecretary for Media and External Relations and Deputy Head of the Hajj Mission at the Ministry of Endowments, Muhammad Al-Mutairi, said the plan related to this began early this year with the central registration with the Ministry, so that this would be done electronically through the Hajj platform.

He stated agreements have been signed with several Saudi authorities to serve Kuwaiti pilgrims, including the approval of a quota of 8,000 pilgrims from Kuwait and 1,000 bedoun pilgrims.

He mentioned Awqaf has also signed a contract with a company to provide the necessary services to Kuwaiti pilgrims, supervising camps, feeding, reception and farewell, in addition to signing an agreement with an office in Jeddah to receive pilgrims, arrange their affairs at all ports and complete their travel procedures.

Meanwhile, earlier the Deputy Director General for Planning and Projects Affairs and official spokesperson of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) Saad Al-Otaibi has affirmed the completion of preparations for the Hajj season, in cooperation with the concerned government agencies; such as the Ministry of In-

HH the 'Crown Prince' receives HH PM, mins

KUWAIT CITY, June 25, (KUNA): His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmed Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah at Bayan Palace on Sunday.

His Highness the Crown Prince then met First Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Talal Khaled Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah at Bayan Palace on Sunday.

His Highness Sheikh Mishal also received Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Ahmad Fahad Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah at Bayan Palace.

terior, Ministry of Endowments and Islamic Affairs, Kuwait General Administration of Customs (KGAC), Kuwaiti Hajj caravans and companies, aviation and ground service providers, reports Al-Qabas daily.

Al-Otaibi said the first trip to Saudi Arabia for the Hajj season was last week, indicating the pilgrims would be onboard five Kuwaiti and Saudi airlines. He disclosed the Kuwait Airways flights would take off from Terminal 4, Jazeera Airways at Terminal 5; while the Saudi, FlyNas and Flyadeal flights will be at the main passenger Terminal (T1).

The DGCA had earlier announced that 75 flights will be operated for the current Hajj season to transport 9,000 pilgrims to the Holy House of God.

Al-Otaibi praised the coordinated efforts of all parties involved in the operational plan for the Hajj season; citing the direct follow up of Public Works Minister Amani Bukmaz and supervision of acting DGCA Director General Imad Al-Jalawi. He wishes for the success of the movement of pilgrims from Kuwait International Airport to King Abdulaziz Airport in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.



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MoE approves results of high school exams 2022-2023

HH Amir, Crown Prince, PM congratulate outstanding HS students

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 consciousness. 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.

KUWAIT CITY, June 25, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent cables on Sunday to outstanding high-school students.

His Highness the Amir commended the students for their phenomenal performance and great efforts, wishing them best of luck in their future. His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah sent cables on Sunday to outstanding high-school students.

His Highness the Crown Prince commended the students for their phenomenal performance and great efforts, wishing them best of luck in their future.

Meanwhile, Minister of Education Dr. Hamad Al-

Adwani has endorsed on Saturday the results of the high school exams (2022-2023), grade 12, for the literary and scientific divisions.

A total of 40,242 students, males and females, attended this year's final exams, he noted in an interview with Kuwait TV channel this evening.

Dr. Al-Adwani congratulated His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah on the success of the final exams and the promising results.

He also congratulated the graduates, wishing them

to be able to excel in the higher education and be able to realize their respective aspirations.

The institutions of higher education have drawn up a plan for enrolling the high school graduates pursuant to the marks they got in the exams and the percentages set by Kuwait University (KU), Abdullah Al Salem University (AASU) and the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET), the minister added.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Education said 80.78 percent of students of the literary division have passed the exams with the success percentages in the scientific division and the religious institute amounting to 81.62 and 89.62, respectively.

DGCA works at full capacity during holiday season, regulates movement of passengers

Measures put in place to reduce congestion

KUWAIT CITY, June 25: With thousands of passengers escaping to cooler places in the east and west on a daily basis, coinciding with the Eid Al-Adha holidays and the start of the summer vacation season the Kuwait International Airport has become a beehive of activity, reports Al-Rai daily.

The Directorate-General of Civil Aviation, in cooperation and coordination with the authorities operating at the airport is working to its full capacity, to accommodate hundreds of flights and thousands of passengers, and to facilitate departure and arrival to prevent crowding and congestion at arrival and departure lounges.

The Deputy DGCA Director for Planning and Projects Affairs, and the official spokesman for the administration, Saad Al-Otaibi, said "the DGCA

in coordination with the concerned is fully prepared for the Eid Al-Adha holiday to overcome all obstacles, and to provide services to passengers, as airlines and ground service providers have been alerted to raise the level of preparedness.

He went on to say, "As part of the measures that have been put in place to reduce congestion, a larger number of baggage weighing counters have been introduced, in addition to increasing the number of workers at passport counters, setting up barriers to regulate the entry and exit of travelers, providing sufficient labor to transport bags through ground service companies.

He added the destinations that most of the flights will fly to include Dubai, Cairo, Jeddah, Riyadh, Turkey and Europe.

He appealed to travelers to report at the airport three hours before the take-off time, to complete the travel procedures to help the authorities maintain the flow of movement at the airport.

Al-Otaibi praised the efforts of all government agencies operating at Kuwait International Airport, led by the Ministry of Interior, the DGCA and the customs authorities.



Blood Drive

Initiative raises awareness to support life-saving cause

AmCham Kuwait, GIG organize blood drive to commemorate World Blood Donor Day

KUWAIT CITY, June 25: AmCham Kuwait, in collaboration with Gulf Insurance Group (GIG), joined forces to organize a remarkable blood drive event in honor of World Blood Donor Day. This initiative aimed to raise awareness about the importance of blood donation and mobilize the community to support this life-saving cause.

The blood drive, held on June 15, 2023, garnered immense support from numerous dedicated individuals and organizations. Notable participants included BRINKS, Kuwait Resources House, Towell Holding Group, METCO, Al Bustan Khaleeji, BIG Holding, Al Mulla Security Services, Learn & Evolve, GIG, Prime One Group, Tariq Alghanim Limited-Catering and Support Services, and many others. AmCham Kuwait expresses its heartfelt gratitude to each and every blood donor for their selfless contributions and their commitment to saving lives.

World Blood Donor Day serves as a global platform to recognize and appreciate blood donors, while also encouraging others to follow in their footsteps. This year's theme, "With just 1 pint, you can save up to 3 lives," resonated strongly with the participants, motivating them to actively participate in the blood drive and make a significant impact on the lives of those in need.

Throughout the event, participants demonstrated exceptional enthusiasm and a shared sense of responsibility, highlighting the power of collective action. The com-

mitted efforts of AmCham Kuwait, GIG, and the contributing organizations made this blood drive a resounding success, reinforcing the belief that small acts of kindness can have a profound and lasting effect on the community.

Dr. Arezou Harraf, the Vice-Chair for AmCham Kuwait, said, "We are thrilled to have collaborated with GIG and witnessed the unwavering support from our members and non-members alike. The overwhelming response to this blood drive reflects the compassion and generosity that exists within our community. Together, we have made a positive impact on countless lives, and we encourage others to continue supporting such vital initiatives."

AmCham Kuwait and GIG are steadfast in their commitment to promoting public health and enhancing the well-being of society. This blood drive has undoubtedly strengthened the bonds within the community and raised awareness about the ongoing need for blood donations, especially during times when healthcare systems face unprecedented challenges.

As the event concluded on a high note, AmCham Kuwait and GIG extend warm wishes to all blood donors, reminding them that their noble act can bring immeasurable hope and joy to those in need. On this World Blood Donor Day, we celebrate the selflessness of blood donors and emphasize the importance of their contributions to creating a healthier, happier world.

'Amend Constitutional

Continued from Page 1

the bill in order to link the allowance increment to the grades of the students. He added the bill aims to encourage students to excel in their studies in order to obtain higher allowance.

He forwarded queries to the Foreign Affairs minister about the alleged meetings with representatives of some Asian embassies.

if these meetings were aimed at requesting the embassies to ask their countries to support any of the two Kuwaiti candidates to chair the Board of Directors of the Asian Olympic Council. He revealed the two Kuwaiti candidates are Husain Musalam and Sheikh Talal Al-Fahad. He added that if the information he obtained is true; it violates the relevant laws, including the Asian Olympic Council Law and Sports Law No. 87/ 2017, which bans all forms of governmental interference in the board of directors election.

Hajj pilgrims

Continued from Page 1

the last moment. Ibrahim and Ismail later are said to have built the Ka'aba together. In the Christian and Jewish traditions, Abraham nearly sacrifices his other son, Isaac, on Mount Moriah, which is associated with a major holy site in Jerusalem.

The Kaaba was a center for polytheistic worship among pagan Arabs until the arrival of Islam in the 7th century, when the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) consecrated the site and inaugurated the Hajj.

Muslims do not worship the Ka'aba, a cube-shaped structure covered in a black, gold-embroidered cloth, but view it as their most sacred place and a powerful symbol of unity and monotheism. No matter where they are in the world, Muslims face toward the Ka'aba during their daily prayers.

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The Conversation

Children's sufficient sleep helps mental health, academic achievement

Moms lose significant sleep, free time during kids' school year

By **Todd Jones**, Mississippi State University; **Benjamin Cowan**, Washington State University, and **Jeff Swigert**, Southern Utah University

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

The Research Brief is a short take about interesting academic work. Moms of school-age children get significantly less sleep during the school year than during the summer.

We are economists who specialize in education and health research. We combined extensive data on school district schedules with information derived from the American Time Use Survey to explore the ways families use their time differently depending on whether school is in session or out for summer.

We observed mothers on average tend to sleep 25 minutes less, have 28 minutes less free time and allocate seven minutes less for exercise on weekdays during the school year than during the summer. For comparison, fathers reduce sleep by 11 minutes during the school year relative to the summer, have 21 minutes less free time and five fewer exercise minutes.

Conversely, mothers spend about half an hour more per day during the school year taking care of others, including kids, and five additional minutes on travel - which often involves driving their kids to

and from school.

Interestingly, even though both mothers and fathers spend more time physically present with children in their household during summer months, both spend more time actively engaged with the children - such as helping with homework or reading together - during the school year. However, the effect is almost three times greater for women than it is for men: Moms spend an extra 34 minutes per day during the school year actively engaged with the children versus an extra 12 minutes for dads.

Our study also observed teenagers ages 15-17, as they are the only children included in the time use survey.

Demands

During the school year, teenagers sleep about one hour and 20 minutes - or 13% - less than they do during the summer, and they have over two hours - or 33% - less free time each day. This reduction in free time includes nearly an hour and a half less time spent each day on television, games - including video games - and computer use.

Prior research has shown there is a gender gap in mental health, with women faring worse than men on measures such as anxiety and depression. Women are also four times as likely as men to be diagnosed

with seasonal affective disorder, a type of depression that typically occurs in fall and winter.

Our results suggest the possibility that these issues are exacerbated by the greater demands placed on mothers during the school year.

Regarding teenagers getting more sleep, our findings support arguments for later school start times so that teens can get more sleep. The American Academy of Pediatrics has recommended middle and high schools start no earlier than 8:30 a.m. so that adolescents can get sufficient sleep to support mental health and academic achievement. However, the average start time for US high schools is 8 a.m.

Our results also suggest that when school is out, teenagers may be especially susceptible to media overconsumption. Teens themselves say they spend too much time on screens.

We do not yet know how these changes in schedules affect teen mental health. While some measures of teen mental health improve during summer months, we found that teenagers spend the lion's share of their extra summer free time in front of screens, and studies have linked excessive screen time to higher levels of depression and poorer mental health. (AP)

Education

'Summer brain drain'

Slide into 'summer' break without slide

LOS ANGELES, June 25: Learning loss during summer break has been a concern of educators and parents for decades. Summer brain drain is a real thing, with the average student losing up to 34 percent of the prior year's learning gains during the long break.

"Fortunately, there is a lot that parents can do to keep their kids engaged and learning all summer," said Shellie Hanes, superintendent of schools at Learn4Life, a network of public high schools that offers personalized instruction and extra support for students who are falling behind.

Studies show that while most students experience a loss of reading skills over the summer months - especially those in higher grades - children who continue to read instead gain skills. That's what Learn4Life graduate Aurora E. did to keep her brain in practice over long breaks.

"Since I have a lot more time on my hands during the summer, I take advantage of slower mornings to read, and it doesn't have to be factual books. Summer is the time to read fun books," said Aurora.

Another recent graduate, Aspen A. points out, "There are a lot of non-school-related things to do this summer to keep learning, like exploring things outdoors, watching short educational videos on YouTube or listening to podcasts. Music works all parts of the brain - I play the guitar, which really helps me with my concentration."

Learning

Learn4Life offers these additional tips for parents and students to stay engaged and interested in learning all summer:

- Keep a journal. It's a great way to remember how you were feeling, track growth and remember the small things while keeping your writing practice going.
- Try a daily puzzle like sudoku or Wordle to keep your mind active.
- Make learning fun by reading outdoors at the beach or park, and plan visits to museums, libraries and cultural events.
- Let kids choose what they want to read, even magazines and comic books to help them develop a love of reading.
- Encourage kids to read the newspaper and current events magazines to keep up the reading habit over the summer and develop vocabulary.
- Set a social media time limit. Try to give yourself a daily limit to connect with friends or mindlessly scroll and get it out of your system. Don't let your phone control your break.
- Learn something new. Just imagine going back to school in the fall and being able to play something on a guitar or speak another language!

"Kids can still have a fun-filled summer and not fall behind where they were in the spring," said Hanes. "We need to show them that learning can be fun - whether in the classroom or exploring on their own and with their family."

Learn4Life is a network of nonprofit public high schools that provide students personalized learning, career training and life skills. Each school is locally controlled, tuition free and gives students the flexibility and one-on-one attention they need to succeed. Serving more than 53,000 students - including full-time and intersession students - we help them prepare for a future beyond high school.



Photos from the event.

School honors primary school graduates, community helpers

Royal Britannia celebrates end-of-year concert

KUWAIT CITY, June 25: Royal Britannia Kindergarten for Special Needs Celebrates Successful End-of-Year Concert: Honouring Community Helpers and Graduation to Primary School

Royal Britannia is delighted to announce the successful completion of its highly anticipated End-of-Year Concert, an extraordinary event that celebrated the outstanding efforts of community helpers and marked the graduation of our young learners to the primary school environment.

Themed around "Community Helpers and their Role in the Community," the concert was a resounding success, leaving the audience captivated and inspired. The talented Kindergarten students delivered exceptional performances through lively song renditions accompanied by coordinated actions, highlighting the diverse roles and responsibilities of community helpers.

The concert was a heartwarming occasion that expressed gratitude and appreciation for the dedicated and selfless

service provided by community helpers, particularly during the unprecedented challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. Each performance portrayed the invaluable contributions of doctors, nurses, firefighters, police officers, teachers, and more, demonstrating the students' understanding and admiration for these remarkable individuals who make our community safer, healthier, and happier.

The auditorium was transformed into a visually stunning setting, adorned with vibrant banners, creative props, and elaborate stage setups, all beautifully aligned with the theme of community helpers. The decorations served as a backdrop, immersing the audience in an atmosphere of appreciation and celebration for the unsung heroes who go above and beyond to support and protect our society.

The concert was particularly significant as it also commemorated the graduation of the Kindergarten students to the primary school environment. It symbolised an important milestone in their educational journey, recognising

their growth, accomplishments, and preparedness for the next chapter of their academic pursuits.

"We are immensely proud of our Kindergarten students and their exceptional performances at the End-of-Year Concert. They showcased their talents and heartfelt appreciation for the community helpers who have played such a vital role in our lives," expressed Ms Elisa R Isaac, Head Teacher at RB, "It was a joyous and memorable event, filled with pride and a strong sense of community spirit."

The success of the End-of-Year Concert was a testament to the hard work, dedication, and collaborative efforts of the students, teachers, staff, and parents involved. It exemplified RB's commitment to providing an enriching and holistic educational experience that instills appreciation, empathy, and a sense of social responsibility in its students.

Follow Royal Britannia for Special Needs on Facebook (rbk.edu) and Instagram (@rbk.edu) to keep up with school's happenings.

Ford Explorer recall prompts investigation

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration is investigating a Ford Motor Co. recall of more than a quarter-million Explorer SUVs in the U.S. after receiving complaints about repairs intended to prevent the vehicles from unexpectedly rolling away even while placed in park.

The problem, ascribed to fractures of a rear axle mounting bolt that could lead the drive shaft to disconnect, was addressed by a Ford software update designed to apply the electronic parking brake if the drive shaft failed, the agency said. But

according to two complaints from vehicle owners, their SUVs behaved erratically following the repair.

In one of those cases, the Explorer would reportedly slam to a complete stop at speeds of up to 30 or 40 miles per hour. In the other, it would reportedly lurch into motion while the driver was attempting to disengage the electronic brake. No injuries were reported in these cases, although the first driver reported striking a utility pole when the Explorer started rolling downhill following an abrupt stop,

seemingly because the drive train was disengaged.

The original recall covered certain 2020 through 2022 Explorers with 2.3-liter engines, as well as 3-liter and 3.3-liter hybrids, and the 3-liter ST. Also included were 2020 and 2021 Explorer Police hybrids and those with 3.3-liter gas engines. Both of the reported incidents involved 2021 Explorers.

A Ford representative said the company is working with the NHTSA on the matter. (AP)



The Ford logo is seen on signage at a Ford dealership, Tuesday, July 27, 2021. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration is investigating a Ford Motor Co. recall of more than a quarter-million Explorer SUVs in the U.S. after receiving complaints about repairs intended to prevent the vehicles from unexpectedly rolling away even while placed in 'park' gear. (AP)

Market Movements

23-06-2023

	Change	Closing pts		Change	Closing pts		
UAE	- DFM	+0.43	3,792.51	JAPAN	- Nikkei	-1.45	33,781.54
EGYPT	- EGX 30	+0.04	17,712.93	PAKISTAN	- KSE 100	-0.23	40,090.36
				PHILIPPINES	- PSEi	-0.18	6,393.55
				SAUDI	- Tadawul	-0.06	11,458.98

Business

US jobless claims at a 20-month high

Powell's testimonial, BoE 50bps hike cap hawkish week for cbanks

The US dollar index was up on the week, last trading around 102.90. EUR/USD slightly decreased to close at 1.0889, while GBP/USD decreased to 1.2711 following a greater than expected 50bps hike by the BoE. Finally, USD/JPY increased this week, last trading at 143.68 as the Yen's weakness continues with widening interest rate differential expectations.

United States

Jerome Powell Delivers Hawkish Testimonial

Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell delivered a testimony before congressional committees outlining his views on inflation and the economy following the decision to hold rates. On the inflation front, Powell said that the "pressures continue to run high, and the process of getting inflation back down to 2% has a long way to go." He was questioned by committee representatives regarding the Fed's employment mandate to which Powell reminded them "We still have historically low unemployment rates and high employment rates now, high participation, a very strong labor market." Furthermore, some members raised concern that higher capital requirements in the banking sector could restrict lending and disproportionately affect smaller banks. Powell responded, "The capital requirements will be very, very skewed to the eight largest banks." Finally, in terms of monetary policy outlook, Powell stated, "nearly all FOMC participants expect that it will be appropriate to raise interest rates somewhat further by the end of the year." Markets are pricing in a 25bps rate hike for the upcoming meeting to potentially take the terminal rate between 5.25%-5.50% before ultimately pausing, despite some central bank speakers signaling that two further rate hikes could be in the cards.

US Jobless Claims at 20 Month High

The number of Americans filing for unemployment benefits remained elevated at highs reached in November 2021, with 264,000 jobless claims coming in higher than expected and holding the previous level. The last three prints have deviated from the surprisingly resilient jobless claims reports, which used to come in at the high 100,000 to low 200,000 range in a sign that the Fed tightening could be softening an otherwise robust labor market.

US PMI Declines

Business activity in the US private sector softened, with composite PMI falling to 53 from 54.3 previously. The decline was driven by the manufacturing sector, which came in at 46.3 from 48.3 in May. Meanwhile, the services PMI came in greater than expected but also declined from 54.9 in the previous month to 54.1 in June. Chris Williamson, chief economist at S&P Global said "The question remains as to how resilient service sector growth can be in the face of the manufacturing decline and the lagged effect of prior rate hikes." The Fed have

Highlights

- US Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell delivered a hawkish testimonial to congressional committees lamenting about sticky inflation, tight labor market, and signaling that "nearly all" FOMC members view further rate hikes as appropriate.
- US PMI softens, driven by a contraction in manufacturing while services expand at a slower pace.
- Business activity in the Eurozone and its largest economy Germany slowed down significantly below expectations igniting fears of a potential looming recession for the bloc.
- Swiss National Bank (SNB) hikes by 25bps to 1.75% and signals further increases.
- UK CPI comes in higher than expected at 8.7% versus the forecasted figure of 8.4%.
- Bank of England (BoE) hikes rates by 50bps following surprise inflation reading.
- UK PMI points to slowdown in business activity following prints coming in below expectations.

been keeping an eye on sticky inflation in the services sector, which is less susceptible to immediate interest rate effects than manufacturing.

The dollar gained against a basket of other currencies over the week, with the US dollar index last trading at 102.90.

Eurozone

Eurozone PMI Ignites Recession Fears

Business activity in the Eurozone slowed in June amid fears of deep economic worries for the bloc. The Eurozone flash composite PMI dropped to 50.3 from 52.8 previously, considerably below the forecasted figure of 52.5. Both services and manufacturing PMI prints were below market expectations, at 52.4 and 43.6 respectively with manufacturing in particular entering deep contraction territory amid increased sensitivity to higher interest rates. The bloc's economic powerhouse, Germany, also had prints come in below market expectations, with the composite PMI for Europe's largest economy falling to 50.8 from 53.9 previously. Furthermore, Germany has entered a technical recession following revised GDP contraction, which could be a sign of things to come as the European Central Bank tries to balance between combatting elevated inflation and

avoiding a hard landing. In a release regarding the Eurozone PMI prints, S&P Global said, "Although energy and supply chain worries have eased since late last year, June has seen a further escalation of concerns over demand growth, and in particular the impact of higher interest rates, and the resulting possibilities of recessions both in domestic markets and further afield."

The EUR/USD currency pair is down slightly on the week, last trading at 1.0889.

Switzerland

SNB Hikes Rates by 25bps

The Swiss National Bank raised interest rates by 25bps to 1.75% and signaled that there is more to come. It is the fifth consecutive hike ever since the central bank pulled rates from negative territory. In a policy statement, the SNB said, "It cannot be ruled out that additional rises in the SNB policy rate will be necessary to ensure price stability over the medium term."

The USD/CHF currency pair ended the week higher at 0.8973.

United Kingdom

UK CPI Higher than Expected

Over in the UK, the latest CPI y/y reading has resulted in concern, with the latest print coming in at 8.7%, worse than the forecasted 8.4%. As the British economy was attempting to cope with Brexit and the labor shortage that resulted in additional inflationary pressures, it was handed with two more blows, the first being Covid 19, and more recently, the increase in energy prices cause by the war in Ukraine. Nevertheless, the economy managed to escape what was widely expected to be an inevitable recession in 2023. Although the major issue in the UK seems to be the stubborn price growth, the Bank of England remains behind their counterparts in the US and Eu-

rope in the tightening cycle, which resulted in a surprise interest rate decision by the central bank in order to catch up and fight elevated and sticky inflation.

BoE Hikes by 50bps

The Bank of England delivered a 50bps hike to 5% following a surprise CPI reading as it attempts to fight elevated inflation and catch up to their counterparts in the US and EU. In its policy statement, the central bank stated, "If there were to be evidence of more persistent pressures, then further tightening in monetary policy would be required." The BoE also acknowledged the upside to inflationary pressures that might prove it to be more persistent than anticipated. Governor Andrew Bailey criticized "unsustainable" wage growth and a tight labor market as labor shortages are contributing to inflationary pressures following Brexit. Bailey said, "We cannot continue to have the current level of wage increases." He added that "It's important, then, that price setting and wage setting reflects that because the current levels, I'll be absolutely honest, are unsustainable." Finally, Bailey warned, "We're not expecting, we're not desiring a recession. But we will do what is necessary to bring inflation down to target."

UK PMI Slows

Business activity in the United Kingdom is showing signs of a slowdown with composite PMI coming in at 52.8 versus an expected 53.6. The manufacturing sector continues to remain in contraction territory at 46.2 versus 46.8 expected and 47.1 previously. Meanwhile, the services sector also declined to 53.7 from 55.2 previously, below expectations of 54.8.

The GBP/USD currency pair ended the week down at 1.2711.

Kuwait

Kuwaiti Dinar

USD/KWD closed last week at 0.30675

Rates - 25th June, 2023

Currencies	Previous Week Levels				This Week's Expected Range		3-Month Forward
	Open	Low	High	Close	Minimum	Maximum	
EUR	1.0940	1.0841	1.1011	1.0889	1.0695	1.1090	1.0944
GBP	1.2817	1.2683	1.2838	1.2711	1.2610	1.2920	1.2717
JPY	141.80	141.20	143.91	143.68	142.70	145.85	141.68
CHF	0.8944	0.8905	0.9013	0.8973	0.8820	0.9150	0.8890

When rich 'adventurers' take risks, who should foot the bill for rescue attempts?

When millionaire Steve Fossett's plane went missing over the Nevada range in 2007, the swashbuckling adventurer had already been the subject of two prior emergency rescue operations thousands of miles apart.

And that prompted a prickly question: After a sweeping search for the wealthy risktaker ended, who should foot the bill?

In recent days, the massive hunt for a submersible vehicle lost during a north Atlantic descent to explore the wreckage of the Titanic has refocused attention on that conundrum. And with rescuers and the public fixated first on saving and then on mourning those aboard, it has again made for uneasy conversation.

"Five people have just lost their lives and to start talking about insurance, all the rescue efforts and the cost can seem pretty heartless - but the thing is, at the end of the day, there are costs," said Arun Upneja, dean of Boston University's School of Hospitality Administration and a researcher on tourism.

"There are many people who are going to say, 'Why should the society spend money on the rescue effort if (these people) are wealthy enough to be able to ... engage in these risky activities?'"

That question is gaining attention as very wealthy travelers in search of singular adventures spend big to scale peaks, sail across oceans and blast off for space.

The U.S. Coast Guard declined Friday to provide a cost estimate for its efforts to locate the Titan, the submersible investigators say imploded not far from the world's most famous shipwreck. The five people lost included a billionaire British businessman and a father and son from one of Pakistan's most prominent families. The operator charged passengers \$250,000 each to participate in the voyage.

"We cannot attribute a monetary value to Search and Rescue cases, as the Coast Guard does not associate cost with saving a life," the agency said.

While the Coast Guard's cost for the mission is likely to run into the millions of dollars, it is generally prohibited by federal law from collecting reimbursement related to any search or rescue service, said Stephen Koerting, a U.S. attorney in Maine who specializes in maritime law.

But that does not resolve the larger issue of whether wealthy travelers or companies should bear responsibility to the public and governments for exposing themselves to such risk.

"This is one of the most difficult

questions to attempt to find an answer for," said Pete Sepp, president of the National Taxpayers Union, noting scrutiny of government-funded rescues dating back to British billionaire Richard Branson's hot air balloon exploits in the 1990s.

"This should never be solely about government spending, or perhaps not even primarily about government spending, but you can't help thinking about how the limited resources of rescuers can be utilized," Sepp said.

The demand for those resources was spotlighted in 1998 when Fossett's attempt to circle the globe in a hot air balloon ended with a plunge into the ocean 500 miles off Australia. The Royal Australian Air Force dispatched a Hercules C-130 transport aircraft to find him. A French military plane dropped a 15-man life raft to Fossett before he was picked up by a passing yacht.

Critics suggested Fossett should pay the bill. He rejected the idea.

Late that same year the US Coast Guard spent more than \$130,000 to rescue Fossett and Branson after their hot air balloon dropped into the ocean off Hawaii. Branson said he would pay if the Coast Guard requested it, but the agency didn't ask.

Nine years later, after Fossett's plane vanished over Nevada during what should have been a short flight, the state National Guard launched a months-long search that turned up the wreckage of several other decades-old crashes without finding the millionaire.

The state said the mission had cost taxpayers \$685,998, with \$200,000 covered by a private contribution. But when the administration of Gov. Jim Gibbons announced that it would seek reimbursement for the rest, Fossett's widow balked, noting she had spent \$1 million on her own private search.

"We believe the search conducted by the state of Nevada is an expense of government in performance of government action," a lawyer wrote on behalf of the Fossett estate.

Risky adventurism is hardly unique to wealthy people.

The pandemic drove a surge in visits to places like national parks, adding to the popularity of climbing, hiking and other outdoor activities. Meanwhile, the spread of cellphones and service has left many feeling that if things go wrong, help is a call away.

Some places have laws commonly referred to as "stupid motorist laws," in which drivers are forced to foot the emergency response bill when they ignore barricades on submerged roads.

As fuel taxes 'fall', states mull charging by the mile

Charging by the tank may be abandoned

COLUMBUS, Ohio, June 25, (AP): Evan Burroughs has spent eight years touting the virtues of an Oregon pilot program charging motorists by the distance their vehicle travels rather than the gas it guzzles, yet his own mother still hasn't bought in.

Margaret Burroughs, 85, said she has no intention of inserting a tracking device on her Nissan Murano to record the miles she drives to get groceries or attend needlepoint meetings. She figures it's far less hassle to just pay at the pump, as Americans have done for more than a century.

"It's probably a good thing, but on top of everybody else's stress today, it's just one more thing," she said of Oregon's first-in-the-nation initiative, which is run by the state transportation department where her son serves as a survey analyst.

Burroughs' reluctance exemplifies the myriad hurdles U.S. states face as they experiment with road usage charging programs aimed at one day replacing motor fuel taxes, which are generating less each year, in part due to fuel efficiency and the rise of electric cars.

The federal government is about to pilot its own such program, funded by \$125 million from the infrastructure measure President Biden signed in November 2021.

So far, only three states - Oregon, Utah and Virginia - are generating revenue from road usage charges, despite the looming threat of an ever-widening gap between states' gas tax proceeds and their transportation budgets. Hawaii will soon become the fourth. Without action,

the gap could reach \$67 billion by 2050 due to fuel efficiency alone, Boston-based CDM Smith estimates.

Many states have implemented stopgap measures, such as imposing additional taxes or registration fees on electric vehicles and, more recently, adding per-kilowatt-hour taxes to electricity accessed at public charging stations.

Last year, Colorado began adding a 27-cent tax to home deliveries from Amazon and other online retailers to help fund transportation projects. Some states also are testing electronic tolling systems.

But road usage charges - also known as mileage-based user fees, distance-based fees or vehicle-miles-traveled taxes - are attracting the bulk of the academic attention, research dollars and legislative activity.

Doug Shinkle, transportation program director at the nonpartisan National Conference of State Legislatures, predicts that after some 20 years of anticipation, more than a decade of pilot projects and years of voluntary participation, states will soon need to make the programs mandatory.

"The impetus at this point is less about collecting revenue than about establishing these systems, working out the kinks, getting the public comfortable with it, expanding awareness around it," he said.

Electric car sales in the U.S. rose from just 0.1% of total car sales in 2011 to 4.6% in 2021, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. S&P Global Mobility forecasts they will make up 40% of the sales by 2030, while other projections are even rosier.

Patricia Hendren, executive director of the Eastern Transportation Coalition, said figuring out how to

account for multistate trips is particularly important in the eastern U.S., where states are smaller and closer together than those in the West. Virginia's program, launched in 2022, is already the largest in the nation and will provide valuable lessons, she said.

Hendren's organization, a 17-state partnership that researches transportation safety and technology innovations, participated in one of the earliest pilot projects and eight others since. The biggest hurdle, she said, is to inform the public about the diminishing returns from the gas tax that has long paid for roads.

"This is about the relationship between the people who are using our roads and bridges and how we're paying for it," Hendren said. "We've been doing it one way for 100 years, and that way is not going to work anymore."

Eric Paul Dennis, a transportation analyst at the Citizens Research Council of Michigan, said the failure of states to convert years of research into even one fully functional, mandatory program by now raises questions about whether road usage charging can really work.

"There's no program design that I have seen that I think can be implemented at scale in a way that is publicly acceptable," he said. "That doesn't mean that a program can't be designed to do so, but I feel like if you can't even conceive of the program architecture that seems like something that would work, you probably shouldn't put too much faith in it."

Indeed, a chicken-and-egg dispute over how to proceed in Washington state has stymied road usage charging efforts there.

Lawmakers passed a bill last month that would have begun early

steps toward a program by allowing collection of motorists' odometer readings on a voluntary basis. Democratic Gov. Jay Inslee vetoed the measure, though, arguing that Washington needs a program in place before starting to collect citizens' personal data.

States also must grapple with the social and environmental implications of their plans for replacing the gas tax, said Asha Weinstein Agrawal, director of the National Transportation Finance Center at San Jose State University's Mineta Transportation Institute.

The institute has conducted national surveys every year since 2010 and found growing support for mileage-based fees, special rates for low-income drivers and rates tied to how much pollution a vehicle generates, she said.

Weinstein Agrawal said public policy, and the way transportation is funded, often fails to reflect states' growing emphasis on curbing carbon emissions as a way to deal with climate change.

"To switch over to a system that makes it cheaper to drive a gas guzzler and more expensive to drive a Prius," she said, "seems both symbolically problematic and to be sending, in the most literal way, the wrong economic incentives to people."

Evan Burroughs said his 85-year-old father, Hank, who drives an electric car, avoids paying significant vehicle registration fees by participating in Oregon's program, while Burroughs himself has paid an extra dollar or two each month for his Subaru Outback.

"To me, that's worth it to be part of the experiment," he said, "and to know I'm paying my fair share for the roads."

INVESTMENT STRATEGY & RESEARCH

KAMCO INVEST

GCC Fixed Income Market Update June 2023

Rate hike pause and Fed comments further muddy the FI market.

The latest comments from the US Fed were unexpected and came as a surprise to the market mainly in terms of the two rate hikes it said would be implemented this year as well as indications that there would be no cuts this year. The pause in rate hikes this month after 10 consecutive hikes was expected by traders, however, with core inflation remaining consistently high, the US Fed decided on a wait-and-watch stance before going in for further hikes or announcing cuts in the near term. As a result, concerns mounted over refinancing of pandemic-related issuances that are expected to mature in the near term as well as risk of rising corporate defaults as refinancing at decades-high rates would be costly for businesses.

On the regional front, the GCC economies are expected to feel the heat of slowing global economic demand led by rate increases both in the region and globally and slowing economies while taming inflation, although strong domestic demand, especially from the infrastructure sector, is expected to help offset some of the negative impact. In addition, the strong credit profile of most countries in the GCC with upgrades to two sovereigns this year also provides stability to currency and the fixed income funding market.

After seeing a steep decline in 2022, fixed income issuances in the GCC witnessed partial recovery during the first six months of 2023 as compared to the corresponding period in 2022. The y-o-y growth was mainly driven by higher corporate bond issuances this year that was partially offset by a steep decline in government issuances. In terms of type of instrument, bonds outweighed sukuk registering a strong y-o-y growth while Islamic issuances declined. Corporate issuances mainly reflected refinancing of maturing instruments at higher rates as compared to new instruments. On the other hand, a decline in government issuances indicated elevated oil prices that traded in a tight range of USD 70 - USD 80/b levels.

Meanwhile, economic indicators in the GCC remain robust and point to higher issuances this year as compared to 2022. The PMI reading for key economies in the region remains well above the growth mark of 50, including in Saudi Arabia, Qatar, UAE and Dubai. Corporate profitability based on the latest Q1-2023 earnings showed q-o-q growth in most markets. The non-oil economy also remains vibrant with related GDP growth of 4.2%, a slight decline from 4.9% seen in 2022, according to the IMF. This was also reflected in the regional project market with new contract awards of more than USD 100 Bn expected this year, according to MEED Projects.

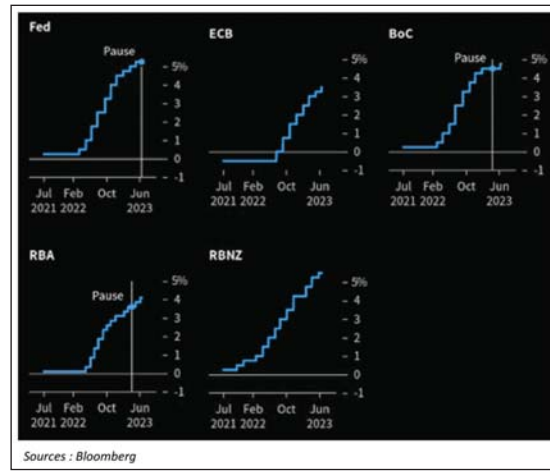
Sovereign rating actions

Sovereign rating actions since the start of 2023 were almost equally split between downgrades and upgrades. According to data from Bloomberg, this year almost 27 sovereign rating downgrade and upgrade rating actions were taken by global rating agencies. There were around 14 sovereign downgrades since the start of the year as compared to 13 upgrades. Most of the downgrades were made to emerging and developing economies. On the other hand, sovereign upgrades were scattered across the globe.

Sovereign rating actions in the GCC favored positive actions with two upgrades since the start of the year. Oman's sovereign rating once again witnessed an upgrade this year by Moody's from Ba3 to Ba2 in May-2023. The rating agency changed its rating on Oman after almost three years and maintained its Positive outlook on the rating. The upgrade reflected improvements in Oman's debt burden and debt affordability metrics during 2022 led by higher oil and gas revenue. The government's spending restraint and the move to use surplus and previous buffers to pay down debt also supported the ratings. The sovereign rating of Saudi Arabia was also upgraded by S&P and Fitch this year. S&P upgraded its rating on the Kingdom to A from A- with a Stable outlook. The upgrade reflected the governments reform plans that support the development of the non-oil sector and lower the dependence on oil sector. The upgrade by Fitch from A to A+ with a Stable outlook reflected the Kingdom's strong fiscal and external balance sheets and significant fiscal buffers in the form of deposits and other public sector assets.

Inflation and interest rate hikes - A rate pause and a caution for future hikes

In its most recent meeting, the US Fed kept the rate unchanged in the range of 5.00% - 5.25% after 10 straight hikes over the last 15 months. This was expected by the market as inflation is seen cooling in



the rest of the year, although economic data continues to remain stronger-than-expected while the impact of higher rates on inflation was less than planned. The most recent reading of inflation came in at 4.0% during May-2023 after declining consistently over the last 11 months. However, the market enthusiasm faded as the Fed maintained a hawkish tone and said it expects further rate hikes in the rest of 2023 led by elevated inflation and labor market strength. The Fed chair indicated at least two rate hikes of 25 bps each as early as in July-2023. As a result, the dot plot now shows median estimate of rates to rise to 5.6% by the end of 2023.

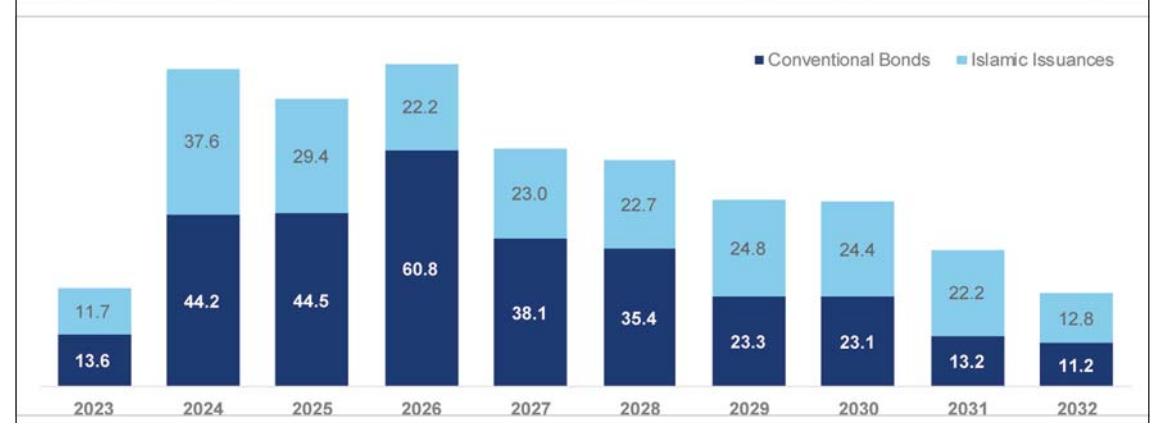
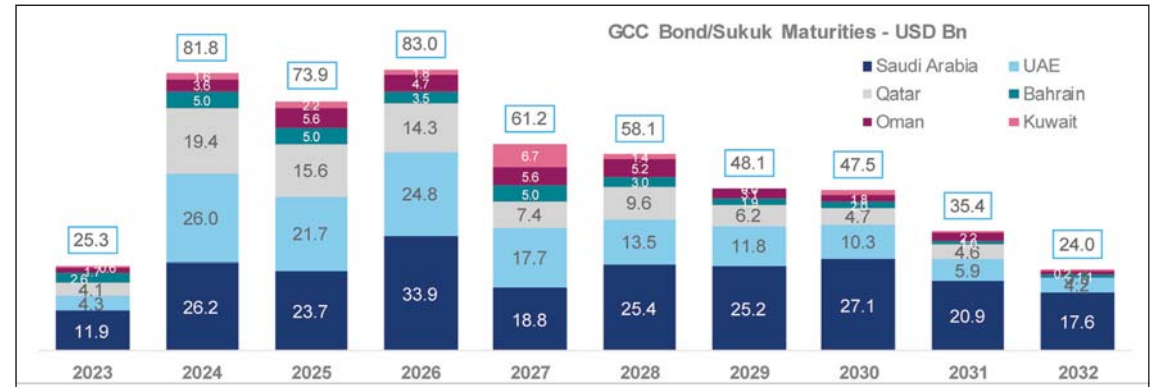
Elsewhere, in Europe, the ECB and the BOE also raised rates in view of higher inflation. The ECB raised its deposit rate for the eighth consecutive time to a 22-year high level of 3.50% from 3.25%. The ECB expects inflation to remain higher for a longer term after a sharp increase in core inflation and said more rates are coming in the near term. For the forecast, the ECB expects inflation to remain above the 2% target until the end of 2025. The latest reading on inflation for the EU showed an increase of 6.1% as of May-2023. Nevertheless, with 22 different economies in the group with employment and inflation at differing levels, future policies may vary depending on where the key economies are on the graph. The UK has also the problem of inflation with traders pricing in four more hikes and rates peaking in at 5.75% and even reaching 6% early next year, the highest level since 2000.

Bond/Sukuk Maturities

GCC governments are expected to see USD 175.8 Bn in fixed income maturities over the next five years (2023-2027), whereas corporate maturities stand slightly lower at USD 149.4 Bn. Both bond and sukuk maturities are expected to remain elevated starting from 2023 until 2027 and then gradually taper for the rest of the tenor. The higher maturities during the next five years reflects a number of short-term (less than 5-year maturity) issuances in 2020 and 2021 as governments raised funds to plug-in deficits during the pandemic. A majority of these maturities are denominated in USD at 58.6% followed by local currency issuances in SAR and QAR at 18.2% and 7.4%, respectively. In addition, due to the credit rating profile of the GCC governments, a majority of these maturities are in the high investment grade or A rated instruments. In terms of type of instruments, conventional bonds dominate with USD 201.2 Bn in maturities over the next five years, whereas sukuk maturities are expected to be at USD 124.0 Bn. In terms of country split, Saudi Arabia has overtaken UAE in terms of biggest maturities over the next five years. The Kingdom is expected to see maturities of USD 114.5 Bn until 2027 followed by UAE and Qatari issuers at USD 94.6 Bn and USD 60.9 Bn, respectively.

In terms of sector maturities, Banks and other Financial Services sector have USD 106.4 Bn in maturities in the next five years, accounting for around 71.2% of the total corporate maturities and 32.7% of the total maturities in the GCC until 2027. The Energy sector was next with maturities of USD 17.7 Bn or 11.8% of GCC corporate maturities until 2027 followed by Utilities and Consumer Discretionary at USD 8.2 Bn and USD 5.9 Bn, respectively. Banks in UAE have the biggest maturities over the next five years at USD 44.9 Bn followed by Qatari banks with maturities of USD 25.3 Bn. Banks in the two countries accounted for 21.5% of total bond/sukuk maturities over the next five years in the GCC. Real Estate maturities are concentrated mainly in the UAE and Saudi Arabia at USD 5.1 Bn and USD 3.0 Bn, respectively, until 2027.

The structure of maturities saw perpetual instruments seeing consistent growth until 2022. However,



Sources : Bloomberg, Kamco Invest Research. Note: All data as of 19-Jun-2023, including YTD-2023 issuances.

	S&P		Moody's		Fitch	
	Rating	Outlook	Rating	Outlook	Rating	Outlook
Bahrain	B+	POS	B2	STABLE	B+	STABLE
Kuwait	A+	STABLE	A1	STABLE	AA-	STABLE
Oman	BB	POS	Ba2	POS	BB	POS
Qatar	AA	STABLE	Aa3	POS	AA-	POS
Saudi Arabia	A	STABLE	A1	POS	A+	STABLE
UAE	NR	NR	Aa2	STABLE	AA-	STABLE
Abu Dhabi	AA	STABLE	Aa2	STABLE	AA	STABLE

Sources : Bloomberg, Kamco Invest Research

2023 witnessed a steep decline in issuances of perpetual instruments. According to data from Bloomberg, aggregate issuances declined from USD 20.0 Bn in 2022 to merely USD 2.6 Bn during the first six months of 2023.

Issuances in 2023

Aggregate issuances during the first six months of 2023 stood at USD 57.4 Bn as compared to USD 51.8 Bn during the corresponding period in 2022, resulting in an increase of USD 5.6 Bn or 10.7%. Full year issuances in 2022 stood at USD 88.5 Bn. The increase was mainly led by higher corporate issuances that went up from USD 20.0 Bn in 1H-2022 to USD 34.6 Bn in 1H-2023. On the other hand, government issuances dropped by more than a quarter to USD 22.8 Bn in 1H-2023 as compared to USD 31.8 Bn in 1H-2022. In terms of type of issuance, bond issuances more than doubled in 1H-2023 to USD 36.5 Bn vs. USD 15.1 Bn in 1H-2022 while sukuk issuances dropped by 43.0% to reach USD 20.9 Bn as compared to USD 36.7 Bn in 1H-2022. At the country level, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Oman reported declines in issuances in 1H-2023 vs. 1H-2022 while UAE, Qatar and Bahrain registered strong growth. UAE issuers reported the biggest absolute growth in fixed income issuances this year with an increase of USD 4.9 Bn or 42.7% to reach USD 16.5 Bn in issuances. Saudi Arabia reported a small decline of USD 1.5 Bn or 4.3% but remained the biggest issuer this year with aggregate bonds and sukuk issuances reaching USD 33.3 Bn in 1H-2023.

Outlook - Market optimism vs. Fed projections

The comments that the rates would be raised by around 50 bps may not be fully implemented as economists are expecting a continued decline in inflation towards the end of the year. However, the expectation of core inflation was raised by 30 bps to 3.9% and whether the Fed sticks to its 2% inflation target or is flexible in its approach in implementing rate hikes would determine the future course of action. In addition, the Fed committee now believes that in order to fight inflation, it needs a real rate of 2 percentage points above the inflation levels, which has increased from 1.1 percentage points above the projected inflation expected last year.

In the market, the real estate sector has started to show a decline with higher mortgage rates affecting the housing market. The yield inversion with longer dated treasury securities trading below shorter dated ones also indicated a recession. However, traders that were expecting a recession induced pause in rate hikes were also surprised with the spate of recent announcements by central banks.

Impact on the fixed income market

Fund managers across the board were expecting rates to pause at current levels and see cuts starting from the end of this year and had consequently booked long positions. However, the tone from the Fed's recent meeting clearly reversed these expectations. Rates across the advanced markets are being raised including in Australia, Canada, in the EU, UK and now the announcement from the US.

The fixed income market underwent a steep double-

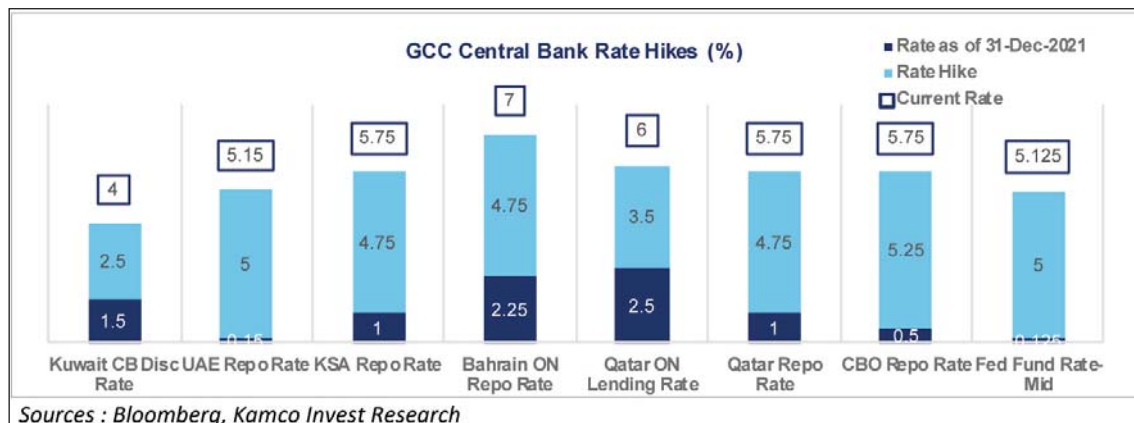
digit decline last year and with continued rising rates, the indices are showing minimal recovery this year. The enthusiasm seen before the Fed meeting faded after the Fed surprised by indicating further rate hikes in the near term. Investors are now bracing for higher for longer rates with traders now expecting no cuts this year from an earlier stance where they expected easing to start by the end of the year.

The impact on businesses would be higher borrowing costs for longer and with higher funding costs and shrinking money supply, the risk of defaults is escalating, especially for companies with challenged business models. Moreover, refinancing of cheap facilities taken during the pandemic days would further worsen the situation at current borrowing rates. Borrowers delayed a refinancing expecting a decline in rates. And this was reflected in the average maturity of junk bonds that fell to just over five years, the lowest on record, according to Bloomberg. Risk of bankruptcies would result in higher debt to equity swaps and buying back of debt at discounts.

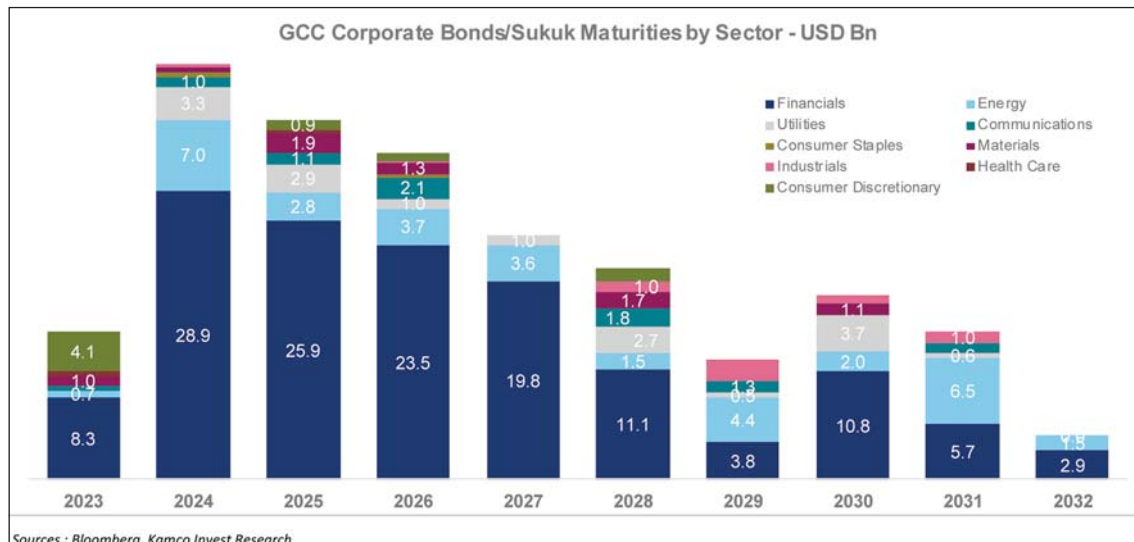
On the global front, we expect that tighter monetary policies would limit fixed income issuances. However, economic growth in the GCC region is expected to beat global growth with project market activity expected to pick up from a slowdown over the last few quarters. As a result, fixed income issuances are expected to beat last year's level in 2023.

GCC bonds and sukuk maturities are expected at USD 25.3 Bn for the remainder of 2023 and the refinancing of these instruments are expected to account for the bulk of the issuances by corporates and governments in the region. That said, the higher cost of borrowing and strong profitability coupled with cash generation is expected to discourage some refinancing activity in the near term. We push our forecast of fresh issuances to next year as interest rates are expected to remain elevated this year with no rate cuts now forecasted by global central banks.

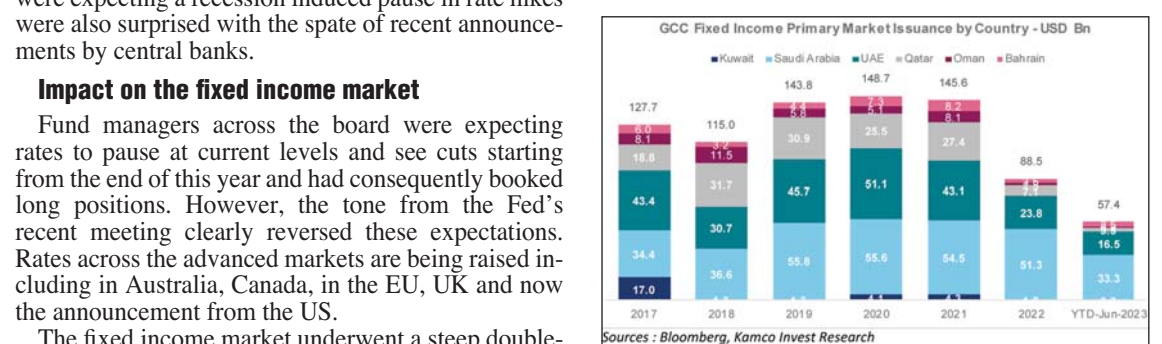
Corporate issuers would be discouraged to issue bonds/sukuks and would prefer to go in for equity market given elevated valuations currently in the market. On the other hand, most sovereigns in the GCC are expected to report fiscal surpluses due to elevated oil prices that would limit overall issuances. However, sovereigns in the region still require funding in the medium- to long-term to meet their long-term strategic visions. We expect overall fixed income issuance to remain flat in 2023 or show a small growth to range between USD 80-USD 85 Bn reflecting the aforementioned factors.



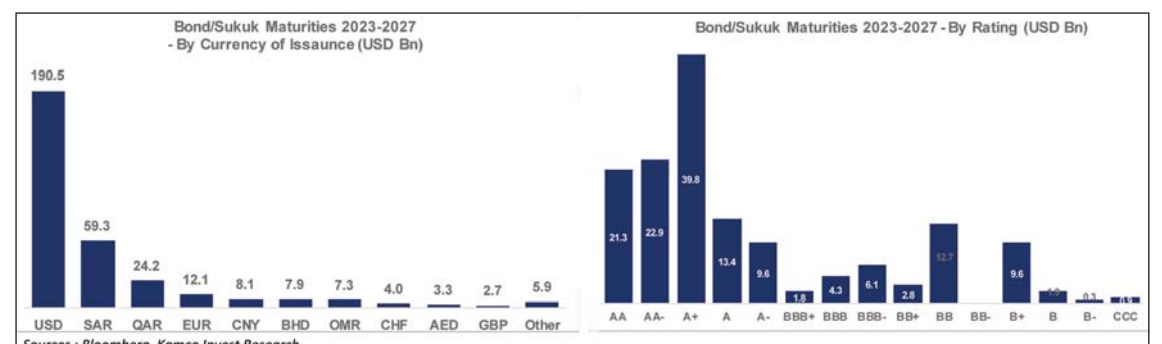
Sources : Bloomberg, Kamco Invest Research



Sources : Bloomberg, Kamco Invest Research



Sources : Bloomberg, Kamco Invest Research



Sources : Bloomberg, Kamco Invest Research

Gold prices down to USD 1,921/ounce

Gold prices dipped at the end of last week's trading, to close at USD 1,921 per ounce, recording losses for the second week in a row.

Gold prices ended trading last Friday in reduction of their weekly losses, with continued expectations of monetary tightening from central banks, rebounding from its lowest level in three months at USD 1,910 an ounce, which it touched earlier in the year, the

Kuwaiti-based company Dar Al-Sabaek said in a report Sunday.

The data had investors fearing the next big economic downturn, as the latest Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) figures showed that manufacturing sectors in the US and Europe contracted at a much faster-than-expected pace and growth in services slowed, the report added.

Head of Dar Al-Sabaek's strategic planning Adel Al-Fadhli

said, according to the report, that initial unemployment claims exceeded market expectations and reached their highest levels in 2021.

US Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell stressed the need to continue raising borrowing costs and interest rates despite the noticeable slowdown in the economy and the decline in the labor market, Al-Fadhli stated. (KUNA)

Mexico imposes 50% tariff on white corn imports

MEXICO CITY, June 25, (AP): Mexico on Saturday began imposing a 50% tariff on white corn imports, a move the president says looks to boost national production and prevent imports of genetically modified corn.

The measure, published late Friday in the Mexican government's official gazette, will be in force until the end of the year and occurs amid a trade dispute between Mexico and its North

American trade partners, Canada and the United States, over genetically modified corn.

White corn was among the basic foods that were exempted from tariffs earlier this year in an attempt by the Mexican government to control inflation. But according to the decree, the decision "has not generated a significant impact on the decrease in prices in the national market, so it's considered appropriate to eliminate it."

At 5.84% in May, the Mexican government considers inflation more or less under control.

Mexico imports some white corn - the kind used for human consumption - mainly from the United States and South Africa. But since the tariff goes against the U.S.-Mexico-Canada free trade agreement, it could complicate the trade dispute that the country already has with the U.S. and Canada over GM corn.

'Our investigation will go where the evidence leads us'

Canada investigating why the Titanic-bound submersible imploded

BOSTON, June 25, (AP): The Transportation Safety Board of Canada said Saturday that it's conducting an investigation into the loss of the Titan submersible and has been speaking with those who traveled on Titan's mothership, the Polar Prince.

The development comes as authorities from the U.S. and Canada began the process of probing the cause of the underwater implosion and grappled with questions of who was responsible for determining how the tragedy unfolded.

Maritime agencies are searching the area in the North Atlantic where the vessel was destroyed, killing all five people aboard. Debris was located about 12,500 feet (3,810 meters) underwater, several hundred feet away from the Titanic wreckage it was on its way to explore.

"We are conducting a safety investigation in Canada given that this was a Canadian-flagged vessel that departed a Canadian port and was involved in this occurrence, albeit in international waters," said Kathy Fox, chair of the transportation board. "Other agencies may choose to conduct investigations and that's up to them."

The Polar Prince left Newfoundland on June 16, towing the ill-fated Titan. There were 41 people on board - 17 crew members and 24 others - including the five who died when Titan imploded.

Fox said she understands the international interest and that the TSB will share information they collect with other agencies, like the U.S. National Transportation Safety Board and the U.S. Coast Guard, within the limits of Canadian law. Voice recordings and witness statements are protected under Canadian law, she said.

"Our investigation will go where the evidence leads us," she added. "We don't want to duplicate efforts. We want to collaborate."

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police also announced Saturday that they've initiated an examination of the circumstances that led to the Titan deaths to decide whether a full investigation is warranted. That full probe will only take place if it appears criminal, federal or provincial law may have been broken, officials said.

The Coast Guard led the initial search and rescue mission, a massive international effort that likely cost millions of dollars.

It was not entirely clear who would have the authority to lead what is sure to be a complex investigation involving several countries. OceanGate Expeditions, the company that owned and operated the Titan, is based in the U.S. but the submersible was registered in the Bahamas. OceanGate is based in Everett, Washington, but closed when the Titan was found. Meanwhile, the Titan's mother ship, the Polar Prince, was from Canada, and those killed were from England, Pakistan, France, and the U.S.

The National Transportation Safety Board said Friday that the U.S. Coast Guard has declared the loss of the Titan submersible to be a "major marine casualty" and the Coast Guard will lead the investigation.

The Coast Guard has not confirmed that it will take the lead.

The deep-sea investigations promise to be long and painstaking, given the murky depths of the ocean.

"This is an incredibly unforgiving environment down there on the seafloor," said Rear Adm. John Mauger, of the Coast Guard First District.

How the overall investigation will proceed is complicated by the fact that the world of deep-sea exploration is not well-regulated.

A key part of any investigation is likely to be the Titan itself. Questions have been raised about whether the vessel was destined for disaster because of its un-

conventional design and its creator's refusal to submit to independent checks that are standard in the industry.

The Titan was not registered as a U.S. vessel or with international agencies that regulate safety. And it wasn't classified by a maritime industry group that sets standards on matters such as hull construction.

OceanGate CEO Stockton Rush, who was piloting the Titan when it imploded, complained that regulations can stifle progress.

"Bringing an outside entity up to speed on every innovation before it is put into real-world testing is anathema to rapid innovation," Rush wrote in a blog post on his company's website.

One question that seems at least partially resolved is when the implosion likely happened. After the Titan was reported missing, the Navy went back and analyzed its acoustic data and found an "anomaly" Sunday that was consistent with an implosion or explosion in the general vicinity of where the vessel was operating when communications were lost, said a senior U.S. Navy official.

The Navy passed on the information to the Coast Guard, which continued its search because the data was not considered definitive, according to the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss a sensitive acoustic detection system.

The Titan launched at 8 a.m. that day and was reported overdue that afternoon about 435 miles (700 kilometers) south of St. John's, Newfoundland. Rescuers rushed ships, planes and other equipment to the area.

Any sliver of hope that remained for finding the crew alive was wiped away early Thursday, when the Coast Guard announced that debris had been found near the Titanic.

Want a 'climate-friendly' flight? It is going to take a while, cost you more

Sustainability a hot topic at Paris Air Show

WASHINGTON, June 25, (AP): When it comes to flying, going green may cost you more. And it's going to take a while for the strategy to take off.

Sustainability was a hot topic this week at the Paris Air Show, the world's largest event for the aviation industry, which faces increasing pressure to reduce the climate-changing greenhouse gases that aircraft spew.

Even the massive orders at the show got a emissions-reduction spin: Airlines and manufacturers said the new planes will be more fuel-efficient than the ones they replace.

But most of those planes will burn conventional, kerosene-based jet fuel. Startups are working feverishly on electric-powered aircraft, but they won't catch on as quickly as electric vehicles.

"It's a lot easier to pack a heavy battery into a vehicle if you don't have to lift it off the ground," said Gernot Wagner, a climate economist at Columbia University.

That means sustainable aviation fuel has become the industry's best hope to achieve its promise of net zero emissions by 2050. Aviation produces 2% to 3% of worldwide carbon emissions, but its share is expected to grow as travel increases and other industries become greener.

Sustainable fuel, however, accounts for just 0.1% of all jet fuel. Made from sources like used cooking oil and plant waste, SAF can be blended with conventional jet fuel but costs much more.

Suppliers are "going to be able to kind of set the price," Molly Wilkinson, an American Airlines vice president, said at the air show. "And we fear that at that point, that price eventually is going to trickle down to the passenger in some form of a ticket price."

With such a limited supply, critics say airlines are making overly ambitious promises and exaggerating how quickly they can ramp up the use of SAF. The industry even has skeptics: Nearly one-third of aviation sustainability officers in a GE Aerospace survey doubt the industry will hit its net zero goal by 2050.

Critics

Delta Air Lines is being sued in U.S. federal court by critics who say the carrier falsely bills itself as the world's first carbon-neutral airline, and that Delta's claim rests on carbon offsets that are largely bogus. The Atlanta-based airline says the charges are "without legal merit."

Across the Atlantic, a consumer group known by its French acronym, BEUC, filed a complaint this week with the European Union's executive arm, accusing 17 airlines of greenwashing.

The group says airlines are misleading consumers and violating rules on unfair commercial practices by encouraging customers to pay extra to help finance development of SAF and offset future carbon emissions created by flying.

In one case, the group's researchers found Air France charging up to 138 euros (\$150) for the green option.

"Sustainable aviation fuels, they are indeed the biggest technological potential to decarbonize the aviation sector, but the main problem ... is that they are not available," said Dimitri Vergne, a senior policy officer at BEUC.

"We know that before the end of the next decade - at least - they won't be



The two sides pose for a group photo.

Al-Bahar & Partners Co and Al-Rayan Holding Co strengthen 'partnership' with project completion

KUWAIT CITY, June 25: Al-Bahar & Partners Company has successfully completed the "Canon Managed Printing Service (MPS)" project in collaboration with Canon International and Al-Rayan Holding Company in Kuwait. During the agreement signing ceremony, they showcased enhanced and comprehensive services for their clients, as well as explored opportunities for future cooperation.

Mr. Amr Salem, the Division Manager of Printing and Audiovisual Technology Sector at Al-Bahar & Partners Company, stated, "We are committed to providing our clients with the highest level of service and support at Al-Bahar & Partners." He added, "Our partnership with Al-Rayan Holding Company strengthens our relationships with our clients and achieves exceptional results in the education sector."

Furthermore, Mr. Arun Chaudhry, the CFO and Head of Strategy at Al-Rayan Holding Company, expressed his satisfaction, saying, "We are pleased with the successful completion of the Managed Printing Services project with Canon and the reinforcement of our partnership between our companies." He continued, "We look forward to continuing close collaboration with

Al-Bahar & Partners on future projects and expanding our partnership in the coming years."

This project serves as a model for Managed Printing Services, which have become modern business services that allow companies to convert printing and management costs into fixed monthly expenses. This helps them budget accurately and improve work efficiency, while reducing waste and additional costs associated with printing and administration. Furthermore, companies can access the latest document management and printing solutions without the need for additional costly investments in technology.

The managed print services offered by Canon are distinguished by their ability to meet customers' needs by providing printing services, scanning, document management, and related technology solutions using the latest innovative technologies. These services cater to small and large companies, both government and private, in various sectors such as education, healthcare, finance, commerce, industry, and more.

Both companies are committed to the success of this project and working together to deliver more innovative solutions to their clients, reflecting Al-

Bahar & Partners' expertise and capabilities in providing customer-centric innovative solutions. The partnership between the two companies enhances and contributes to improving the quality of services provided to customers and offering advanced solutions that meet market needs.

The successful completion of the Managed Printing Services project by Canon highlights the experience and capabilities of Al-Bahar & Partners in providing innovative solutions that meet the needs of their clients. As part of the esteemed Mohamed Abdulrahman Al-Bahar Group of Companies, founded in 1961, Al-Bahar & Partners offer the latest IT products in Kuwait from globally renowned brands such as Canon, Epson and ViewSonic, among others.

The company provides a wide range of services, including Managed Printing Services, digital transformation, antivirus solutions, and cybersecurity. They have been serving government and corporate institutions in Kuwait with innovative and robust solutions for over 60 years, making them a provider of choice for services, products, and solutions for companies looking to enhance their technological infrastructure and improve their digital presence.

The American Airlines executive, said that was too short to entice sustainable fuel producers and that the credit should be extended by 10 years or longer.

The International Air Transport Association, an airline trade group, estimates that SAF could contribute 65% of the emissions reductions needed for the industry to hit its 2050 net-zero goal.

But very few flights are powered by SAF because of the limited supply and infrastructure.

Just before the Paris Air Show opened, President Emmanuel Macron announced that France would contribute 200 million euros (\$218 million) toward a 1 billion euro (\$1.1 billion) plant to make SAF.

Many airlines have touted investments in SAF producers such as World Energy, which has a plant in Paramount, California, and Finland's Neste.

United Airlines plans to triple its use of SAF this year, to 10 million gallons - but it burned 3.6 billion gallons of fuel last year.

Some see sustainable fuel as a bridge to cleaner technologies, including larger electric planes or aircraft powered by hydrogen. But packing enough power to run a large electric plane would require a fantastic leap in battery technology.

Hydrogen must be chilled and stored somewhere - it couldn't be carried in the wings of today's planes, as jet fuel is.

"Hydrogen sounds like a good idea. The problem is the more you look into the details, the more you realize it's an engineering challenge but also an economics challenge," Richard Aboulafia of AeroDynamic Advisory, an aerospace consultancy, said at the Paris Air Show. "It's within the realm of possibility, (but) not for the next few decades."

NerdWallet

Ask about a life settlement

What if you cannot afford long-term care?

By Kate Ashford, CSA®

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

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

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

Consider a reverse mortgage

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

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

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

Price out insurance

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

"In many cases, long-term care insurance is a lot less ex-

pensive than the actual cost of care," says Michelle Gessner, a certified financial planner in Houston. "So \$1 of premium gives you multiple dollars of benefits, and that's not the case with paying for it out of pocket."

Another option may be a permanent life insurance policy with a long-term care rider, often called a hybrid policy. Arrangements vary, but typically you can use some or all of your death benefit to pay for long-term care during your lifetime, and anything you don't use will be paid to your estate when you die.

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

Look into facilities with benevolent funds

Some nursing homes or assisted living communities offer benevolent care, meaning they'll take someone in who doesn't have enough money to pay full freight or who can't pay full price for long. When someone runs out of money, the benevolent fund covers the difference for as long as they need care. (They'll typically collect Social Security and pension payments that may come in to help cover costs.)

"They can be a good alternative for people who think they won't have enough financial assets," says Diane Pearson, a certified financial planner in Wexford, Pennsylvania.

Benevolent care funds are often connected to faith-based communities. A search for faith-based facilities in your area might yield some options.

Ask about a life settlement

If you have a life insurance policy and you're considering letting it lapse or taking the cash value from it, a life settlement may be the better option. In a life settlement, a third party buys your insurance policy, and you typically receive between 5% and 25% of the value of the death benefit.

"There are investors out there who will basically make the premium payments on your behalf, but they keep the policy proceeds when you pass away," says Christopher Lyman, a certified financial planner in Newtown, Pennsylvania. You might make this choice in a financial crisis. "The only reason you would do that is kind of like a last option," he says.



A file photo of previous year's honoring ceremony of high school seniors.

KFH honors high school toppers

Kuwait Finance House (KFH) announced honoring Kuwaiti high school toppers in the literature, science, religious studies in addition to top achievers from private schools for the academic year 2022/2023.

A ceremony will be held under the patronage of Minister of Education Dr. Hamad Al-Adwani.

KFH congratulates the high school toppers, as well as their families who stood by them and encouraged them during their school year.

Supporting high school toppers and distinguished students is at the very heart of KFH strategy and part of (You are our Pride) initiative which the Bank launched as an honoring gesture for top achievers in different fields.

KFH is one of the first and biggest supporters of youth, and in particular school toppers. The bank has a proven track record of achievements in supporting the youth which stems from its belief that young talents are the true assets of the country and are the pillars of the present, future and the backbone for prosperity.



Anfal Abdul Rahim and Maryam Al-Kandari from the public relations team at stc with officials from the General Administration of Civil Aviation.

Co. provides special hospitality

stc 'surprises' Hajj pilgrims at Kuwait Int'l Airport Terminal 4

KUWAIT CITY, June 25: Kuwait Telecommunications Company - stc, a world-class digital leader providing innovative services and platforms to customers, enabling the digital transformation in Kuwait, surprised passengers at Kuwait International Airport's Terminal 4 departing to Mecca to complete the Hajj pilgrimage with special hospitality. The initiative was organized by stc to greet hajj pilgrims in collaboration with Kuwait International Airport and the Directorate General for Civil Aviation (DGCA).

The initiative was organized under stc's corporate social responsibility program and aligns with the Company's commitment to support the community. Following the core values that have helped shape the Company's extensive framework, stc aimed to celebrate alongside passengers that are due to travel for a highly memorable journey in their lives. Kuwait International Airport and the DGCA joined stc in greeting the passengers and presenting them with coffee and chocolates.

In a statement, stc indicated that the Company is always keen to continuously engage and participate in community driven initiatives that strengthen stc's relationship with the people of Kuwait. stc also thanked the participating teams from Kuwait International Airport and DGCA, as well as all those who played a role in arranging the special initiative for Hejaj.

Through stc's role as a digital pioneer in the private sector, the Company actively forms fruitful collaborations with different institutions in the government and private sectors that enable stc in making a larger impact that enriches the lifestyle of its customers and the community. This approach extends to the various functions stc has organized and participated in under its CSR program. This has provided the Company with an opportunity to enhance its outreach to the local community with a primary focus on health, environment, youth empowerment & entrepreneurship, sports, and education.

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 mystic mobile application, visit www.stc.com.kw or contact the customer service center by dialing 102 for around the clock assistance.

Warba provides banking services during the 'Eid Al-Adha' holidays

KUWAIT CITY, June 25: Warba Bank continues to provide its banking services to its valued clients during the Eid Al-Adha, official holidays, starting from Tuesday, June 27, until Sunday, July 3, in addition to the call service through the call center on 1825555 and the Bank's platforms on social media or through the online service. In addition, the Warba Bank branch at Kuwait International Airport (New Terminal T4) will continue to operate 24/7 during the Eid Al-Adha holidays.

Mr. Abdullah Nasser Al-Shuail - Senior Director of the Branches and Private Banking Services stated that Warba Bank continues to serve its clients through various electronic services during this holiday and to provide all banking services to its clients through the unique Warba Bank application, as the application allows easy completion of digital transactions.

'Hayakom' 24/7

AUB to offer its services during the Eid holidays

KUWAIT CITY, June 25: On the occasion of the blessed Eid Al-Adha., Ahli United Bank (AUB) congratulates and extends its warm wishes to His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the government, the citizens of Kuwait and all residents across the country. May Allah the Almighty bless the nation with prosperity and joy during this Holy time.

On this occasion, All AUB branches in Kuwait will be closed from Tuesday 27 June 2023 until Sunday 02 July 2023 and will resume work on Monday 03 July

Warba Bank will resume providing its banking services through all its branches immediately after the end of the official holidays, starting from Monday, July 3, at the same official working hours announced on its website.

It is worth noting that Warba Bank is one of the banks that achieved great success in a short period of time, as it occupied a leading position in the field of Islamic retail digital banking services. It is one of the largest local banks in terms of the number of its shareholders, and this is one of the most important elements that make the bank close to all members of society. In addition, Warba Bank is among the 50 largest banks in the Middle East in terms of market value for the year 2023 - Forbes Middle East classification.

2023.

AUB has reconfirmed that during this period customers will be able to conduct their banking services through the Bank's electronic channels, including mobile and internet banking (www.ahli-unioned.com.kw), and the 24/7 telebanking 'Hayakom' service through 1812000. Furthermore, customers can also conduct their financial transactions through the Bank's ATMs which are conveniently located across Kuwait, in addition to the bank's Point of Sale (POS) machines, the bank's Payment Gateway and other electronic services, which offer easy and secure solutions to valuable customers.

Innovative program

KIB joins Visa Ready as first bank in Kuwait for Fintech Enablement

KUWAIT CITY, June 25: Kuwait International Bank (KIB), a sharia compliant Kuwaiti Bank, announced today that it has joined the Visa Ready for Fintech Enablement program in an effort to provide both Fintechs and traditional issuers full enablement stacks for digital issuance speeding up their time to market and addressing the needs for digital/technology first strategies. Through KIB's work with Visa, KIB will offer card issuance solutions to Fintechs and non-Banking entities in Kuwait.

Under its BaaS (Banking as a Service) strategy, KIB is revolutionizing the financial landscape by offering a comprehensive CaaS (Card as a Service) program to its esteemed B2B partners. As a part of this full-stack solution, KIB will provide Program Management services, and Payment Infrastructure Services to partners seeking to provide exceptional card services to their customers.

In an impressive feat, KIB has become the first bank in Kuwait to join Visa Ready, to offer CaaS across diverse industries. This means that Airlines, Telecommunications companies, Exchange houses, Fintechs, and Retailers can now leverage KIB's expertise and tap into the immense potential of card services.

The Visa Ready certification demonstrates KIB's unwavering commitment to excellence and adherence to the highest industry standards. By achieving this certification, KIB sets itself apart as the first bank in Kuwait to join this innovative program, ensuring its partners benefit from the utmost security, reliability, and trust.

Power

KIB's CaaS program is designed to unlock an extensive range of use cases and value propositions for its partners. With unparalleled versatility, partners can harness the power of a wide array of prepaid programs, including both uni and multicurrency card offerings. These programs can be seamlessly delivered through various form factors, encompassing physical and digital formats, to cater to the evolving needs of customers in today's digital era.

The Visa Ready Fintech Enablement Program provides partners like KIB with access to Visa's growing partner network through top of the funnel awareness, go-to-market support to uncover new markets, and newly launched Visa products and solutions. Learn more about the Visa Ready program at <https://partner.visa.com>.

"The collaboration between KIB and Visa represents an exciting milestone for the Kuwaiti banking industry," stated Mohammed El Shareef - GM Digital Transformation & Innovation. "Through this partnership, KIB is positioned to transform the



El Shareef



ZainTech and du officials during partnership agreement.

'Net Zero future'

ZainTech, du partnership to drive innovation & ESG

DUBAI, June 25: ZainTech, the integrated digital solution provider of Zain Group, and du, from Emirates Integrated Telecommunications Company (EITC), announced today a strategic go-to-market partnership aimed at unlocking synergies while embracing ESG principles towards a Net Zero future. The collaboration will enable both companies to offer enterprise customers an innovative and comprehensive suite of solutions across various areas, including Sustainability (IoT), Drones-as-a-Service (DaaS), Data Practice, Cloud Managed Services, and App Modernization, as well as international connectivity.

By combining their expertise and resources, ZainTech and du aim to empower businesses and government entities to streamline their digital transformation journeys. This partnership reinforces ZainTech's and du's commitment to remaining at the forefront of innovation, offering comprehensive solutions that address the evolving requirements of enterprises across industries.

Commenting on the partnership, Andrew Hanna, ZainTech CEO

added, "This strategic agreement represents an acknowledgment that ZainTech and du share common values and ambitions. I'm confident that our collaboration will drive innovation and sustainable growth in the UAE by enabling businesses and governments to embrace ESG principles and leverage cutting-edge technologies to accelerate their digital transformation journeys, streamline operations, and achieve tangible business outcomes."

Fahad Al Hassawi, du CEO said: "This strategic partnership with ZainTech underscores our commitment to delivering innovative and comprehensive solutions that address the evolving needs of our customers. By combining our strengths, we will empower organizations to make data-driven decisions, harness the potential of the cloud, and leverage advanced technologies like IoT and DaaS to drive transformative growth in the UAE."

This unique and strategic partnership will enable government entities and corporations to benefit from a single source for their digital transformation needs across the UAE.

landscape of card services, providing our partners with cutting-edge solutions and empowering them to deliver exceptional customer experiences."

"We believe this collaboration will help our fintech clients deliver improved customer experiences in Kuwait faster and easier than ever," said Ankush Devadason,

Visa's Head of Financial Institutions for Kuwait. "Visa is therefore delighted to grant KIB Visa Ready BIN Sponsorship certification, and we are looking forward to collaborating with them in building out the capabilities fintechs need to drive the expansion of a digitally connected payments ecosystem in Kuwait."

Banking operations resume July 3

ABK announces closure on Arafat, Eid Al Adha

KUWAIT CITY, June 25: Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) extends its congratulations to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince, Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, as well as the government, people, and residents of Kuwait on the occasions of Waqfat Arafat and Eid Al Adha,

hoping it bestows an abundance of blessings.

ABK discloses that its branches will be closed from Tuesday, 27 June 2023 to Sunday, 2 July 2023 to resume operations on Monday, 3 July 2023. However, ABK's newly launched digital branch in Al Khiran will be functional to service customers from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.

The Bank has confirmed its full operational readiness to serve customers 24/7 via its various digital platforms throughout the blessed Waqfat Arafat and Eid Al Adha holiday. This includes Online Banking via eahli.com, Mobile Banking through the ABK app, as well as the Bank's call center Ahlan Ahli 1 899 899.

The Conversation

Ambiguous loss does not fit neatly into traditional models of grief

Processing, grieving 'child with disability' is a loss without closure

By Brad Phillips

West Virginia University

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

Traditional loss is typically considered a five-stage process, linear and time-bound, where a person moves from denial to acceptance.

Generally, traditional loss is linked to death - such as the death of a loved one, or a miscarriage. It is permanent, often abrupt, occurring when someone or something once present is suddenly absent.

But loss is complex. Other kinds of loss do not follow the one-size-fits-all archetype, and many experts now criticize the five stages of grief model.

As a nursing professor who researches the impact of childhood illness on family well-being, one of my main areas of study is how people navigate another type of loss - ambiguous loss, or loss without closure.

Coping with absence, letting go

Ambiguous loss is something that's ongoing, recurring or unresolved. The loved one is still alive but different from who they once were.

For over a decade, I have worked with hundreds of parents who became caregivers to once-healthy children who sustained a devastating injury or illness. Perhaps the child has a traumatic brain injury, resulting from a car accident or a near drowning. Or they were born with progressive disabilities resulting in the need for specialized, long-term care.

In these instances, the caregiver is not only coping with the absence of what was but letting go of what could have been.

As one parent said to me: "You have all these dreams for your child. Sometimes with disabilities those things will never happen. Reevaluating expectations is challenging and a little sad."

Because of the ambiguity of these types of experiences, nothing - no model, no set number of stages - can fully prepare parents to navigate this type of loss.

But although ambiguous loss differs from traditional loss, researchers still lump the two together. That is why studies on ambiguous loss are scarce, and there is no formula to help the caregivers manage their grief.

Until researchers abandon their traditional view of loss, we won't fully understand how to help those experiencing ambiguous loss.

Finding meaning in loss

During the 1960s, psychiatrist Viktor Frankl developed the concept of "Will to Meaning," based on his experience as a Holocaust survivor in Nazi concentration camps during World War II.

Frankl saw some prisoners in the camp keep a positive attitude and wondered how they did it in such a treacherous environment. He came to understand that humans have the ability to choose how they perceive their experiences. Finding meaning, he learned, helps people persevere through their suffering.

In the 1980s, Frankl's concepts were adapted into the "theory of meaning" - essentially a guide for nurses on how to help patients find meaning and purpose after an un-

precedented loss. Nurses discovered that an individual's active, personal decisions could alter that person's perception of these traumatic experiences.

That theory of meaning proved to be a beacon of hope for people in difficult situations. For decades, nurses throughout the world have used this concept to reach out to countless numbers of patients, particularly those who have cancer, spinal cord injuries, drug or alcohol addictions, or those in hospice care.

But I believe my work is the first of its kind to use the theory of meaning to interact with parents experiencing ambiguous loss. I interviewed eight parents of children with an acquired disability - mostly traumatic brain injuries - to better understand whether they were able to find meaning in their loss.

I found that parents were experiencing profound suffering because they were on edge, worried about lifelong care for their child and unaware of the consequences of loss. This suffering reached every family member and led to strained marital relationships, depression, anxiety, anger, sleep deprivation and fear of the unknown.

However, parents overcame these challenges by providing care to their child and creating a space to connect to family, friends and other parents undergoing similar experiences. They found joy in their child's smallest success. The result was deeper relationships within their family and a hopeful outlook for the future.

One parent told me: "There's nothing that's ever been harder ... but caring for (my child) is the most rewarding thing I've ever done with my life." Another said: "He has overcome so much, and our family has grown because of what we've experienced."

It's clear these parents didn't just move through the traditional stages of denial, anger, bargaining, depression and acceptance. Surely these broad emotions and feelings were likely present, probably even all at once. But they were able to choose how they perceived their experiences - to find purpose in their caregiving regardless of the disability.

These parents didn't simply accept their loss as the traditional model describes, but transformed it into something meaningful to help them persevere through their experiences.

How to help

What these parents often lack is community-based support, such as respite care, transportation, financial aid and support groups. This helps parents meet basic needs so they can take care of themselves, reflect on their experiences more clearly and find meaning to push them forward.

During a time of ambiguous loss, parents say their lives have turned upside down; they are trying to navigate a new normal. They feel isolated, lonely, misunderstood and judged.

If you know someone experiencing ambiguous loss, it helps to simply ask them how they're doing. You might offer to bring them dinner, include them in activities or just sit with them and listen. These simple acts of kindness may help them feel better understood - and reinvigorate their purpose to face another day. (AP)

Maintenance therapy for advance-CIDP shows reduce relapse in adult patients

Takeda presents Phase 2 trial data of Hyqvia

OSAKA, Japan, June 25: Takeda (TSE:4502/NYSE:TAK) has announced full results from the pivotal Phase 3 Advance-CIDP 1 clinical trial investigating HYQVIA® [Immune Globulin Infusion 10% (Human) with Recombinant Human Hyaluronidase] as maintenance therapy in adult patients with chronic inflammatory demyelinating polyneuropathy (CIDP). Results showed a clinically significant reduction in relapse rate with HYQVIA vs placebo (9.7% versus 31.4%, respectively; p = 0.0045) and other analysis showed delayed time to relapse with HYQVIA vs. placebo. The company also observed favorable data across other endpoints from the study and favorable tolerability. These findings were presented at the 2023 Peripheral Nerve Society (PNS) Annual Meeting in Copenhagen, Denmark on June 20, and simultaneously published in the Journal of the Peripheral Nervous System (JPNS).

CIDP is an acquired, immune-mediated condition affecting the peripheral nervous system that is characterized by progressive, symmetric weakness in distal and proximal limbs and impaired sensory function in extremities. The role of immunoglobulin (IG) therapy for this rare, debilitating and slowly progressing or relapsing disease has been well-established. IG is considered a standard of care for this complex and heterogeneous disease due to its broad immunomodulatory and anti-inflammatory effects. However, the high volume and frequency of treatment required to effectively manage this disease means that treatment can be a burden for patients and their health care providers.

"The results from the Advance-CIDP 1 trial are encouraging for adults with CIDP who require maintenance treatment by offering the potential for a facilitated subcutaneous IG administration option with up to once-monthly dosing (every 2 to 4 weeks)," said Kristina Allikmets, senior vice president and head of Research & Development for Takeda's Plasma-Derived Therapies Business Unit. "We are committed to expanding our portfolio of differentiated plasma therapies into new indications to further realize the tremendous therapeutic value of immunoglobulins in addressing the needs of patients with neuroimmunological disorders."

Randomized

Advance-CIDP 1 is a Phase 3, prospective, randomized, double-blind, multicenter, placebo-controlled study in which adults with stable CIDP on intravenous immunoglobulin (IVIG) were randomized 1:1 to be switched to HYQVIA (n=62) or placebo (n=70) and received their assigned treatment for six months or until relapse or study withdrawal. The primary endpoint was proportion of participants who experienced a relapse defined as worsening of CIDP symptoms as measured by Inflammatory Neuropathy Cause and Treatment (INCAT). Secondary endpoints included patient proportion experiencing functional worsening, time to relapse, change from pre-subcutaneous treatment baseline in Rasch-built Overall Disability Scale (R-ODS) centile score and safety. Key findings showed:

Battle against resistant pathogenic bacteria

Lysando's cutting-edge Artilysin technology a groundbreaking 'green pharma' solution

TRIESENBERG, Liechtenstein, June 25: Lysando, the leading pioneer in the field of antimicrobial proteins has achieved significant milestones with its cutting-edge Artilysin® technology. This innovative platform has demonstrated a distinctive mode of action and exceptional versatility, positioning it at the forefront of the battle against resistant pathogenic bacteria. Embracing the "green pharma" philosophy, Lysando's Artilysin® molecules effectively target resistant pathogens while minimizing environmental, wastewater, and food chain impact.



Lab work

A major concern with antibiotics is the global crisis of antibiotic resistance, severely impacting public health. In contrast, Artilysin® directly addresses this issue by reducing the likelihood of resistance development. Owing to its unique mode of action, Artilysin® minimizes the selective pressure on bacteria, thereby mitigating the risk of the emergence and spread of resistant strains within communities and health-care settings.

Moreover, Artilysin® is a zero environmental impact approach. Unlike antibiotics, which accumulate and persist in soil, water, and other habitats for extended periods of time, Artilysin® degrades rapidly. This attribute enables a sustainable and eco-friendly approach to combating bacterial infections, leading to positive long-term results for both the environment and human health.

"Prioritizing the adoption of eco-friendly technologies is crucial for

achieving sustainable development. I firmly believe that Artilysin® not only spearheads sustainable development but also surpasses antibiotics," said Dr. Park, CEO of Amicogen, Korean Biotech company and Lysando's development partner.

Lysando takes pride in being at the forefront of this groundbreaking technology, offering a safer and more sustainable alternative to antibiotics. Environmental considerations along with our commitment fighting antibiotic resistant bacteria are strong drivers of our development efforts. We believe Artilysin® represents a significant step towards a greener future.

Amicogen Inc. (092040.KQ) is a CDMO and biotechnology company based in Jinju, South Korea. Amicogen is a leader in the development and production of specialty enzymes and proteins for the biopharmaceutical, food, cosmetics and other industries.

Lysando AG is market leader for antimicrobial proteins, so-called Artilysin® molecules. They can effectively eliminate problem-causing bacteria without associated high risk of resistance formation and microbial disbalances. Artilysin® constitutes an innovative, proprietary, and environmentally friendly technology with a wide range of applications.

need immunoglobulin treatment, the Advance-CIDP 1 study results are encouraging," said Dr. Robert Hadden, Consultant Neurologist, Dept. of Neurology, King's College Hospital, London. "If approved as a maintenance therapy for CIDP, this treatment may combine the ability to have subcutaneous treatment at home with less frequent infusions."

The majority (88.7%) of patients receiving HYQVIA in the study received a four-week dosing interval and the mean time to deliver treatment was 125.9 minutes. The mean monthly dose equivalent was equal to 1.1 g/kg for patients receiving HYQVIA. The majority (86.3%) of patients received study treatment using two infusion sites per treatment, while 9.6% and 3.7% used one and three infusion sites, respectively.

HYQVIA is currently under regulatory review in the US and European Union for use as a maintenance therapy in adult patients with stable CIDP.

ADVANCE-CIDP 1 was a Phase 3, multicenter, placebo-controlled, double-blinded study to evaluate the efficacy, safety and tolerability of HYQVIA® [Immune Globulin Infusion 10% (Human) with Recombinant Human Hyaluronidase] as a maintenance

therapy to prevent relapse in chronic inflammatory demyelinating polyneuropathy (CIDP). The global study included 132 adults with a confirmed diagnosis of CIDP and who had remained on a stable dosing regimen of intravenous immunoglobulin (IVIG) therapy for at least three months prior to screening.

The primary endpoint of the clinical trial was the proportion of subjects who experienced a worsening of functional disability, defined as an increase of ≥1 point relative to the pre-subcutaneous (SC) treatment baseline score in two consecutive adjusted Inflammatory Neuropathy Cause and Treatment (INCAT) disability scores. The primary efficacy analysis compared relapse rates using a continuity-corrected X2 test conducted at the 5% level of statistical significance, with missing data imputed as no relapse. Some of the secondary endpoints included time to relapse as defined by relapse probability, effect on activities of daily living (ADL), safety and tolerability. Patients were randomized to receive either HYQVIA or placebo at the same dose and infusion frequency as their prior IVIG treatment (every two, three or four weeks) for six months or until relapse.

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BET helped hip-hop grow and thrive across the globe

LOS ANGELES, June 25, (AP) — “Rap City,” “106 & Park.” And even, “Uncut.”

From innovative to provocative, BET has played a crucial role in creating several influential programs that helped spread hip-hop to millions of homes across the globe. Other than its rival show “Yo! MTV Raps,” the network known as Black Entertainment Television took up the mantle — despite some reluctance — to showcase a misunderstood rap culture decades before it became today’s most popular music genre.

For many, BET became a safe place for those within hip-hop to express their artistry, although not without criticism. Through it all, the network has been a mainstay for established and emerging rap artists.

It was to come together during the BET Awards on Sunday. Show officials planned to celebrate the genre’s 50th anniversary during the telecast dubbed as a “non-stop Hip-Hop Party.” It also comes at a pivotal time for the network, which will be soon be sold. Several Black entrepreneurs and celebrities, including Tyler Perry, media executive Byron Allen and rapper-entrepreneur Diddy, are interested in purchasing the network.

The new owner will acquire an important cultural fixture, one whose success was partially built on how it elevated hip-hop.

“BET was a big platform for hip-hop and urban music overall,” said E-40. His song “Tired of Being Stepped On” with the rap group The Click appeared on BET’s “Video Soul,” which was created in 1981 at a time when MTV refused to play videos by most African Americans. The rapper recalled how guest host Jamie Foxx dissed The Click’s song but the comedian’s critical words didn’t faze him. He felt his

group gained important exposure to promote their “unorthodox” West Coast rap style.

“The network really stepped up. We needed that,” said E-40, who also made a few appearances on another BET show called “Rap City,” which featured hip-hop music videos, interviews and freestyles both sessions with big names including Jay-Z, Lil Wayne and MC Lyte. The show, which highlighted popular and up-and-coming rappers, became the longest-running hip-hop TV show in history.

E-40 credited BET founder Robert Johnson for giving hip-hop a chance. Johnson built the brand into the leading TV network for Black Americans in hopes of creating content geared toward jazz, comedy and gospel. But at the time, he and other founders were unsure about featuring a rap show, believing the genre would be short lived.

Rival MTV’s “Yo! MTV Raps,” however, showed that hip-hop had staying power.

“After kind of a brief initial hesitancy, the founders of BET really understood how hip-hop was transforming culture overall and specifically Black entertainment,” said Scott M. Mills, BET’s president and CEO.

Evolution

“They rapidly embraced hip-hop as part of the mission of BET,” he said. “You went from BET having shows with no hip-hop artists or music to artists and music starting to trickle through shows to this full evolution of creating dedicated shows, celebrating hip-hop music, artists and culture.”

BET’s decision to embrace hip-hop literally paid off: Johnson and his then-wife, Sheila, sold the network to Viacom in 2000 for \$3 billion — which made them the nation’s first Black billionaires. He remained CEO until 2006.

After the sale, BET continued to beef up its content with reality shows and the network’s flagship program “106 & Park,” a weekday show that started in 2000 and lasted for more than a decade. The show thrived with a video countdown, interviews and performances. A year later, the network started the BET Awards then the BET Hip-Hop Awards.

For Lil Jon, he certainly benefitted from appearing on “106 & Park.” One day, the rapper-producer joined the show’s audience during the time when he had a hard time getting music on BET.

Lil Jon had no clue “106 & Park” co-host A.J. Calloway would notice him sitting in the crowd before he shouted out his name. The exposure helped him become more recognizable, particularly to the BET brass — who he says initially struggled to grasp the concept of his crunk music, which eventually gained mainstream appeal.

“We strived to be on ‘Rap City.’ We strived to be on ‘106 & Park,’” Lil Jon said. “A.J. knew who I was, because he would go to the South and host things. He knew the power of my music. ... They would show me in the audience throughout the whole show. It was what they call an impression in the advertising world. It was a way for me to be around people at BET. They started to see and get familiar with me, and they wanted to look out for me. BET was just a place where we would get support from our community.”

Music

Variety



This image released by Sony Pictures shows Andrew Barth Feldman, (left), and Jennifer Lawrence in a scene from ‘No Hard Feelings.’ (AP)

Film

‘No Hard Feelings’ feels stuck in adolescence

Lawrence relishes ‘messy & chaotic’ role

LOS ANGELES, June 25, (AP) — It’s a beloved rom-com trope: an irresponsible, irreverent and seemingly irredeemable man falls in love with a woman, setting him on the path to finally get his act together.

But in “No Hard Feelings,” which hits theaters Friday, director Gene Stupnitsky sought to subvert those gendered expectations, with Jennifer Lawrence instead playing his dirtbag protagonist.

“We always described her as someone who cuts corners, who is lazy, doesn’t have great nutrition, likes to smoke pot and drink and doesn’t take anything too seriously,” he said of the character he and co-writer, John Phillips, created. “A guy doing it, that is well-trodden territory. It’s not very interesting.”

“No Hard Feelings” follows Lawrence’s Maddie as she conspires with the parents of an awkward 19-year-old (Andrew Barth Feldman) to have sex with him before he leaves for college in exchange for a car. He’s left in the dark about the scheme, leaving Maddie to try to seduce the shy brainiac more than a decade her junior.

Lawrence said the “messy and chaotic” character’s appeal were one of the things that drew her to the film. “She was just so determined and there was no way to really stop her from achieving what she was going to achieve.”

The film is based on an actual Craigslist post the producers stumbled upon years ago. In the film a similar message becomes the catalyst for Maddie — desperate to continue working as a Uber driver as a last-ditch effort to keep the house her late mother left her — to respond.

Stupnitsky said the post, in addition to being very funny, was ripe for exploring a host of timely topics. “Helicopter parents are a real thing. And I think sex workers were in the news a lot. And just all these ideas were coming together, you know, class differences, all of it,” Stupnitsky, an Emmy-nominated writer on “The Office” who directed 2019’s “Good Boys” and co-wrote the R-rated Cameron Diaz comedy “Bad Teacher,” said. “It’s more just asking questions and bringing up these different ideas. I don’t even know how I feel about everything, but I think my favorite comedies usually go someplace deeper.”

Although not quite a romcom, the film employs many of the genre’s clichés, including raunchy humor, awkward date scenarios and even some nudity, although not in the way audiences might expect.

“I didn’t have any reservations,” Lawrence said laughing when asked about her feelings toward nude scenes, something she was candidly reluctant about when her role in the 2018 thriller, “Red Sparrow” required it. “Once you do it, then that’s done.”

Flurries of surprise and anticipation for the Oscar winner’s raunchy comedy debut abounded after the first “No Hard Feelings” trailer dropped, betraying a subtle assumption that perhaps this kind of movie would be beneath her.

Charismatic

“I don’t know,” she said of why people might not expect her to do a comedy. “You go about it the same way. It wouldn’t be funny if you were like, ‘I’m gonna make a joke now.’ You have to really believe what you’re saying, so the process is the same.”

Lawrence has long wanted to do a comedy and has received no shortage of scripts, but said she found none of them funny enough — that is until Stupnitsky handed her this one.

“I’ve known her socially over the years and I know how funny she is, and I know how much she loves comedy,” Stupnitsky said. “She’s done satire and comedy dramas, but a pure, straight up R-rated comedy, I just selfishly wanted her for myself.”

In a saner world, we would have already had a dozen Jennifer Lawrence comedies.

When aliens arrive they will surely go directly to IMDb to survey her filmography and wonder why one of Hollywood’s funniest and most naturally charismatic stars spent the first decade of her career in dystopias, action movies and whatever it is you call “Mother!”

As if to make up for lost time, Lawrence has in “No Hard Feelings” made the kind of R-rated teen comedy that has usually launched young actors. She plays a 32-year-old Montauk Uber driver, desperate for money after her car is towed, is hired by the wealthy parents (Matthew Broderick, Laura Benanti) of a timid

and sheltered 19-year-old (newcomer Andrew Barth Feldman) to take his virginity before he heads off to Princeton.

We’ve, of course, had plenty of movies about teenagers trying to get laid for the first time. But “No Hard Feelings,” directed and co-written by Gene Stupnitsky, may be the first in which the teen in question has seemingly no desire to do so. He’s heterosexual, his parents are sure based on his browsing history.

But when Maddie Barker (Lawrence) turns up in a tight pink dress and heels at the Long Island animal shelter Percy (Feldman) works at, he responds mostly with prickliness and fear to her come-ons. The encounter ends with Percy spraying Maddie with mace.

Now, a 19-year-old rejecting Jennifer Lawrence like this is potentially a good way to sever any possible connection the audience has with one of your main characters. It’s like having him smack a child. Some things are unforgivable. Maddie and Percy go on a series of increasingly intimate dates, and Percy vows to eventually “put out.”

The basis of “No Hard Feelings,” all around, is fairly untenable. Even less believable than Percy’s response to Maddie is her involvement in this scheme in the first place. In the movie’s opening scenes, her car is towed away by a ghosted ex-boyfriend (Ebon Moss-Bachrach of “The Bear”). In the uber-rich environs of Montauk, Maddie is trying to hold onto her house — the one she grew up in — while foreclosure lurks.

Maddie, forced to rollerblade to her bartending job, may be financially desperate. But, say what you will about the gig economy, it offers plenty of alternatives to earning money besides sleeping with teenagers who cringe when the restaurant doesn’t have Pepsi.

And yet, “No Hard Feelings” works better than it ought to. The preposterousness of the set-up is, naturally, part of the joke. Feldman, who here resembles the awkward Linguini of “Ratatouille” brought to life, brings more sensitivity to the role than you would expect, and flashes of good comic timing. So uncomfortable is he on their dates that at the sound of a break in a nearby game of pool, he jumps like a frightened cat. Skinny dipping in the ocean, he doggy paddles.

NEW YORK: The selection of 19-year-old basketball sensation **Victor Wembanyama** by the San Antonio Spurs was must see-TV Thursday night.

The first round of the NBA draft averaged a record 4,928,000 viewers on ESPN and ABC according to Nielsen. This is the third year that the first round has been on both networks.

It was also the most-viewed program across television for the night.

The audience peaked at 6,085,000 during the first 15 minutes (8-8:15 pm ET) when the French phenom was drafted. The first round was also 33% higher compared to 2003, when **LeBron James**, **Dwyane Wade** and **Carmelo Anthony** were selected. That was also the first year that ESPN began carrying the draft after it had aired on Turner Sports from 1985 through 2002.

Overall, draft coverage for both rounds on ESPN averaged 3,743,000 viewers, a 23% increase over last year. (AP)

LONDON: “Titanic” director **James Cameron** says the search operation for a deep-sea tourist sub turned into a “nightmarish charade” that prolonged the agony of the families of the passengers.

Cameron told the BBC in an interview broadcast on Friday that he “felt in my bones” that the Titan submersible had been lost soon after he heard it had lost contact with the surface during its descent to the wreckage of the ocean liner at the bottom of the Atlantic Ocean.

He said focus in the media over the next few days about the submersible having 96 hours of oxygen supply — and that banging noises had been heard — were a “prolonged and nightmarish charade.”

“That was just a cruel, slow turn of the screw for four days as far as I’m concerned,” he said. “Because I knew the truth on Monday morning.”

The Titan launched at 8 am on Sunday, and was reported overdue that afternoon about 435 miles (700 kilometers) south of St. John’s, Newfoundland. On Thursday, US Coast Guards said debris had been found on the ocean bed. Authorities said all five people

aboard the submersible died when the vessel imploded.

Cameron, who has made more than 30 dives to the wreckage of the Titanic, said he knew an “extreme catastrophic event” had happened as soon as he heard the submersible had lost navigation and communications during its descent.



Cameron



James

“For the sub’s electronics to fail and its communication system to fail, and its tracking transponder to fail simultaneously — sub’s gone,” he told the British broadcaster.

“For me, there was no doubt. I knew that sub was sitting exactly underneath its last known depth and position, and that’s exactly

where they found it. There was no search. When they finally got an ROV down there that could make the depth, they found it within hours. Probably within minutes.”

The filmmaker has been an oceanography enthusiast since childhood and has made dozens of deep-sea dives, including one to

the deepest point on Earth — the bottom of the Mariana Trench in the Pacific Ocean.

Cameron said that “one of the saddest aspects of this is how preventable it really was.”

“We now have another wreck that is based on, unfortunately, the same principles of not heeding warnings,” he said. (AP)

People & Places

PARIS
a guy thing



Hermes



Hermes



Hermes



Hermes



Hermes



Hermes

Reimagined & reshaped

Anderson's couture artistry captivates

PARIS, June 25. (AP) A sparkling mist of water from towering fountains cooled overheated VIP guests at Spanish luxury fashion house Loewe's show on Saturday at Paris Fashion Week.

Its Northern Irish designer Jonathan Anderson masterfully translated the essence of sculptor Lynda Benglis' works into a spring collection that explored themes of sparkle and elongated form. It was a fitting showcase of his continual innovation for Loewe's and underscored Anderson's status among the Parisian design elite.

Here are some highlights of the day's spring-summer 2024 menswear collections, including an interview with a fashion teacher whose school was the site of a shocking explosion earlier this week:

Against the backdrop of the monumental, water-spouting sculptures, Loewe's latest Paris Fashion Week show was nothing short of a spectacle - and with Anderson at the helm, traditional menswear was reimagined and reshaped.

High-waisted trousers bore a touch of vintage nostalgia, their surreal heights commanding attention and distorting perceptions of the human form. Mirroring the shimmering sparkle of the surrounding fountains, sequins and crystals added a festive disco-era energy to the collection.

Blazers

Anderson's touch was evident in the deceptively ordinary blazers, coats, and knits - his cuts transformed the seemingly straightforward items into gestural art works. A suede tunic with a conjoined handbag created from the same leather tickled the fancy of the audience, including actor Brian Cox, and drew a flurry of camera clicks.

The collection featured a subdued palette of soft pastels, blues, blacks and khakis, dramatically offset by accessories such as crystal-embellished sunglasses and a crystal hummingbird on a shredded brocade top. An array of footwear and oversized bags added a further dimension to Anderson's study of proportions.

The show proved that Anderson's imaginative leadership at Loewe continues to show his prowess as an innovator, with a whimsical fusion of art and daring.

The runway at Loewe's was also a stage for the artworks of Lynda Benglis. Three modernist fountains lined the catwalk, introducing an artistic pulse that echoed through the entire show. The sculptures, made from materials ranging from bronze to glitter, showcased Benglis' skill in redefining conventional sculpture boundaries.

The art-infused runway showed again Anderson's penchant for blurring the boundaries of fashion.

The global fashion community was shocked by the suspected gas explosion earlier this week in Paris' 5th district that partially destroyed a building and crumpled the facade of a private academy of design and arts, the Paris American Academy.

Four people remain hospitalized in critical condition after Wednesday's explosion, and at least 54 others suffered lighter injuries or psychological shock. One person, a teacher, remains unaccounted for.

Experts equipped with search dogs had to pause their sifting through the rubble on Rue Saint-Jacques until the site can be deemed secure, authorities said.

This spring-summer, under the expert hand of veteran designer Veronique Nichanian, the Hermes menswear show unfolded with an air of cool nonchalance and subtle, sophisticated luxury.

Style



Hermes



Hermes



Hermes



Hermes

Above and below: Models wear creations for the Hermes Menswear Spring/Summer 2024 fashion collection presented in Paris, Saturday, June 24. (AP)

notching multiple Grammy nominations, Dr Luke has repeatedly won pop songwriter of the year awards from the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers.

Kesha sued him in 2014, alleging he drugged and raped her nine years earlier and psychologically tormented her throughout their working relationship. She said he harangued her about her weight, denigrated her voice and lorded his power over her career.

"The abuse I suffered from Luke was a decade long, every day, every moment of every day," she said during sworn questioning in 2017. According to Kesha, the ordeal sparked a flare-up of an eating disorder that led to her spending two months in a rehabilitation clinic in 2014.

Dr Luke, who has not been charged with any crimes, responded by suing Kesha. He has asserted that she made "completely untrue and deeply hurtful" claims to tarnish him and get out of her record contract.

"Any reasonable person will not believe her," he said when questioned under oath in 2017.

His attorneys have noted that Kesha herself said he "never made advances at me" during sworn questioning in a separate lawsuit in 2011. She has since said she was "not entirely transparent" in those 2011 statements because she was terrified of Dr Luke and felt compelled to protect him.

Kesha went five years without releasing an album during the standoff, saying she could not work with a "monster" but couldn't get away from him because she was under contract with his label. His lawyers and the label's attorneys maintained that she did not have to work with him personally.

She eventually returned with 2017's "Rainbow" and two subsequent albums, all with other producers. Her most recent album, "Gag Order," came out in May.

Dr Luke's career also took a hit after she went public with her allegations. He has said various artists, particularly female ones, eschewed "working with someone who's called a rapist."

But under the name Tyson Trax, he made it back to the top of the charts in 2020 with Doja Cat's "Say So," garnering his first Grammy nomination since 2014. By this year, he was ASCAP's pop songwriter of the year once again.

Along the way, Kesha's sexual abuse-related claims were dismissed because of time limits and other legal issues, without any findings about the merits of the allegations themselves. But she counter sued Dr. Luke under a New York law against bringing frivolous suits to try to intimidate critics into silence; New York's highest court recently ruled that she could pursue those claims. (AP)

Fashion

The court clash between the multi platinum-selling singer and the Grammy-nominated producer has been playing out since 2014 and looming over both of their careers.

The Associated Press does not generally name people who report being sexually assaulted unless they come forward publicly, as Kesha has done.

The singer made her name - originally styled Ke\$ha - with a series of swaggering, just-try-to-stop-me party anthems, beginning with 2009's "TiK ToK." Those early hits were produced by Dr Luke, who founded the record label that signed a Nashville unknown named Kesha Rose Sebert at age 18.

Born Lukasz Gottwald, he has produced chart-toppers for Perry, Lavigne, Flo Rida and more. Besides



Dr Luke



Kesha

Variety

NEW YORK: Pop star Kesha and producer Dr Luke have settled nearly a decade of suits and counter suits over her accusation that he drugged and raped her and his claim that she made it up and defamed him, they announced Thursday, with the singer saying that "only God

knows what happened that night." Dr Luke, meanwhile, said he was "absolutely certain that nothing happened. I never drugged or assaulted her."

Terms of the deal were not immediately disclosed, as both she and he revealed on Instagram that they had agreed to "a resolution" of the case and to a statement from each of them. Messages seeking comment were sent to their attorneys.

"I cannot recount everything that

happened," Kesha wrote, adding that she wishes "nothing but peace to all parties involved."

Dr Luke, in turn, said he wished her well and wanted "to put this difficult matter behind me" after years of fighting to clear his name.

The deal averts a trial that had been scheduled for this summer over allegations that became a #MeToo cause for Kesha's supporters and came to involve a lineup of music industry

luminaries. Lady Gaga, Kelly Clarkson, Katy Perry, Pink, Avril Lavigne, Adam Levine and Taio Cruz are among those who gave testimony or sworn statements related to the case.

At the same time, the case raised important legal questions about fame and defamation. The stakes were seen as high enough that media outlets weighed in about pretrial rulings that they worried could help powerful people suppress unflattering reporting.

Ecology

Beekeepers struggle

Nearly half of 'US bee' colonies died last year

WASHINGTON, June 25, (AP) — America's honeybee hives just staggered through the second highest death rate on record, with beekeepers losing nearly half of their managed colonies, an annual bee survey found.

But using costly and Herculean measures to create new colonies, beekeepers are somehow keeping afloat. Thursday's University of Maryland and Auburn University survey found that even though 48% of colonies were lost in the year that ended April 1, the number of United States honeybee colonies "remained relatively stable."

Honeybees are crucial to the food supply, pollinating more than 100 of the crops we eat, including nuts, vegetables, berries, citrus and melons. Scientists said a combination of parasites, pesticides, starvation and climate change keep causing large die-offs.

Last year's 48% annual loss is up from the previous year's loss of 39% and the 12-year average of 39.6%, but it's not as high as 2020-2021's 50.8% mortality rate, according to the survey funded and administered by the non-profit research group Bee Informed Partnership. Beekeepers told the surveying scientists that 21% loss over the winter is acceptable and more than three-fifths of beekeepers surveyed said their losses were higher than that.

"This is a very troubling loss number when we barely manage sufficient colonies to meet pollination demands in the U.S.," said former government bee scientist Jeff Pettis, president of the global beekeeper association Apimondia that wasn't part of the study. "It also highlights the hard work that beekeepers must do to rebuild their colony numbers each year."

The overall bee colony population is relatively steady because commercial beekeepers split and restock their hives, finding or buying new queens, or even starter packs for colonies, said University of Maryland bee researcher **Nathalie Steinhauer**, the survey's lead author. It's an expensive and time-consuming process.

The prognosis is not as bad as 15 years ago because beekeepers have learned how to rebound from big losses, she said.

"The situation is not really getting worse, but it's also not really getting better," Steinhauer said. "It is not a bee apocalypse."

Pollination

Despite big annual losses the situation is a far cry from 2007 when many bee experts expected an end to managed pollination said US Department Agriculture research entomologist Jay Evans, who wasn't part of the survey.

"There are threats certainly in the environment and honeybees have persisted," Evans said. "I don't think honeybees will go extinct but I think they will always have these sort of challenges."

Some commercial beekeepers who have succeeded in the past lost as much as 80% of their colonies this past year, while other beekeepers did well, it varied so much, Evans said. Pettis, who has 150 colonies on Maryland's Eastern shore, had less than 18% loss, saying he used organic acids for mite control.

The parasitic mite *Varroa destructor* that helps transmit viruses is the chief culprit, but bad weather and queen issues were also big problems in the past year, Steinhauer said. Pesticides also make things worse because it makes bees more vulnerable to diseases and less likely to seek food, she said.

"It really can be like death by a thousand cuts with the most obvious one being varroa," Steinhauer said.

The mite varroa is a flat creature that crawls on the bee - it would be the equivalent of a frisbee or flat softball on human bodies - Evans said. The mite seems to make it easier for viruses to attack and kill bees, he and Steinhauer said.

It used to take large amounts of varroa, such as in 60% of a colony, to cause virus problems, but now even small infestations at 1% or 2% in a colony can cause massive problems, Steinhauer said.

"We are fighting this evolving enemy," Steinhauer said.

Another problem is landscapes that have only one crop or homogenous landscapes which deprive bees of food, while pesticides and bouts of extreme weather also have caused problems.

For example in the Washington, D.C. area unusual 80-degree warmth in January brought some bees out of their normal winter routine and then when it turned cool again, they had problems, Evans said.

"The impact of climate change on bee colony survival is real and can go undetected," Pettis said in an email.

The demand for pollination from commercial bee colonies is growing even as the beekeepers have to work harder to make up for losses, Steinhauer said. The US Department of Agriculture says 35% of the human diet comes from insect-pollinated plants and the honeybee is responsible for 80% of that pollination.

"There is this whole side of our agricultural industry that relies on these colonies," Steinhauer said. "And the fact that every year the commercial beekeepers have to invest so much more effort to keep those numbers up because they have to fulfill those pollination contracts puts a lot of stress on those beekeepers and the bees."

Also:

SAVANNAH, Ga.: A Georgia congressman moved Friday to stop a federal agency from imposing new speed restrictions on boats and ships in order to protect critically endangered whales.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration proposed a year ago to broaden the geographical area of its seasonal speed restrictions along the US East Coast and expand the types of vessels required to slow down. The rule change is intended to protect North Atlantic right whales, a species that scientists say is perilously near extinction with a dwindling population of less than 340.

US Rep. **Buddy Carter**, a Republican whose district includes Georgia's 100-mile (160-kilometer) coast, introduced a bill Friday that would prohibit NOAA from spending federal dollars to implement the rule change until its parent agency, the Department of Commerce, develops and deploys new technology to monitor Atlantic waters for right whales.

Carter said the enhanced slowdown rules would be restrictive enough to cause charter fishing boats to quit the business and to disrupt the efficiency of busy seaports like the Port of Savannah.

"We care about the whales too," Carter said in phone interview. "We want to protect them, but not at the expense of destroying our commercial fishing and slowing down our port traffic to the point where it has an enormous impact on our economy."

Carter's proposal comes less than three weeks after a House subcommittee heard testimony from supporters and opponents of the expanded speed restrictions.

Scientists say being struck by vessels and entanglement in fishing gear are the two biggest threats to right whales, which are dying faster than they are reproducing.

"Even one human-caused mortality puts the species at risk of extinction," **Jessica Redfern**, a conservation scientist at the New England Aquarium, told the US House subcommittee at a June 6 hearing.

She said scientists have documented 13 right whale deaths from boat collisions in the past 15 years.



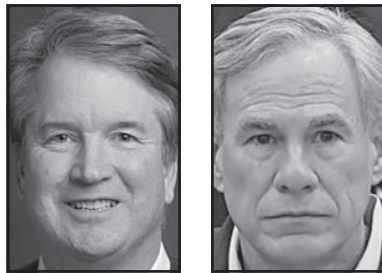
Steinhauer



People cremate their relatives who have died from heat-related illnesses, as a scorching heat wave overwhelmed hospitals and filled a morgue to capacity in Ballia, in northern Indian state of Uttar Pradesh, Monday, June 19. (AP)



A pair of North Atlantic right whales interact at the surface of Cape Cod Bay, Monday, March 27, 2023, in Massachusetts. The 193 UN member nations have adopted the first-ever treaty to protect marine life in the high seas. The United Nations chief hailed the historic agreement saying it gives the ocean 'a fighting chance.' (AP)



Kavanaugh

Abbott

Discovery

'Cut electricity use': Texas' power grid operator asked residents to voluntarily cut back on electricity due to anticipated record demand on the system as a heat wave kept parts of the state and southern U.S. in triple-digit temperatures.

In neighboring Oklahoma, more than 100,000 customers were eagerly awaiting the restoration of power and air conditioning following weekend storms that downed trees and snapped hundreds of utility poles. Officials say at least one person in Oklahoma has died because of the prolonged outages, which could last into the weekend for some residents.

The request in Texas marked the first time this year that the Electric Reliability Council of Texas - which serves most of Texas' nearly 30 million residents - had asked customers to cut their energy consumption. ERCOT said it was "not experiencing emergency conditions," but it noted that the state set an unofficial June record for energy demand.

Much of Texas was under excessive heat warnings Tuesday that were set to stay in place until Wednesday, with forecasted heat indexes surpassing 110 degrees, according to the National Weather Service.

Many Texans have been skeptical of the state's grid since a deadly 2021 ice storm knocked out power to millions of customers for days. Republican Gov **Greg Abbott** has said improvements since then have made the grid more stable, but those improvement efforts continue to draw scrutiny.

In Louisiana, the Southwestern Electric Power Company said more than 93,000 of its customers remained without power Tuesday morning. Nearly half them were around Shreveport, where the utility has estimated power would be restored by Saturday night.

At its peak, nearly 250,000 SWEPCO customers lost power due to the severe weather. SWEPCO said it had more than 3,000 utility workers trying to restore power in the region. (AP)

SC rules against Navajo Nation: The Supreme Court ruled against the Navajo Nation in a dispute involving water from the drought-stricken Colorado River.

States that draw water from the river - Arizona, Nevada and Colorado - and water districts in California that are also involved in the case had urged the court to decide for them, which the justices did in a 5-4 ruling. Colorado had argued that siding with the Navajo Nation would undermine existing agreements and disrupt the management of the river.

The Biden administration had said that if the court were to come down in favor of the Navajo Nation, the federal government could face lawsuits from many other tribes.

Lawyers for the Navajo Nation had characterized the tribe's request as modest, saying they simply were seeking an assessment

The Conversation

Lessons from past heat waves can help save lives

Extreme heat disasters common

By Jason Vogel, University of Washington and Brian G. Henning, Gonzaga University

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

The heat dome that descended upon the Pacific Northwest in late June 2021 met a population radically unprepared for it.

Almost two-thirds of households earning US\$50,000 or less and 70% of rented houses in Washington's King, Pierce and Snohomish counties had no air conditioning. In Spokane, nearly one-quarter of survey respondents didn't have in-home air conditioning, and among those who did, 1 in 5 faced significant, often financial, barriers to using it.

Imagine having no way to cool your home as temperatures spiked to 108 degrees Fahrenheit (43 Celsius), and 120 F (49 C) in some places. People in urban heat islands - areas with few trees and lots of asphalt and concrete that can absorb and radiate heat - saw temperatures as much as 14 F (7.8 C) higher than that.

Extreme heat disasters like this are becoming increasingly common in regions where high heat used to be rare. Blackouts during severe heat waves can also leave residents who believe they are protected because they have in-home air conditioning at unexpected risk. To prepare, cities, neighborhoods, companies and individuals can take steps now that can reduce the harm.

In a new report, written with colleagues at universities and the Washington State Department of Health and released ahead of the two-year anniversary of the heat wave, we show how municipal planning agencies, parks departments, local health agencies, community-based organizations like churches and nonprofits, multiple state agencies, hospitals, public health professionals and emergency response personnel, as well as individuals and families, can play a vital role in reducing risk.

The 2021 heat dome was Washington's deadliest weather disaster on record. It contributed to 441 deaths in the state between June 27 and July 3, our research shows. Medical systems were overwhelmed.

There are numerous ways to avoid this deadly outcome in the future. Many emerge from thinking about extreme heat as long-term risk reduc-

tion, not just short-term emergency response.

Greening the urban environment can reduce heat exposure and save lives. For example, planting trees and building shade structures where people are most exposed to heat can provide local relief from extreme temperatures. That includes providing shade at buildings without air conditioning and exposed public spaces, such as bus stops and parks.

Planting rooftops with vegetation, known as green roofs, or painting them white so they reflect heat rather than absorb it, can also lower roof temperatures by tens of degrees. Used widely, they can reduce an entire neighborhood's heat island effect by several degrees.

Efforts like these, along with tree planting campaigns in public parks and rights of way, and ordinances requiring shade trees for parking lots and private development projects, can transform the urban heat landscape.

When heat waves are coming, culturally nuanced outreach efforts focused on the most vulnerable populations - and involving sources they trust - can save lives.

Advisories

Government heat advisories in traditional media like radio, newspapers, TV and the internet have been shown to have limited success in changing people's behavior. In the 2022 Spokane survey, 88% of respondents indicated they were unlikely to leave their home during an extreme heat event to go to a cooling center, for example. The reasons varied, including misperception of personal risk, fear of leaving homes unoccupied, not wanting to leave pets behind and mistrust of government.

Culturally specific resources led by community-based organizations can get around the government trust issue and can be tailored to the local population.

That might mean opening cooling centers in churches or common community gathering places and launching heat awareness campaigns driven by trusted community messengers. New York City developed a door-to-door wellness check program that uses neighborhood volunteers to check on elderly and other at-risk residents.

Under this model, churches, libraries, community centers and com-

munity nonprofits take center stage, supported with resources from local and state governments. Baltimore developed more than a dozen "resiliency hubs" using this model to provide water, cooling, power for charging devices and other support.

Community-based organizations can also direct energy assistance to lower-income community members. In Spokane, one community organization created a "cooling fund" to provide portable air conditioners to those who cannot afford one.

Our report lays out many other strategies to achieve long-term heat risk reduction.

Addressing extreme heat over the long term requires the participation of many other groups not tasked with protecting public health.

For example, landlords of multi-family housing and rental homes have an important role to play. After the 2021 heat wave, Oregon passed a law prohibiting landlords from restricting tenants' ability to install window air conditioners.

Employers of people who work outdoors, or indoors in buildings without air conditioning, can protect workers by allowing more breaks, providing shade and water and adjusting work hours to avoid heat exposure - although concerns persist about rule enforcement and reduced pay.

Utilities can make a difference by ensuring the power stays on during high-demand periods, particularly in vulnerable neighborhoods, and working with communities to reduce costs for vulnerable people that may prevent them from using air conditioning.

Ultimately, reducing extreme heat vulnerability through multiple strategies is crucial because lives are at stake.

Extreme heat waves are forecast to occur more frequently across the globe as greenhouse gas emissions continue to warm the climate. Between 1971 and 2021, Washington state experienced an average of three extreme heat days per year. By the 2050s, climate models project that will rise to between 17 and 30 extreme heat days per year - a fivefold increase.

In the end, saving lives from extreme heat is a complicated challenge requiring coordination across multiple levels of government, agencies and the civic and private sectors. (AP)

of the tribe's water needs and a plan to meet them.

The facts of the case go back to treaties that the tribe and the federal government signed in 1849 and 1868. The second treaty

established the reservation as the tribe's "permanent home" - a promise the Navajo Nation says includes a sufficient supply of water. In 2003 the tribe sued the federal government, arguing it had failed to con-

sider or protect the Navajo Nation's water rights to the lower portion of the Colorado River.

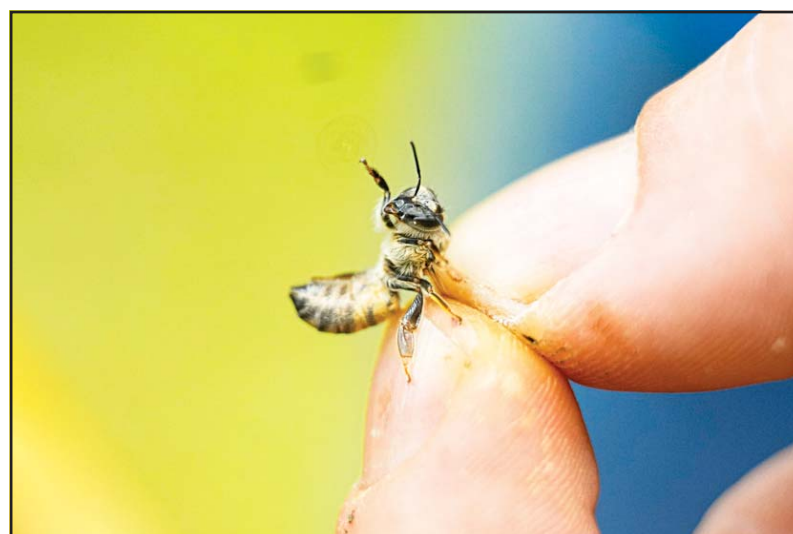
Writing for a majority made up of conservative justices, Justice **Brett Kavanaugh** explained that "the Navajos contend that the treaty requires the United States to take affirmative steps to secure water for the Navajos - for example, by assessing the Tribe's water needs, developing a plan to secure the needed water, and potentially building pipelines, pumps, wells, or other water infrastructure."

But, Kavanaugh said, "In light of the treaty's text and history, we conclude that the treaty does not require the United States to take those affirmative steps."

Kavanaugh acknowledged that water issues are difficult ones. "Allocating water in the arid regions of the American West is often a zero-sum situation," he wrote. It is important, he said, for courts to leave "to Congress and the President the responsibility to enact appropriations laws and to otherwise update federal law as they see fit in light of the competing contemporary needs for water."

A federal trial court initially dismissed the lawsuit, but an appeals court allowed it to go forward. The Supreme Court's decision reverses that ruling from the appeals court.

In a dissent, Justice Neil Gorsuch wrote that he would have allowed the case to go forward and he characterized the Navajo's position as a "simple ask." (AP)



Zac Lamas, post doctoral fellow at ORISE, holds a bee as he inspects them for the parasitic mite *Varroa* at a hive in the backyard of University of Maryland bee researcher Nathalie Steinhauer on Wednesday, June 21, in College Park, Md. A new survey says America's honeybee hives just staggered through the second highest death rate on record. The mites are a factor why bee deaths are on the rise. (AP)

Ostapenko beats Krejčíková in Birmingham Classic final

Alcaraz wins Queen's Club final for 1st title on grass, reclaims top ranking

LONDON, June 25, (AP) — Carlos Alcaraz won the Queen's Club Championships final on Sunday for his first ATP title on grass and reclaimed the top ranking, ensuring he will enter Wimbledon next month as the No. 1 seed.

Despite struggling at times in the first set, Alcaraz beat Alex de Minaur 6-4, 6-4 for his fifth title of the year and 11th overall.

That saw the 20-year-old Spaniard move above Novak Djokovic in the rankings and confirmed the U.S. Open champion as a serious challenger to the Serbian's crown at Wimbledon. Alcaraz lost in the fourth round to Jan-rik Sinner last year.



Latvia's Jelena Ostapenko lifts the trophy following the women's singles final of the Rothesay Classic Birmingham at Edgbaston Priory Club, Birmingham, England. (AP)

Sunday's final was Alcaraz's first on grass, in only the third tournament of his young career on the surface.

He had to save two break points in the eighth game of the first set, broke in the next game and then served out for the set. Alcaraz won the only break point of the second set, when De Minaur double-faulted, and sealed the title on his first match point when the Australian sent a return long.

Jelena Ostapenko staged off a late comeback to beat top-seeded Barbora Krejčíková in the Birmingham Classic final to win her second title on grass.

In a battle of the top two seeds and former French Open champions, it was the second-seeded Latvian who came out on top, winning 7-6 (8), 6-4.

Ostapenko then raced to a 5-1 lead to leave her on the brink of victory before Krejčíková responded by winning three games in a row.

TENNIS

It was Ostapenko's sixth singles title and her second on grass after triumphing at Eastbourne in 2021.

Two-time Wimbledon champion Petra Kvitová showed she's ready to try for a third title by beating Donna Vekić 6-2, 7-6 (6) to win the Berlin Open for her 31st career victory.

Kvitová saved three of the four break points she faced and converted four of her five opportunities as she won the match in 1 hour, 41 minutes for her sixth title on grass. She has won 12 of her last 13 matches on the surface going back to her title run in Eastbourne last season.



Carlos Alcaraz, of Spain, holds the trophy after defeating Alex de Minaur, of Australia, 6/4, 6/4 in the mens singles final match at the Queens Club tennis tournament in London. (AP)

Union 'hand' Inter Miami seventh consecutive loss

St. Louis City edge Earthquakes

CHESTER, Pa., June 25, (AP) — Defender Jakob Glesnes gave Philadelphia an early lead and the Union handed Inter Miami its seventh straight defeat, 4-1 on Saturday night.

Philadelphia (10-5-4) took the lead on Glesnes' goal in the 14th minute. Fellow defender Kai Wagner picked up an assist on Glesnes' first netter since the 2021 season when he scored three times.

The Union took a two-goal lead when Julián Carranza took a pass from Mikael Uhre in the 39th minute and scored for a 10th time this season.

Leon Flach's first goal this season came in the fourth minute of stoppage time to put the Union up 3-0 at half-time. It was Flach's first goal since the 2021 season when he found the net once in his rookie season. Daniel Gazdag and Alejandro Bedoya had assists on Flach's goal. Gazdag's ninth assist this season ties him with Atlanta United's Thiago Almada for the league lead.

Inter Miami struck quickly in the second half when Robert Taylor took a pass from Benjamin Cremaschi in the 50th minute and scored his second goal this season.

SOCCER

An own-goal by Inter Miami rookie defender David Ruiz in the 68th minute pushed Philadelphia's lead to 4-1.

St. Louis City 2, Earthquakes 1

In San Jose, Samuel Adeniran scored his first two goals of the season, the second on a penalty kick in the second half, and St. Louis City ended San Jose's 10-match unbeaten streak at home with a 2-1 victory over the Earthquakes.

Adeniran gave St. Louis City (10-7-2) a 1-0 halftime lead when he took a pass from Rasmus Alm in the 41st minute and scored.

Jamiro Monteiro scored the equalizer for San Jose two minutes into the second half, using an assist Jackson Yueill to score his first goal of the season.

Adeniran's PK winner came in the 58th minute.

Roman Bürki finished with eight saves for expansion St. Louis City. Daniel de Sousa Brito saved three shots for the Earthquakes (7-7-6).

Whitecaps 3, LAFC 2

In Los Angeles, Defender Ranko Veselinovic scored in the second minute, Ryan Gauld had a goal and two assists and the Vancouver Whitecaps never trailed in a 3-2 victory over Los Angeles FC.

Vancouver (6-5-7) beat the defending champions on the road for the first time in its eighth attempt. The Whitecaps had lost three straight on the road coming into the match and were 0-8-7 in their last 15 away from home.

Austin 3, Dynamo 0

In Austin, Ethan Finlay and Gyasi Zardes scored first-half goals and Austin FC cruised to a 3-0 victory over the Houston Dynamo.

Finlay gave goalkeeper Brad Stuver the only goal he would need when he scored unassisted in the 22nd minute. It was his third goal of the season. Zardes added an insurance goal in the 32nd minute, using assists from Sebastián Driussi and Diego Fagundez to find the net for a fifth time.

Defender Julio Cascante scored five minutes into the second half to complete the scoring. Daniel Pereira and Jon Gallagher had assists on Cascante's second goal this season.

Stuver finished with three saves to earn the clean sheet for Austin (7-8-4). Steve Clark saved one shot for Houston (8-8-3)

Austin has won all four match-ups at home with the Dynamo. Houston owns two home victories over Austin this season. The home team has won seven of the eight meetings all-time.

Fire 1, Sporting KC 0

In Kansas City, Fabian Herbers scored in the second minute of the second half and Chris Brady made it stand up in the Chicago Fire's 1-0 victory over Sporting Kansas City.

Herbers' match-winner was his third goal of the season, coming unassisted in the 47th minute. Brady finished with four saves to earn the clean sheet for Chicago (5-6-8).

Chicago snapped a six-match losing streak against Sporting KC (5-10-6) on the road. The last time the Fire earned a road point in the series came in a 1-1 draw in July of 2014. Sporting KC had won five of the six in the streak by shutouts, including three in a row.

DC United 3, Cincinnati 0

In Washington, Tyler Miller had four saves, three players scored for the first time this season and D.C. United rolled to a 3-0 victory over FC Cincinnati, handing the Eastern Conference leaders just their second loss this season.

DC United (7-8-5) had a two-goal lead before the match was 17 minutes old. Cincinnati (13-2-4) entered play with 43 points through the first 18 matches, tying a league record set by the 1998 Los Angeles Galaxy. The Supporters' Shield front-runners became the first team in league history to win 13 of its first 18 matches.

Crew 2, Nashville 0

In Columbus, Christian Ramirez scored early, Columbus benefited from an own-goal late and the Crew blanked Nashville SC 2-0.

Patrick Schulte finished with four saves to earn the clean sheet for Columbus (9-6-4), which takes a 3-2-2

lead in the series. Nashville had won two straight over the Crew, including a 3-1 victory earlier this season.

Revolution 2, Toronto 1

In Foxborough, Bobby Wood had a goal and an assist, Djordje Petrovic made a career-high nine saves and the New England Revolution rallied for a 2-1 victory over Toronto FC.

New England (10-3-6) upped its unbeaten streak at home to a club-record 10. The Revolution, however, beat Toronto (3-7-10) at home for the first time in five tries. New England beat Toronto 2-0 on the road earlier this season.

Red Bulls 4 Atlanta United 0

In Harrison, Daniel Edelman had a goal and an assist in the first half, Frankie Amaya scored his first two goals of the season in the second half and the New York Red Bulls breezed to a 4-0 victory over Atlanta United.

Edelman gave the Red Bulls (5-6-8) the lead for good when he took a pass from Cameron Harper in the 32nd minute and scored his first goal of the season.

Montreal 0, Charlotte 0

In Charlotte, Jonathan Sirois finished with four saves for CF Montreal, Kristijan Kahlina saved three shots for Charlotte FC and the two clubs played



Orlando City defender Antonio Carlos (25) goes up for a corner kick against Seattle Sounders defender Jackson Ragen, left, defender Nouhou Tolo, second from right, and midfielder Obed Vargas (73) during the first half of an MLS soccer match in Seattle. (AP)



Vancouver Whitecaps defender Ranko Veselinovic (left), defends against Los Angeles FC forward Denis Bouanga (99) during the second half of an MLS soccer match in Los Angeles. (AP)

Kansas City Current top Orlando Pride

Lussi scores in N.Carolina third straight shutout win

WASHINGTON, June 25, (AP) — Tyler Lussi came off the bench and scored to give the North Carolina Courage a 1-0 victory at home against Racing Louisville on Saturday in the National Women's Soccer League.

It was North Carolina's third straight win and third straight shutout.

Louisville was in control for most of the first half, outshooting the Courage 8-2, but the teams went into halftime scoreless.

The momentum would turn in the second half, and Lussi broke the deadlock in the 73rd minute, getting her initial opportunity blocked but slamming the rebound into the net.

The Courage (7-4-2) continued to threaten for the last 10 minutes, and Racing defender Abby Erceg had to make a sliding block in the 83rd to prevent a second goal.

Louisville (3-4-6) only had two shots in the second half.

Saturday's game was the last club match for players on both teams who are heading to the World Cup in Australia and New Zealand, which kicks off July 20.

For the Courage, Emily Fox and Casey Murphy were called up by the United States, while Kerolin (Brazil), Mille Gejl and Rikke Madsen (Denmark), and Denise O'Sullivan (Republic of Ireland) were also expected to be named to their national team rosters.

Louisville expects to have six players representing six different countries in the tournament: Ary Borges (Brazil), Alex Chidiac (Australia), Savannah DeMelo (U.S.), Uchenna Kanu (Nigeria), Thembi Kgatlang (South Africa), and Wang Shuang (China).

Kansas City Current 2, Orlando Pride 1

Debinha and Cece Kizer scored in the first half to give the Kansas City Current a victory over the Orlando Pride.

The first goal came in the 29th minute when Vanessa DiBernardo stole the ball high up the field and quickly found Brazilian Debinha, who caught

goalkeeper Anna Moorhouse off her line for her sixth goal of the season.

Kizer snuck in a second goal to close out the first half, collecting DiBernardo's pass into the box and stretching to poke the ball into the left corner from close range.

Marta got one back for Orlando in the 59th, chipping a penalty kick up the middle as goalkeeper Cassie Miller dove to her right.

The Pride (4-8-1) pushed for an equalizer, outshooting Kansas City 14-9, but Miller had five saves to earn the win for the Current (4-9-0).

For Orlando, Adriana and Marta are expected to be named to Brazil's final World Cup roster. They'll likely be joined by the Current's Debinha. Kansas City midfielder Desiree Scott, who hasn't played this season due to a knee injury, was named to Canada's provisional roster.

SOCCER

Current defender Hailie Mace left the match in the 3rd minute with an apparent shoulder injury.

OL Reign 2, San Diego Wave 1

Bethany Balcer scored two goals to give OL Reign a road win.

The Reign (7-4-2) jumped out to the early lead on Balcer's header in the eighth minute. After Jaedyn Shaw's goal tied the match for the Wave in the 47th, Balcer added her second — on another header — in the 77th. Afterward she was patted on the head by her teammates in celebration.

San Diego (6-5-2) has now lost four of its last five matches across all competitions at Snapdragon Stadium, including last weekend's 2-1 loss to Angel City.

Wave goalkeeper Kailen Sheridan was sent off because of a red card in the final minutes of regulation.

It was the final club match for seven Reign players: Quinn (Canada) Megan Rapinoe, Rose Lavelle, Sofia Huerta, Emily Sonnett and Alana Cook (United States).

For the Wave, Alex Morgan and Naomi Girma were named to the U.S. squad. Others heading to soccer's biggest tournament were Sheridan (Canada) and Sofia Jakobsson (Sweden).

Loyd stars, Storm dominate Mercury

SEATTLE, June 25, (AP) — Jewell Loyd scored 24 points and had a season-high four steals, Ezi Magbegor added 15 points on 6-of-7 shooting and the Seattle Storm beat the Phoenix Mercury 97-74 Saturday night.

Sami Whitcomb scored 14 points, including four 3-pointers, and Joyner Holmes had a career-high 12 points for Seattle (4-9).

Phoenix (2-10) got Brittney Griner and Diana Taurasi back after each missed the last three games, and lost its fifth straight. The Mercury are off to their worst start since opening 2-10 in 2003, when they finished 8-26.

Moriah Jefferson led the Mercury with a season-high 18 points. Michaela Onyenwere added 14 points, Taurasi scored 13 and Griner 11.

BASKETBALL

The Mercury committed 13 of its 20 turnovers in the first half, while Loyd had 13 points and Magbegor scored 11 on 4-for-4 shooting to give Seattle a 39-34 lead after two quarters.

Griner (hip) and Taurasi (hamstring) rejoined the Mercury after double-digit losses in each game during their absence. Skylar Diggins-Smith (maternity leave), a four-time All-WNBA first-team selection, including each of the last two seasons, has not played this season.

Seattle had 23 assists on 32 made field goals and hit 13 3-pointers.

Acés 101, Fever 88

In Las Vegas, A'ja Wilson and Kelsey Plum combined to score 30 points in the first half and all five Las Vegas starters scored in double figures as the Aces went on to beat the Indiana Fever 101-88.

Wilson finished with 28 points and 10 rebounds, Plum added 26 points on 9-for-14 shooting to lead Las Vegas (12-1). Candace Parker added 15 points, Chelsea Gray had 13 points and a season-high tying 12 assists, and Jackie Young scored 10 with eight assists. Gray, the No. 11 pick in the 2014 WNBA draft and the 2022 Finals MVP, is the only Las Vegas starter that was not drafted No. 1 overall in their respective draft.

The Aces came into the game averaging 92.5 points per game this season — third-most in WNBA history — and topped the 100-point plateau for the second time this season. They have scored at least 90 points in 11 of 13 games.

Wilson, who was 0 for 8 from 3-point range this season, hit a 3 before she assisted on jumpers by Young and Parker to make it 11-6, and the Aces never again trailed. NaLyssa Smith converted a three-point play to make it 12-11 but Wilson responded with a bucket midway through the first quarter and Las Vegas led the rest of the way.

SPORTS

MLB Results/Standings

WASHINGTON, June 25, (AP) — Results and standings from the MLB games on Saturday.

Kansas City	9	Tampa Bay	4
NY Yankees	1	Texas	0
Cleveland	4	Milwaukee	2
Toronto	7	Oakland	3
Chicago W. Sox	5	Boston	4
Baltimore	6	Seattle 10 inn	4
LA Dodgers	8	Houston	7
Detroit	3	Minnesota	2
LA Angels	25	Colorado	1
Chicago Cubs	9	St. Louis	1
NY Mets	4	Philadelphia	2
San Francisco	7	Arizona	6
Miami	4	Pittsburgh 11 inn	3
Atlanta	7	Cincinnati	6
Washington	2	San Diego	0

American League				
East Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Tampa Bay	53	27	.663	—
Baltimore	46	29	.613	4-1/2
New York	42	35	.545	9-1/2
Toronto	42	36	.538	10
Boston	40	39	.513	12
Central Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Minnesota	39	39	.500	—
Cleveland	37	39	.487	1
Detroit	33	42	.440	4-1/2
Chicago	33	45	.423	6
Kansas City	22	55	.286	16-1/2
West Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Texas	47	29	.618	—
Los Angeles	42	36	.538	6
Houston	41	38	.532	6-1/2
Seattle	37	38	.493	9-1/2
Oakland	20	59	.253	28-1/2

National League				
East Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Atlanta	49	27	.645	—
Miami	44	34	.564	6
Philadelphia	39	37	.513	10
New York	35	41	.461	14
Washington	29	47	.382	20
Central Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Cincinnati	41	36	.532	—
Milwaukee	39	37	.513	1-1/2
Chicago	37	38	.493	3
Pittsburgh	35	41	.461	5-1/2
St. Louis	31	45	.408	9-1/2
West Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Arizona	46	32	.590	—
San Francisco	44	33	.571	1-1/2
Los Angeles	43	33	.566	2
San Diego	37	40	.481	8-1/2
Colorado	30	49	.380	16-1/2

Coyotes acquire Durzi from Kings

TEMPE, Ariz., June 25, (AP) — The Arizona Coyotes acquired defenseman Sean Durzi from the Los Angeles Kings on Saturday for a 2024 second-round draft pick.

The 24-year-old played 72 games with the Kings last season, tying the team lead among defensemen with nine goals and was second with 29 assists.

Durzi has 12 goals and 53 assists in 136 NHL games since making his debut in 2021-22.

The Mississauga, Ontario, native was drafted in the second round in 2018 by the Toronto Maple Leafs and played parts of three seasons in the AHL before being traded to Los Angeles in 2019.

□ □ □

The Colorado Avalanche have filled their second-line center void by acquiring Ryan Johansen from the Nashville Predators on Saturday.

Colorado sent pending free agent Alex Galchenyuk to Nashville in a trade that essentially amounts to a contract dump but could help the 2022 Stanley Cup champions get back on top of the NHL.

The move is a big splash for the Avalanche, who lost in the first round of the playoffs to Seattle this past season. They recently learned captain Gabriel Landeskog would miss the entire 2023-24 season while recovering from cartilage replacement surgery in his right knee.

Johansen, who turns 31 in July, steps into the role previously filled by Nazem Kadri, who left after Colorado won the Cup to sign a \$49 million, seven-year contract with Calgary. Johansen is on the back half of his career, having put up 28 points in 55 games last season, but he has the potential to produce with skilled linemates on the Avalanche.

The deal is also coming at a bargain cost, as the rebuilding Predators are retaining half of Johansen's \$8 million salary cap hit in each of the next two seasons. It's the first significant roster move by new GM Barry Trotz, who also fired coach John Hynes and replaced him with Andrew Brunette.

ICE HOCKEY

"On behalf of the Predators organization, we want to thank Ryan for his contributions to our team and community over the last seven-plus years," Trotz said. "He played a large role in our franchise's accomplishments since arriving in January 2016, helping lead us to the 2017 Stanley Cup Final, the 2018 Presidents' Trophy, back-to-back Central Division titles in 2018 and 2019 and several postseason appearances."

Veteran forward Erik Haula passed up a chance to enter free agency next month to remain in New Jersey after signing a three-year, \$9.45 million contract with the Devils.

The 32-year-old Haula had 14 goals and a career-best 27 assists for 41 points in 80 games last season. The 10th-year NHL player also provided leadership in helping a youth-laden Devils team set franchise records with 52 wins and 112 points and qualify for the playoffs for the first time in five seasons.

It was Haula's first season with New Jersey after being acquired in a trade that sent Pavel Zacha to Boston last summer. Haula played in various situations, including penalty killing and taking faceoffs.

"When I traded for Erik, we talked about how he was the type of player that we needed to help us continue to move the group forward," general manager Tom Fitzgerald said. "At the end of the season, he told me how much he wanted to be a part of what we are building here in New Jersey, and I'm glad we could quickly get a deal done that gives him a place to lay down roots with his family."

Braves halt Reds' winning streak



Atlanta Braves' Ozzie Albies hits a solo home run against the Cincinnati Reds in the third inning of a baseball game in Cincinnati. (AP)

LONDON, June 25, (AP): Ian Happ hit two solo home runs, Justin Steele struck out eight and the Chicago Cubs beat the St. Louis Cardinals 9-1 on Saturday night in Major League Baseball's pandemic-delayed return to the British capital.

Happ led off the second inning with a drive to straightaway center and put another Adam Wainwright (3-2) pitch over the right-field fence in the third as the Cubs won their fourth straight game.

Wainwright was pulled after back-to-back doubles in the fourth. He allowed 11 hits and a season-high seven runs in the shortest of his nine starts this season.

The Cubs, who have won nine of 10, had more hits (14) than swings and misses (10). St. Louis, last in the NL Central at 31-45, lost its second straight following a four-game winning streak.

A crowd of 54,662, MLB's largest this season, filled London Stadium.

Braves 7, Reds 6
In Cincinnati, Cincinnati's longest winning streak in 66 years was stopped at 12 games when Raisel Iglesias struck out Jonathan India for the final out as Atlanta prevailed in an eight-homer slugfest.

Each team homered four times. Matt Olson hit the 200th of his big league career and Travis d'Arnaud and Ozzie Albies also went deep off Graham Ashcraft (3-6), who allowed three long balls for the first time in 33 big league starts. Marcell Ozuna homered against Alex Young as the Braves won for the ninth time in 10 games.

Cincinnati's Matt McLain and Spencer Steer hit two-run homers. Michael Tonkin (2-0) pitched 2 1/3 hitless innings for the Braves, who won eight in a row before losing Friday's series opener.

Angels 25, Rockies 1

In Denver, Mike Trout, Brandon Drury and Matt Thaiss hit homers on consecutive pitches to open a 13-run third inning and Mickey Moniak capped it with a two-run homer in Los Angeles' record-setting rout of Colorado that ended a three-game skid.

The Angels set franchise marks for runs and hits (28) in a game and tied team records for runs and homers with their huge third inning.

David Fletcher hit a three-run homer to cap an eight-run fourth as the Angels scored 21 runs on 17 hits in the third and fourth innings combined, sending 27 batters to the plate. Fletcher had three hits and five RBIs in his first game since being recalled from Salt Lake City.

Hunter Renfroe and Mickey Moniak each had five hits and four RBIs for the Angels. Drury had three hits and four RBIs and Trout had three hits and an RBI. Both were replaced in the fifth.

Griffin Canning (6-2) gave up four hits in six scoreless innings while striking out seven with a walk.

Chase Anderson (0-2) gave up the homers on three consecutive pitches in the loss.

Dodgers 8, Astros 7

In Los Angeles, James Outman scored the go-ahead run on a balk by Houston reliever Ryan Stanek in a messy eighth inning and Los Angeles rallied for its fourth straight win.

The Dodgers tied it at 7 in the

eighth. Reliever Bryan Abreu (2-2) walked Freddie Freeman, Will Smith and J.D. Martinez to load the bases. Kyle Tucker made a sliding catch in right field on Jason Heyward's sacrifice fly that scored Freeman. Smith scored on Outman's ground-rule double after the ball got stuck in the right field wall.

Second base umpire Junior Valentine called the balk on Stanek, whose right leg appeared to buckle after he looked in for the pitch.

Phil Bickford (2-2) got the victory in relief and Evan Phillips pitched the ninth for his 10th save.

Alex Bregman hit a grand slam to boots in the fifth for the Astros.

Tigers 3, Twins 2

In Detroit, Zach McKinstry hit a two-run single in a three-run second inning and Detroit held on to beat Minnesota.

Reese Olson (1-2) picked up his first major league win, allowing one run and four hits with a career-high nine strikeouts and a walk in 5 1/3 innings. Alex Lange got the final four outs for his 12th save in 14 attempts.

Twins starter Pablo López (3-5) allowed three runs and seven hits in six innings. He walked one and struck out 10. Carlos Correa and Joey Gallo hit solo homers for Minnesota.

The Tigers scored their only runs in the second when Nick Maton singled, Miguel Cabrera drew a one-out walk and Eric Haase followed with an RBI single to make it 1-0. Jake Marisnick's single loaded the bases and McKinstry's flare into shallow center scored Cabrera and Haase.

Giants 7, Diamondbacks 6

In San Francisco, Luis Matos hit his first career home run, a go-ahead two-run drive in the sixth inning, and San Francisco beat NL West-leading Arizona for its 12th win in 13 games.

Joc Pederson and Blake Sabol added two hits each as San Francisco won its second straight against Arizona to pull 1 1/2 games back in the division.

Taylor Rogers (4-2) picked up the win. Camilo Doval earned his 22nd save.

Christian Walker extended his hitting streak to nine games with a three hits and three RBIs for the

Diamondbacks. Ketel Marte added his 13th home run and two RBIs.

Arizona starter Merrill Kelly (9-4) suffered his first loss in eight road starts this season. He allowed 10 hits and seven runs (five earned) in five innings.

Mets 4, Phillies 2

In Philadelphia, Max Scherzer struck out eight over six innings and Starling Marte homered to help New York snap a three-game losing streak.

Scherzer (7-2), who hasn't lost a start since May 8, was solid against a lineup that included former Nationals teammates Trea Turner and Bryce Harper. Turner touched him for an RBI single in the fifth that tied it at 2. David Robertson earned his 11th save.

Brandon Nimmo's RBI single off Phillies starter Cristopher Sánchez (0-1) made it 2-0 in the second. The Mets went ahead for good on Pete Alonso's RBI forceout and Tommy Pham's RBI single in the sixth that made it 4-2.

BASEBALL

Nick Castellanos went 3 for 3 with a walk and homered for the Phillies.

Orioles 6, Mariners 4, 10 innings

In Baltimore, Ryan McKenna hit a two-run homer in the bottom of the 10th inning as Baltimore beat Seattle.

McKenna entered the game as a defensive replacement in the ninth, when the Orioles were trying to protect a one-run lead. But Baltimore had to play on after Mike Ford hit a tying solo homer off closer Félix Bautista with Seattle down to its last out.

In the 10th, Mike Baumann (5-0) retired J.P. Crawford on a grounder to the pitcher and then struck out Julio Rodríguez and Ty France. In the bottom half, McKenna hit a drive to right-center off Justin Topa (1-3) for his second homer of the year.

Ford homered twice for Seattle, and Crawford and Rodríguez also hit solo shots.

Anthony Santander had a solo homer among his four hits for the Orioles. Aaron Hicks also went deep for Baltimore.

Yankees 1, Rangers 0

In New York, Ron Marinaccio

retired Marcus Semien on a game-ending popup in the ninth inning. Clay Holmes stranded a pair of runners in the eighth and New York beat Texas after Aaron Judge said he isn't close to returning from an injured right toe.

Billy McKinney hit his fourth homer since he was brought up two weeks ago to replace Judge, who said before the game he has a torn ligament in his toe that causes pain while walking.

McKinney hit his fourth-inning drive off Jon Gray (6-3) as New York won with just four hits.

Luis Severino (1-2) allowed five hits in six innings, and four relievers finished the Yankees fifth shutout. Marinaccio picked up his second save.

Blue Jays 7, Athletics 3

In Toronto, Vladimir Guerrero Jr. and Danny Jansen hit two-run homers, José Berríos pitched six innings to win for the third time in four starts and Toronto beat Oakland for the ninth time in 11 games at the Rogers Centre.

Guerrero homered at home for the second straight day after going 32 games without clearing the fence. He reached base four times and drove in three runs.

Berríos (8-5) allowed three runs and six hits. He walked two and struck out eight, one shy of his season high. Jordan Romano struck out Ryan Noda to strand runners at second and third, earning his 23rd save in 26 chances.

White Sox 5, Red Sox 4

In Chicago, Elvis Andrus hit a game-ending RBI single in the ninth inning, helping Chicago White top Boston.

Luis Robert Jr., Andrew Vaughn, Yasmani Grandal and Jake Burger homered for Chicago, which had dropped four of five. Lance Lynn struck out seven in 5 2/3 innings in his first start since he tied a franchise record with 16 Ks during a 5-1 loss at Seattle last weekend.

Pinch-hitter Gavin Sheets sparked the winning rally when he reached on a two-out error by first baseman Triston Casas. Pinch-runner Zach Remillard swiped second and Andrus lined a single into right against Kenley Jansen (2-4).

Kendall Graveman (3-3) took the loss for Boston.

Royals 9, Rays 4

Cubs rout Cardinals in London

In St. Petersburg, Jordan Lyles ended a 15-game winless streak and Kansas City beat Tampa Bay for their second win in three days against the team with the best record in the majors.

Lyles (1-11) allowed four runs and eight hits over six innings. It was his first victory since his final start last year on Sept. 30 while playing for the Baltimore Orioles.

Drew Waters, Freddy Fermín and Edward Olivares homered for the Royals, who have the second-worst record in the majors at 22-55.

Tampa Bay (53-27) is 5-7 over its last 12 games, including two losses to Oakland, which has the worst record in the MLB.

Rays shortstop Wander Franco returned after being benched for two games for how he was handled frustrating situations this season and hit a 417-foot solo homer during a two-run first. He added an RBI single in a two-run second.

Marlins 4, Pirates 3, 11 innings

In Miami, Jon Berti drove in the winning run with a single in the 11th inning, leading Miami past Pittsburgh.

Automatic runner Joey Wendle advanced to third on Nick Fortes' sacrifice bunt before Berti hit a line drive to right against Angel Perdomo (1-1).

Yuli Gurriel's sacrifice fly off Pirates closer David Bednar in the bottom of the 10th tied it at 3 after Ke'Bryan Hayes put the Pirates ahead in the top half with an RBI single.

Luis Arraez homered and walked twice, Jacob Stallings had three hits and Andrew Nardi (5-1) struck out the side in a perfect 11th for the Marlins. Arraez went 1 for 3 and his major league-leading average slipped a point to .401.

Andrew McCutchen doubled twice and had three walks for the Pirates. McCutchen's first double in the sixth was the 400th of his career.

Guardians 4, Brewers 2

In Cleveland, Josh Naylor and David Fry had RBI singles in a two-run sixth inning and rookie Tanner Bibee struck out seven as Cleveland topped Milwaukee.

Cleveland trailed 2-1 after five innings and tied the game on Naylor's single off Hoby Milner that scored Amed Rosario. Fry delivered the go-ahead run with a two-out hit to left off Elvis Peguero that plated José Ramírez.

Bibee (4-2) worked six innings, allowing two runs, one earned, and three hits in his 11th start since being recalled from Triple-A Columbus in late April. Emmanuel Clase earned his majors-leading 23rd save.

Brewers starter Freddy Peralta (5-7) allowed three runs in five innings, losing his fourth decision in a row. Christian Yelich scored both runs and stole a base for Milwaukee.

Nationals 2, Padres 0

In San Diego, Jeimer Candelario and Lane Thomas homered, Josiah Gray pitched into the sixth inning and Washington beat San Diego.

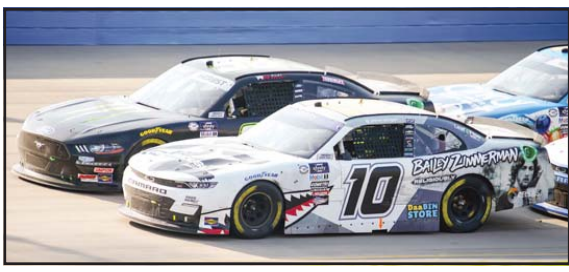
In the first inning, Candelario homered to right center. Thomas, who had three hits, connected in the third. Washington had lost nine of its previous 11 games.

Gray (5-6) struck out six, and Hunter Harvey picked up his fifth save.

The Padres promoted knuckleballer Matt Waldron (0-1) for a spot start in his major league debut. He lasted 4-2/3 innings, giving up two runs and four hits.



Miami Marlins' Jon Berti slides safely back to first after hitting a single during the fifth inning of a baseball game against the Pittsburgh Pirates in Miami. (AP)



Riley Herbst and AJ Allmendinger (10) race during the NASCAR Xfinity Series auto race at Nashville Superspeedway in Lebanon, Tenn. (AP)

Sports

Latest sports scores at — <http://sports.arabtimesonline.com>

Kuwait grab eight medals at Special Olympics



Zainab Al-Durai (center) with her gold medal in bowling competition.



KUNA photos
Gold medalist Essa Al-Zenkawi stands on the podium after the awarding ceremony.

Al-Zenkawi snatches gold medal in Rabat

BERLIN, June 25, (KUNA): Kuwaiti athletes added Saturday eight medals to their tally in the Special Olympics World Games currently held in Berlin.

Athletes Zainab Al-Durai and Bu Rabaa won gold medals in bowling and badminton competitions respectively.

Taif Al-Enezi snatched four medals: three silver and one bronze, in the weightlifting contest.

Rider Basma Al-Busaili obtained silver medal in the equestrian game and a four-member Kuwaiti team won a silver medal in athletics competition.

With today's medals, the Kuwaiti tally since the start of the event climbed to 19 medals: 6 gold, 10 silver and 3 bronze.

Also:

RABAT: Kuwaiti athlete Essa Al-Zenkawi has grabbed the gold medal of the discus-throwing contest in the Arab Athletics Championship, which concluded in the Moroccan city of Marrakesh Saturday.

Kuwaiti champion Al-Zenkawi scored 59 meters and 20 centimeters, ahead of the Qatari thrower Moaz Ibrahim, who scored 59 meters, 11 centimeters, and Egyptian Shehab Abdelaziz who scored 57 meters and one centimeter.

This is the second gold for Kuwait in the championship after the one won by runner Yaqoub Al-Youha in the 110-meter hurdles competition.

Kuwaiti athletes Abdulrahman Al-Azmi and Madhawi Al-Shammari won one silver medal each in the javelin throw and the 200-meter running race competitions respectively.

16 Arab countries, including Kuwait, participated in the Arab Championship which was held in Marrakesh during the period from 20-24 June.

The welcomes for Wemby continue

SAN ANTONIO, June 25, (AP): The first dinner that Victor Wembanyama had in his new home city was filled with San Antonio royalty. Gregg Popovich was there, of course. So were Tim Duncan, David Robinson, Manu Ginobili and Sean Elliott. NBA champions, all of them.

Wembanyama now starts his quest to join their club.

Even as the welcomes for Wemby continued Saturday - one at San Antonio's iconic downtown River Walk, another at the arena - the French teen who has been labeled a generational basketball talent already was thinking about what comes next. He's got a visit to Nike headquarters in Oregon in the next few days, appointments to see some houses in San Antonio that he might be calling home for the next few years and then practices for the NBA Summer League.

"I've got a lot to do," Wembanyama said. "But it's all right. It's OK. It's all going to fit in."

He's excited, and rightly so. He put on a Spurs uniform on Saturday for the first time and will play in one for the first time sometime in early July in either Sacramento or Las Vegas; San Antonio plays in both of those summer leagues. He offered high-fives to hundreds of Spurs employees who showed up at the arena on Saturday to welcome him, smiling the whole way. "These are exciting times," Spurs CEO R.C. Buford said.

They come with the biggest expectations. The morning party on the River Walk took place at the spot where the Spurs' championship celebrations usually are centered.

Jamaica hold US in CONCACAF Gold Cup opener

CHICAGO, June 25, (AP): Brandon Vazquez saved the United States from what would have been the Americans' first loss in a CONCACAF Gold Cup opener.

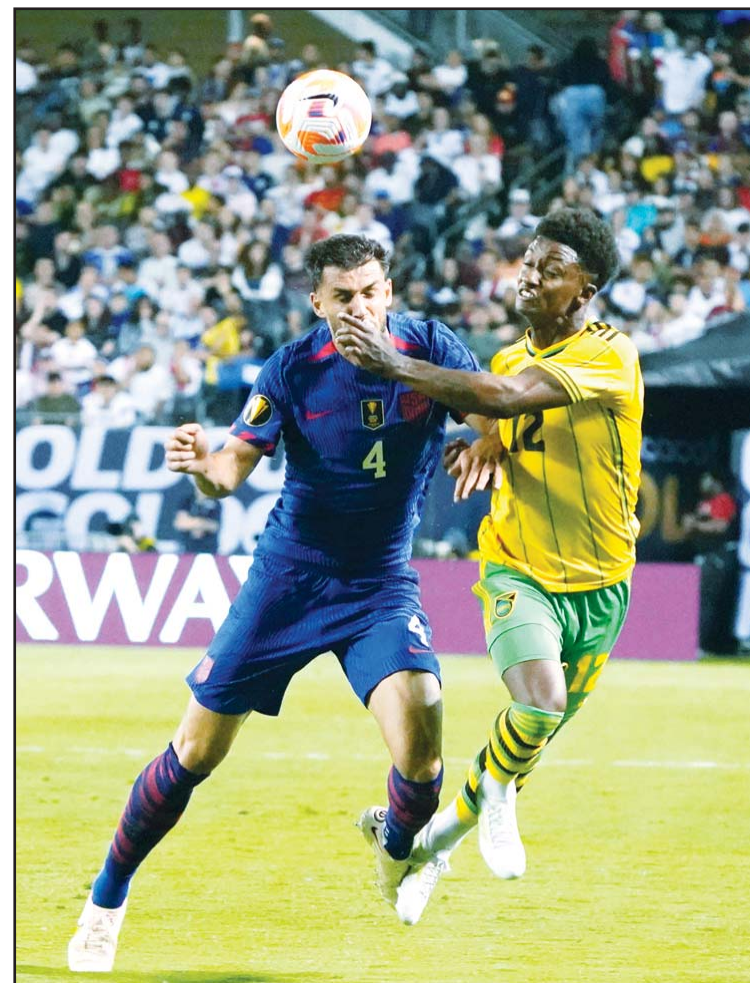
Vazquez's 88th-minute goal gave the No. 13 U.S. a 1-1 draw against 63rd-ranked Jamaica on Saturday night. He had entered the match six minutes earlier, tying him to the U.S. with his first competitive international appearance. Born in Chula Vista, California, the 24-year-old forward could have played for Mexico.

SOCCER

"It means everything," said Vazquez, who was overlooked for last year's World Cup roster. "To be able to score a goal in my cap tie is amazing." Damion Lowe put the Reggae Boyz ahead in the 13th minute, and Matt Turner kept the U.S. close by saving a penalty kick on his 29th birthday. The defending champions came back when Jesus Ferreira's cross hit off defender Dexter Lembikisa to Vazquez, who scored with a right-foot shot from 7 yards for his second goal in four international appearances.

"It's kind of two lost points," said Jamaica coach Heimur Hallgrímsson, who led Iceland at the 2018 World Cup.

"They are in-season. A young, energetic team," he said about the U.S. "A lot of our players are coming from a break from their season, so I knew this game would be tricky." Before an announced crowd of 36,666 at Solider Field,



U.S. defender Matt Miazga (4) and Jamaica forward Demarai Gray (12) go for the ball during the first half of a CONCACAF Gold Cup soccer match in Chicago. (AP)

Lowe scored his third goal in 53 international appearances with a header from 8 yards following Demarai Gray's free kick. Lowe was played outside when Matt Mi-

azga dropped back on the restart by Gray, an Everton winger who made his Reggae Boyz debut after switching affiliation from England. Next up for the Americans is a

Wednesday match in St. Louis with 139th-ranked St. Kitts and Nevis, which opens Sunday against No. 104 Trinidad and Tobago.

The U.S., which fielded a mostly junior varsity team, had 15 wins in 16 previous Gold Cup openers, the blemish a 1-1 draw against Panama in 2017. The U.S. has 38 wins, five draws and one loss in the group stage - a 2-1 defeat to the Panamanians in 2011.

Turner was the only U.S. player who was a regular at last year's World Cup and one of just five holdovers from last week's Nations League roster. He dived to his left to parry a 29th-minute penalty kick by Leon Bailey, who put the rebound wide with his weaker right foot.

"He's a player that came to us and wanted to play both tournaments," U.S. interim coach B.J. Callaghan said. "I always say big players make big plays." The penalty was awarded when Aidan Morris knocked down Keon Lambert following a throw-in.

Jamaica goalkeeper Andre Blake deflected Jordan Morris' open shot in first-half stoppage time with his right arm, then blocked Cristian Roldan's 71st-minute effort with a leg.

Eight U.S. starters were from Major League Soccer.

Gregg Berhalter, whose contract expired in December and who was rehired June 16, was on hand to watch and won't resume coaching until September. Aiden Morris, Alan Soforia and Cade Cowell played their first competitive matches for the U.S., also tying them to the American team.

Herbst finishes second

Allmendinger wins Nashville Xfinity race

LEBANON, Tenn., June 25, (AP): A.J. Allmendinger pulled away on the second overtime restart Saturday to win his second NASCAR Xfinity race this year and 17th of his career at the Nashville Superspeedway in the Tennessee Lottery 250.

"I spent a lot of years not winning anything, so I need wins just to make me mentally OK every week," Allmendinger said. "And whether it's Cup or Xfinity, this is why you go out here, do this is, to try to win races. ... So I don't take anything for granted."

The 41-year-old Allmendinger pitted on lap 145 and used fresher tires to pass Parker Kligerman, taking the lead for good on lap 177. He seemed poised to cruise to his latest victory for Kaulig Racing in his No. 10 Bailey Zimmerman-Religiously Chevrolet until Chad Chastain spun off Turn 4 with five laps left.

That set up the first overtime. Chandler Smith spun out on the first restart attempt after contact with Josh Berry in Turn 2.

On the second restart, Allmendinger left everyone behind and cruised to the victory. As both he and his team celebrated, more cars started spinning and crashing in a haze of smoke. Allmendinger also finished second at the Xfinity Series' inaugural race at Sonoma before NASCAR's lone break of the season.

Allmendinger said he knew he just needed to get into Turn 1 clean with a chance to keep Hill off his bumper.

"Obviously, once I did that and I came off 2, as long as like we stay green, I knew they didn't have a shot to run me down and we were going to be OK," Allmendinger said.

Riley Herbst finished second, with Sam Mayer third, Austin Hill fourth and Josh Berry rounding out the top five in a race with 11 different leaders and 17 lead changes. John Hunter Nemecheck, who came in leading the series in points, was sixth.

CAR RACING

With the temperature in the low 90s, drivers dealt with even hotter conditions inside the cars. The heat also left the 1.33-mile concrete oval slick, leading to 11 cautions overall, with 15 drivers involved in crashes through the first two stages.

The race got off to a crunching and chaotic start as drivers went three wide on the opening lap. Justin Allgaier, the defending champ, pitted three times in the opening laps trying to fix the left fender of his Chevrolet. He finished 15th and wound up treated at the care center.



A four-member Kuwaiti team who took a silver medal in athletics competition.

KUNA photo

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