



baseball

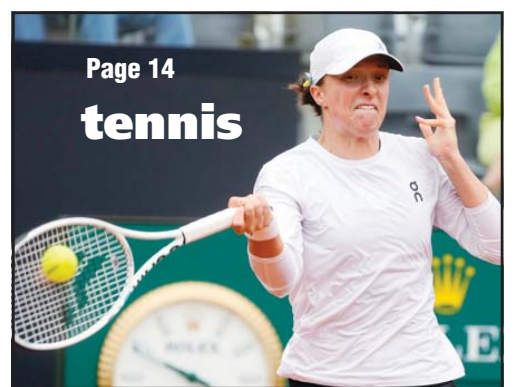
Page 15



01 005587 745481

ARAB TIMES

THE FIRST ENGLISH LANGUAGE DAILY IN FREE KUWAIT
Established in 1977 / www.arabtimesonline.com



Page 14

tennis

WEDNESDAY, MAY 17, 2023 / SHAWWAL 27, 1444 AH

emergency number 112

NO. 18292

16 PAGES

150 FILS

CABINET HAILS PARTNERSHIP, VOWS SUPPORT OF UN

Those in poll primary amnesty freed

Kuwait calls for reactivating economic deals

By Saeed Mahmoud Saleh
Arab Times Staff and Agencies

KUWAIT CITY, May 16: The 27 beneficiaries of the Amiri amnesty, who were convicted of organizing and participating in the primary elections of Shammar Tribe in 2020, were released from the Central Jail Monday night.

The Amiri amnesty beneficiaries include former MP and candidate in the 2023 parliamentary election Marzouq

Al-Khalifa who was allowed to file his candidacy while he was in jail.

Law No. 35/1962 criminalizes the organization and participation in primary elections, which tribes usually conduct to choose their candidates in the parliamentary elections. Members of Bani Ghanim and Al-Mutairi tribes are still behind bars for committing the same crime. They might be released if another Amiri amnesty is issued in their favor.

Meanwhile, the Islamic Salafi Alliance has confirmed support for Fourth Constituency candidate and member of the nullified 2022 Parliament Mubarak Al-Tasha.

On the other hand, Director General of the General Department of Elections Affairs Brigadier Saleh Al-Shatti said five candidates withdrew from the parliamentary elections; so the total number of candidates decreased from 254 to 249. He added

the number of election centers totaled 759 including 123 schools in five constituencies; indicating 118 schools will be allocated for voting while five schools will be used for the announcement of results – one in every constituency.

He went on to reveal that according to the decision of First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Interior and acting Minister of Defense Sheikh Talal Khalid Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, a committee was formed to check the candidates' applications in order to make sure they meet the conditions as per Law No. 35/1962. He said the committee is chaired by a judge representing the judiciary, while the members are from the Legal Advice and Legislation Department, Sentence Enforcement General Department and Criminal Investigation General Department at the Ministry of Interior.

Partnership

Meanwhile, the Cabinet has lauded the effective strategic partnership between Kuwait and the United Nations and pledged continued support to the international organization and its efforts and brilliant endeavors in various regions of the world.

The Cabinet, in its weekly meeting on Monday, also expressed immense pride and appreciation for the United Nations on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of Kuwait's accession to the international organization in 1963, according to a statement by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Dr. Khaled Al-Fadhel following the meeting which was chaired by Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

It hailed the joint cooperation in a variety of domains, especially in the humanitarian and development fields as well as the efforts to maintain international peace and security.

The Cabinet renewed Kuwait's commitment to principles of the UN Charter which forms a solid basis for international multilateral action that governs and regulates relations between the countries of the world.

The Kuwaiti government also congratulated His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the sisterly United Arab Emirates, on the occasion of the first anniversary of his assumption of power.

It admired the great development and civilizational achievements witnessed by the UAE in various domains, expressing great pride in the deep-rooted historical and fraternal relations that unite the two peoples and the two countries.

The Cabinet took note of the recommendation of the Economic Affairs Committee regarding the report submitted by the National Committee for Combating Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing on the efforts of the concerned authorities to prepare for the upcoming evaluation process for the State of Kuwait.

It assigned the committee to intensify efforts and cooperate with other relevant bodies to achieve the international requirements in this regard.

Evaluation

It tasked the Kuwaiti Financial Investigation Unit -- in coordination with the Civil Service Commission, the Central Agency for Public Tenders and Department of Fatwa and Legislation -- to take necessary measures to facilitate the unit's contracting with relevant bodies to prepare for the next evaluation process.

The Cabinet approved the proposal of the Public Authority for Sports to launch an annual National Sports Day in which institutions from all sectors participate in organizing sports, recreational and sports awareness activities.

The minister of foreign affairs briefed the Cabinet about the air bridge launched by Kuwait on May 4 for sending humanitarian and relief aid to Sudanese people.

The Cabinet discussed political affairs in the light of reports related to the overall current developments in the political arena at the Arab and international levels.

Continued on Page 4



PM Diwan photo

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah chairs the Cabinet meeting on Monday, May 15, 2023.

Income up despite economic tensions

Kuwait earns KD 8bn from investments in '22

KUWAIT CITY, May 16: In spite of the global economic tensions witnessed by the world's largest economies during the past year, Kuwait succeeded in increasing investment income by about 7.1% or 7.98 billion dinars by the end of 2022, compared to 2021, in which investment income recorded about 7.4 billion dinars, reports Al-Anba daily.

The daily has learned the data of the "investment income" item, which includes direct investment, portfolio investments and other investments, within the balance of payments issued quarterly by the Central Bank of Kuwait, showed that investment income in 2022 achieved about 7.9 billion dinars, and Kuwaiti investment income abroad is divided according to the nature of the investment into 3 main types -- between direct investment, financial portfolio and other investments, which are detailed as follows:

1- Direct investment: It brought a return of 3 billion dinars, and that investment is concentrated in shares and direct ownership in companies and factories in all economic sectors.

2- Investments of the financial portfolio: It brought a return of about 4.5 billion dinars, and the investment in the financial portfolio is concentrated

specifically in bonds and stocks.

3- Other investments: The returns were about 1.6 billion dinars, and that value represents the rest of the indirect investments from partnerships and participation in non-financial projects and investments.

Kuwait invests in more than 125 economies around the world and is managed by more than 125 foreign investment managers and more than 50 investment authorizations.

The Kuwait Investment Authority studies the areas in which it intends to invest and examines many financial, economic and regulatory factors and indicators, including the size of the economy, economic growth rates and the ease of doing business index; granted tax facilities and exit strategies from financial markets.

The investments of the Kuwait Investment Authority do not aim to influence the management of the companies in whose shares it invests, so that the share of its investments in the company does not exceed more than 10% of the total, and indirect management is carried out by external investment managers, and the proportion of funds constitutes about 70% of the total.

Opinion

O leadership ... Mimic the China experience

By Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

WHEN Mao Zedong proclaimed the People's Republic of China in 1949, the country was suffering from a major living and economic crisis. He worked on the communist principle of "Each according to his ability, each according to his needs" which means "Work as much as you can and take everything you need". However, this did not serve the Chinese population of 541 million people at that time.

The Chinese economy at that time was less than one percent of global production, which constituted a major obstacle to its development. The country started facing major crises, either through famine, or the so-called "Cultural Revolution" that strengthened the grip of the Communist Party. That policy led to the death of about 40 million people due to famine, poverty and oppression.

When Mao Zedong died in 1976, he was succeeded by Deng Xiaoping, who believed that the solution was to change economic policy. For this purpose, he first began sending student delegations abroad, and seeking the help of Western expertise. He wrote to the renowned British University of Oxford requesting for an economic expert, and they sent him the British economist of Iraqi origin Elias Korkis, who gave him broad powers to modernize the country.

The first thing the government did, under the direction of Korkis, was to open the country to investors, and not place any restrictions on them. It also strengthened the private sector, which had been choked by vast restrictions. At that time, the Chinese share in the global market did not exceed USD 25 billion.

Xiaoping then said, "The Chinese economy needs 40 years to become an effective factor in the world. We today abandon the isolation imposed on us by the previous regime. We will work on the Confucian principle - Seek truth from facts."

Today, after nearly three decades, the value of Chinese exports has risen to USD 4.3 trillion, and it contributes to 35 percent of global economic growth. Its importance to global growth is three times more than the importance of the United States. The gross domestic product is equal to USD 13.1 trillion, and the per capita income, which was USD 54 per month, has now become about USD 13,000. It has eradicated the poverty and famines that it used to suffer from time to time.

This Chinese miracle did not come about from a vacuum or from short-sightedness towards others.

It did not place restrictions on the movement of individuals. No official issued statements to insist that anyone who reaches the age of sixty must leave the country, or that only those with a university degree can enter the country, even for a visit.

Continued on Page 4

Email: ahmed@aljarallah.com

Follow me on:



ahmedaljarallah@gmail.com

Day by Day

AT last, the liar will reap the fruits of his evil deeds. All the sweet talk and false accusations will do no good for the crafty thief.

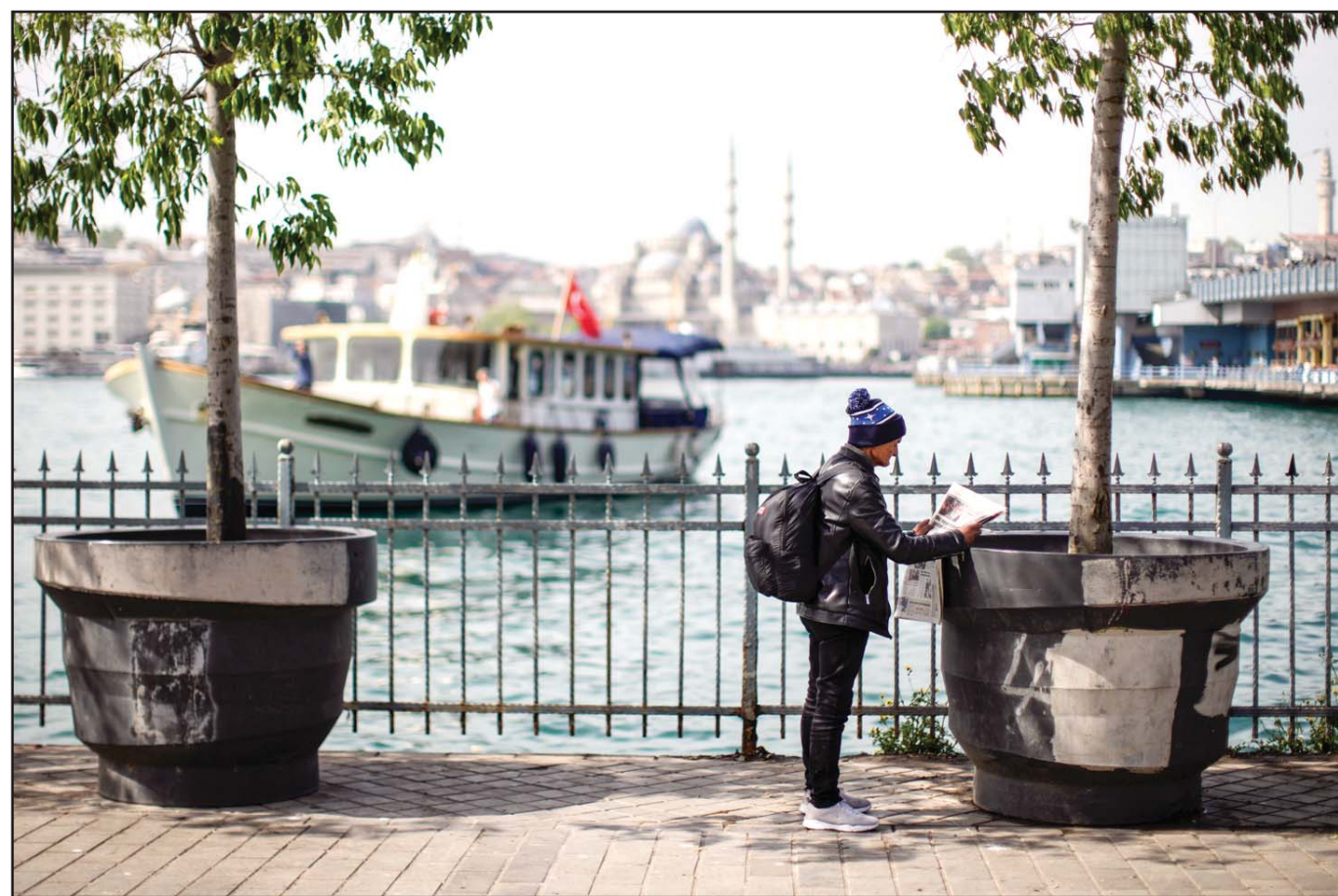
He is destined to lie shackled with chains within the four walls of a prison from where he will see his family and friends falling apart on the ruins of his misdeeds.

God hates people who are greedy. Rights are protected not only by man-made laws. The divine laws are more severe and those who think they are smarter than reality, more often than not, end up digging their own graves.

Of course, everyone knows lessons are learned the hard way, and are no exception.

.... Yet, tomorrow is another day.

Zahed Matar



A man reads a Turkish newspaper a day after the presidential election day, in Istanbul, Turkey, Monday, May 15, 2023. Turkey's presidential elections appeared to be heading toward a second-round runoff on Monday, with President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who has ruled his country with a firm grip for 20 years, leading over his chief challenger, but falling short of the votes needed for an outright win. (AP)

Erdogan in good position to win

Turkey poll bares polarization ... heads to runoff

ANKARA, May 16, (AP): Turkish voters will head back to the polls in two weeks for a runoff election to decide if conservative President Recep Tayyip Erdogan or his main rival will lead a country struggling with sky-high inflation as it plays a key role in NATO expansion and in the Middle East.

The May 28 second round of presidential elections that election officials announced Monday will allow Turkey to decide if the nation remains under the increasingly authoritarian president for a third decade, or if it can embark on the more democratic course that Kemal Kilicdaroglu has claimed he can deliver.

As in previous years, the nationalist Erdogan led a highly divisive campaign.

He portrayed Kilicdaroglu, who had received the backing of the country's pro-Kurdish party, of colluding with "terrorists" and of supporting what he called "deviant" LGBTQ rights. As a devout leader of the predominantly Muslim country, which was founded on secular principles, Erdogan has had the backing of conservative voters and has courted more Islamists with his anti-LGBTQ rhetoric.

In a bid to woo voters hit hard by inflation, he increased wages and pensions and subsidized electricity and gas bills, while showcasing Turkey's homegrown defense industry and infrastructure projects.

Some voters said the results announced Monday should strengthen Turkish democracy by reminding Erdogan of the important of convincing voters.

Sena Dayan said she voted for the Erdogan alliance, but wasn't upset at the need for a runoff.

"I believe this is good for the govern-

ment, and better for our future, to look back at mistaken decisions," Dayan said in Istanbul. "Erdogan is too confident in himself. The people broke this confidence a bit."

For others, Sunday's vote showed how polarized Turkey has become.

"I am not happy at all," voter Suzan Devletsah said. "I worry about the future of Turkey."

Kilicdaroglu leads the pro-secular main opposition party, which was established by the founder of modern Turkey. He campaigned on promises to reverse crackdowns on free speech and other forms of democratic backsliding and to repair an economy battered by high inflation and currency devaluation.

The latest official statistics put inflation at about 44%, down from a high of around 86%, but independent experts estimate them as much higher.

As the results came in, it appeared those elements didn't shake up the electorate as many expected. Turkey's conservative heartland overwhelmingly voted for the ruling party, with Kilicdaroglu's main opposition winning most of the coastal provinces in the west and south.

Western nations and foreign investors were particularly interested in the outcome because of Erdogan's unorthodox leadership of the economy, and often mercurial but successful efforts to put the country that spans Europe and Asia at the center of many major diplomatic negotiations.

Erdogan faced electoral headwinds due to the cost-of-living crisis and criticism over the government's response to a devastating February earthquake. But with his alliance retaining its hold on the parliament, Erdogan is now in a good position to win in the second round.

NewsWatch

KUWAIT CITY: The Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) is issued an updated version of the Instructions for Regulating the Electronic Payment of Funds, first issued in 2018, a draft of the updated instructions was made public in early 2022 and a round of public consultations with stakeholders on the draft instructions followed.

In a statement, CBK said Tuesday, that these instructions outlined the mandatory requirements that must be met by existing and new financial firms to practice the activity of electronic payment or electronic money, or to operate electronic payment systems according to five types of licenses.

This came in line with the CBK's strategy to maintain a strong advanced financial system and encourage emerging technologies in the field of electronic payment, and with the mandate granted by the Law No. 20 of 2014 on electronic transactions, which gave CBK the authority of oversight and regulation of the electronic payments of funds, and to issue binding instructions in this regard, it added. (KUNA)

KUWAIT CITY: Kuwait's Foreign Ministry announced on Monday that the residence of the head of the military office at the Kuwaiti embassy in Khartoum was stormed and ransacked today.

In a statement, the Ministry expressed Kuwait's condemnation and denunciation of the attack and all forms of violence and sabotage, especially those targeting diplomatic missions and their buildings.

It dismissed that such assaults as a flagrant violation of all international norms, rules of international law and the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations of 1961.

The Ministry renewed its call to the official authorities and all concerned parties in the sisterly Republic of Sudan to quickly take necessary measures to provide full protection for diplomatic missions staff, buildings and properties. (KUNA)

RIYADH: The Saudi Ministry of Foreign Affairs said on Tuesday that it was following up with great regret the raid on the residence of the head of the military office of the Kuwaiti embassy and the Jordanian embassy in the Sudanese capital, Khartoum.

The Saudi Foreign Ministry expressed, in a statement, the kingdom's total rejection of all forms of violence and sabotage towards diplomatic missions and representations. (KUNA)

Prayer Timings

Fajr	03:26	Asr	15:20
Sunrise ..	04:56	Maghrib ..	18:33
Zohr	11:44	Isha	20:01

Local

Expected weather for the next 24 hours:

By Day: Hot and partly cloudy to cloudy with light variable wind to light to moderate southeasterly wind with speeds of 08-32 km/h.
By Night: Mild and cloudy to

Weather

partly cloudy with light to moderate southeasterly wind to light variable wind with speeds of 08-26 km/h with a chance for scattered light rain.

Station	Max Exp	Min Rec
Kuwait City	38	27

Kuwait Airport	38	24
Abdaly	38	20
Jahra	39	26
Salmiyah	34	27
Ahmadi	33	28
Nuwaisib	35	23
Wafra	38	21

CIVIL ID STATUS INQUIRY: <https://e.gov.kw/sites/kgoenlsh/Pages/eServices/PACI/CivilIDStatus.aspx>

Program with FAO concluded: Taqi

'PAAAFR pays special attention to growth, care of palm trees'

KUWAIT CITY, May 16, (KUNA): The Public Authority for Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources (PAAAFR) affirmed that it pays special attention to developing and supporting the cultivation of fruit palm trees in Kuwait, improving their cultivation conditions and combating pests and diseases through the national program for the development and propagation of palm trees.

The Deputy Director General of the Authority for Plant Wealth Affairs, Nasser Taqi, told Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) on Sunday, at the conclusion of the 'Training program for farmer field school facilitators on managing date palm pests', that the issue of the red palm weevil insect occupies an advanced position among Kuwait's priorities to preserve and develop date palm productivity in the country.

Taqi added that the authority and the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO) concluded the aforementioned program, which is concerned with palm weevil control, with a package of recommendations with the participation and presence of experts and officials from both sides, focused on finding sustainable solutions capable of overcoming non-traditional problems facing the palm sector and searching for innovative early detection methods to combat palm pests, including the red palm weevil insect and the transfer of successful experiences to farmer schools.

In this regard, he stressed the importance of good agricultural operations, early examination of palm trees, the method of treating infected palms, and the

need for cooperation between farmers and the authority to reach the desired goal.

He stated that the Authority undertook an inventory of pests and diseases that afflict palm trees in different areas in Kuwait, such as Wafra, Abdali, Sulaibiya, Kabd, and some residential areas, especially the red palm weevil insect and other challenges such as donkeys, dubas, honey borers, and spiders, specifying the place, time, and weather conditions for the inventory process.

He pointed to FAO support for national programs in all countries to combat the red palm weevil and manage this pest and prevent its entry or limit its spread and control it, at a time when the Authority looks forward to this initiative being the beginning of operating and activating the FAO office in Kuwait.

Adopting

"We also look forward to the organization adopting a project to limit agricultural pests in general, in addition to palm pests."

Taqi stressed the importance of this program and its ability to raise the skills, competence and capabilities of agricultural engineers and agricultural supervisors and increase their awareness through methods of prevention and detection of the red palm weevil, which threatens the productivity of date palms and the cultivations and investments of the palm sector, in addition to focusing on practical training on the integrated management of the red palm weevil.

For his part, Dr. Thaeer Yassin, Regional Officer for Plant Protection at FAO, said that the program would address gaps in managing the red palm weevil in three main areas: scientific research, technology transfer and capacity building.

Yassin said that the final recommendations of the program also focused on

the necessity of establishing farmer field schools in Kuwait, training the group on pest control, especially the palm weevil, and educating farmers on the importance of integrated management of the red palm weevil in order to increase the adoption and implementation of appropriate programs to manage it under local conditions. He presented recommendations as well as spreading general awareness among farmers and pesticide users of the importance of good practices related to aspects of safety and security, and encouraging their use in integration with other methods.

He pointed out the need to organize television and radio episodes to educate them about integrated management to combat the red palm weevil, to prepare pamphlets about the red palm weevil, to seek the help of experts in the field of integrated management to combat it, to assess the situation and to participate in preparing a plan to combat pests affecting palm trees.

He stressed the necessity of having accurate statistics regarding the spread of palm weevil in Kuwait, appointing individuals to work on agricultural field schools for farmers, and the need to conduct studies on the efficiency of the agricultural product by comparing the various agricultural calendars of the crop and educating farmers through making a media plan regarding agricultural schools.

Yassin pointed out the importance of establishing a special project in Kuwait and providing resources for the regional project with the aim of developing the existing activities in Kuwait after evaluating the experts.

The training program was launched on May 8, dealing with the control of the red palm weevil in Kuwait as part of the FAO regional program in the Mideast and North Africa.



Nasser Taqi



The 'Shammar' tribe members express joy at the release of those accused in pre-poll consultations case.

Photo by Samer Shaqair

Cabinet nods amnesty for 'Shammar' tribe

The Council of Ministers has approved a draft decree pardoning the remainder of the sentence restricting freedom imposed on the persons whose names are mentioned in Case No. 2073 of 2020, reports Al-Qabas daily.

All those pardoned under the provisions of this decree are subject to all official procedures taken by the competent authorities to consider the pardon as null and void in the event that any of them violates the law during the period from which he was exempted in order to fulfill the full term of the sentence.

Immediately after the adoption of the draft decree, the Ministry of Interior, represented by the prisons, traffic and operations sectors, took

strict security measures in the vicinity of the Central Prison, in preparation for the release of those convicted in the Shammar Consultation Case No. 2073 of 2020.

Rescue and traffic patrols spread around the prison to organize the exit of the released persons without problems, and to control traffic around the prison, especially in light of the large numbers of relatives of the prisoners who had gone to the prison area to receive them.

The brother of one of the convicts told Al-Qabas, "We have been officially informed of the approval of the amnesty, expressing thanks and praise to the political leadership and the Council of Ministers for this amnesty."

Second-row leaders eyed in govt offices

Bid to fill up vacant positions

KUWAIT CITY, May 16: In an attempt to solve the problem of vacant leadership and supervisory positions and the difficulty of some parties in filling these vacancies, relevant sources revealed a new government program concerned with qualifying national cadres to occupy leadership positions and ensuring the presence of a second row of leaders in various positions in all ministries and government departments, reports Al-Qabas daily.

They explained that the Civil Service Commission (CSC) is working on preparing a training program on the way to prepare second-row leaders in the various government agencies. The training program, which is scheduled to be held soon, will be directed to assistant undersecretaries in government agencies and the like in order to introduce them to the most important modern methods for preparing second-row leaders in the authorities for which they are responsible.

Vacant

During the last period, hundreds of supervisory and leadership positions were vacant, which left a huge void in its administrative structure. Governmental monitoring reports revealed that only 19 government agencies out of 64 affiliated or independent agencies have more than 1,000 supervisory positions

with all their gradations.

This was due to the exit of a large number of leaders to enjoy the benefits of retirement, which revealed the importance of the presence of the second rank of leaders in the ministries.

The sudden retirement of leaders without the presence of second rank leaders who are capable of assuming responsibility led to the vacancies of such high numbers of jobs, and the inability of the authorities to bridge it easily.

Report

The State Audit Bureau, in a previous report, had stressed the need to occupy supervisory positions, and take the necessary measures in accordance with the provisions of CSC's decision, especially since they were occupied by delegation for long periods in a several government agencies, which may cause weak internal control for the authority because those delegated to the tasks of other supervisory positions bear a large burden.

One of the reasons behind not filling the vacancies for leadership and supervisory positions was the government's desire to occupy these positions with non-traditional leaders who are able to translate their action plan. This requires leaders with economic thinking to keep pace with the process of change taking place at the economic and political levels regionally and locally.

The sources said the recent period witnessed CSC's rejection of a number of applicants to assume positions due to the lack of required qualifications for those positions, adding that this happened due to the neglect of some government agencies to prepare and train their employees to assume supervisory positions before they become vacant.

Other Voices

We have filled them a lot..!

By Ahmad alsarraf

I remembered the Kuwaiti proverb, "We satiated them with insults ... They satiated us with jokes"! It means that we cursed our enemies, but they beat us up! I remembered this while reading passages from one of the textbooks, which are taught in our schools, and which clearly show that whoever sets educational curricula is either completely detached from reality, or that he lives in a virgin world steeped in aspirations that are difficult to achieve.

From reading three or four pages of a textbook, we find that the greatest concern of the nation, which the educators, who wrote the books, would like to focus on is the enmity of the Jews and their elimination, and this is indeed confusing, as the number of Arabs is 400 million, and above them is a billion Muslims.

Is it conceivable that with this "mental" humility there is a desire to eliminate a country of 6 or 7 million?

There is no doubt that there is a defect in the matter, and if the Ministry of Education allowed school students to be taught the subject of "critical thinking", then the students themselves would have shown the absurdity of the equation and the absurdity of the text.

The issue is not a sword and horses, but rather knowledge, understanding and achievement. Not all of our nation can eliminate Israel with our current reality that is weak, disjointed, and backward in health, socially, morally, industrially, and financially. They con-

tinue to defeat us in every military or moral battle!

Our children are taught, based on school texts, how to confront the conspiracies of the Jews, and we forget that we conspire against each other more than they conspire against us, because our involvement in our differences represents the greatest support for them and their continued survival, especially since the curricula are completely devoid of materials related to how to eliminate our differences, and accept each other, stop our dispersion and fragmentation, and reject the distinction between free and slave, indigenous and faction, Muslim and Christian, Shiite and Sunni, Druze and Alawite, Coptic and Amazigh, Kurdish and Ibadhi. Without liberalism and freedoms we will not exist!

The curricula also focus on the fact that the enmity of the "Jews" towards Islam and Muslims is deep-rooted and ancient!

Of course, this is not true, and if it is true, I do not think for a moment that they are as preoccupied as we are with this enmity, thinking about it and teaching it in their curricula.

Our curricula also focus on the "story" that the Jews are covenant-breakers, and this automatically means that we are among those who keep them. It is another lie that is difficult to deceive from the half-smart male and female students.

As mentioned in the curricula, one of the greatest duties that Muslims have is the responsibility to defend Islam, by adhering to its rulings, and boycotting the products of the enemies.

Conclusion: We are the enemies of ourselves before others are our enemy, and the battles of Sudan are the last of our misfortunes.



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

Registration for jobs to begin from June 2 to 16

KUWAIT CITY, May 16: The head of the Civil Service Commission, Dr. Essam Al-Rubaian, announced the opening of registration for jobs for all those who meet the conditions from June 2 until June 16, instead of Dec 1, which was approved earlier and announced by the Bureau on its Twitter account, reports Al-Anba daily.

The registration on June 2 will not be limited to graduates of the second semester of Kuwait University and the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training, as previously announced by the Bureau.

According to the announcement, high school graduates who have passed the courses will be registered, along with their peers who did not have the opportunity to pass any training course, in addition to those who have resigned from ministries and government institutions and state-owned companies in addition to those who resigned from the military sector (Interior and Defense ministries and the National Guard) provided they fulfill the conditions in force, which is the passage of one year from the date of resignation and upon completion of the procedures at the Bureau.

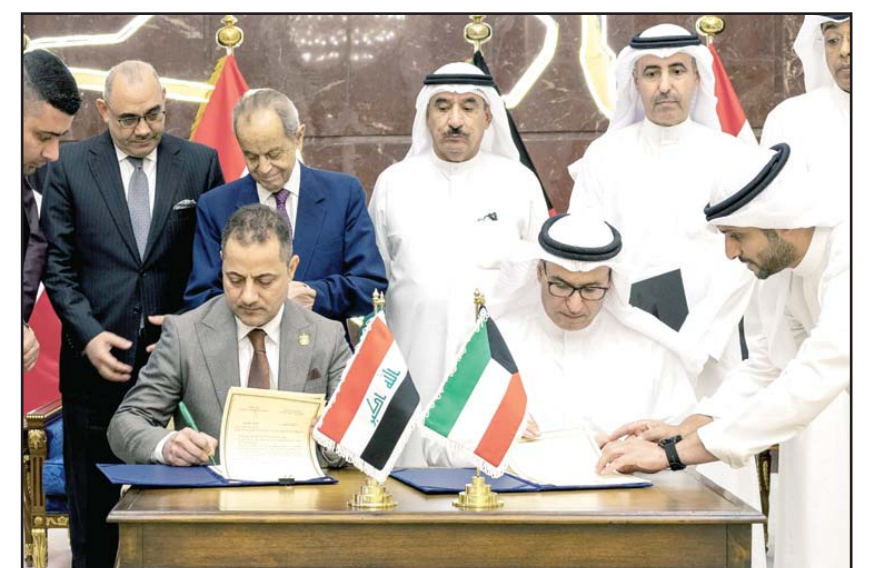
Important

This, and it is important to mention that the registration will take place in accordance with the same criteria approved and announced by the Council of Ministers and the Civil Service Commission.

Meanwhile, based on the proposal of First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Interior and acting Minister of Defense Sheikh Talal Al-Khalid; the Civil Service Commission (CSC) has agreed to create a job scale for the airport security inspector position and grant job level allowance according to this scale, reports Al-Anba daily.

The CSC also approved the minister's request to grant infection allowance for Kuwaiti employees in charge of the technical inspection of vehicles at the General Traffic Department (GTD).

The minister then issued a directive to expedite the completion of administrative procedures for the disbursement of the allowance.



KUNA photo
Deputy Foreign Minister, Ambassador Mansour Al-Otaibi, with the Iraqi advisor, Dr. Othman Al-Aboudi, sign moments of the meeting.

Security, stability discussed

Envoy praises Kuwait-Iraq meet

KUWAIT CITY, May 16: Iraqi Ambassador to Kuwait Al-Manhal Al-Safi praised the results of the meeting of the Kuwaiti-Iraqi joint technical committee held in the country on Sunday, reports Al-Qabas daily.

The Kuwaiti side was headed by Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister Ambassador Mansour Al-Otaibi, while Counselor Dr Othman Al-Aboud headed the Iraqi side.

Al-Saifi affirmed the continuation of coordination between the two brotherly countries to address all issues of mutual concern, strengthen relations, and work together to guarantee the security and

stability of both parties.

He said the committee convened in a positive and fraternal atmosphere, during which issues of mutual concern were discussed with full transparency and clarity. He revealed the next meeting will take place in Baghdad after two months.

The agenda of the meeting included the continuation of the joint dialogue on the technical and legal aspects of the demarcation of the maritime borders beyond the 162nd mark within the framework of strengthening brotherly ties between the two countries.

diwaniya ديوانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

'Politics ... not in harmony with Al-Islah Assoc's responsibilities'

"I AM not a member of the Al-Islah Association, and I did not tour its huge building in Al-Rawda, but I read what I find useful from its publications, and I sympathize with the essence of the goals it seeks, and I criticize with some reservation the intellectual closure and cultural narrowness that surrounds its activities in a way that indicates its fears of openness and dealing with issues that it needs," columnist **Abdullah Bishara** wrote for **Al-Qabas** daily.

"The Arab world needs to delve into it, most notably political openness and deepening the concepts of good governance based on democracy, freedom and respect for opinion, appreciating diligence towards innovation and believing in the effectiveness of talent and embracing it.

"The association contented itself with continuing to follow the familiar lines, moving away from the issues of the hour, and comfortable with the calm and impartial approach in dealing with developments, and was careful not to slip into confrontations, as I personally appreciate its president, the virtuous Sheikh Khaled Al-Madhkoor, and I am certain that the association was satisfied with his preference for a calm style without confrontations, and that the dictates of the call and the softness of approaching it does not favor harassment and harshness in approach or content.



Bishara

"And I believe that there is wisdom in adopting kindness and forgiveness in compliance with the teachings of Islam and its high values.

"This is what is extracted from the blessings of moderation, good dialogue, and high cohabitation to which the Al-Islah Association adheres, gains it a lot in its endeavor to expand the arenas of influence for its lofty and pure message, but I always do justice to the leadership of the association in confirming the integrity of intentions when I notice the diligence of some of its deputies in the National Assembly and their bias in the first ranks of the approach of populism seeking appeasement in order to consolidate the adherence of the membership chair in the depths of the parliamentary soil.

"The facts of public life confirm that politics is corrupt and sabotage, and is not in harmony with the responsibilities of the association, nor with its well-known human values, and does not coincide with the association's message in praising the Kuwaiti popular alignment and its national solidarity towards development to make Kuwait a site of moderate intellectual radiation adorned with talents that shine with innovation and renewal, so we understand the content of the association and the essence of its objectives.

"There are no friendships in politics, there is no place for altruism, and there is no forgiveness for a deliberate or innocent mistake.

"Everything is calculated to enable the politician to succeed, and we remember that the tyranny of failure in politics increases intransigence and sparks arrogance carried by strong stubbornness towards a second or third round.

"Politics is a profession, but it is a game in itself, uninterrupted vitality, captivating charm towards perpetuation, and more than that, it kills the rules of communication, not only between friends because of their intellectual divergences, contradictory positions, and violent vocabulary, but also between the brotherhood by cutting the ropes within the same family and sabotaging its rules.

"I knew three brothers in the sixties of the last century, one of them was a judge in the International Court of Justice, his name was Sir Dingle Foot, and he was a man of science and law, who gained the world's trust with his objectivity, and his brother Michael Foot, who was leftist and belonged to the Labor Party, violent in his interventions, severe in his vocabulary, harsh in his rivalries, and the third of the brothers became Lord Caradon, the British delegate to the United Nations, and the architect of Security Council Resolution (242) of 1967, and before that he was the ruler of Cyprus, and he enjoyed positive moderation, as he did not tire of presenting ideas, in search of peaceful solutions.

"There was no convergence between the three brothers in positions, nor in party affiliation, as they are like a large number of victims of politics that destroyed the instinct of sympathy and brotherhood.

"The fact that must be recognized is that most of the members of the assembly among the deputies got the assembly into problems about its missions in the field of advocacy, fortifying the principles of Islam.

"No matter how the association seeks to reconcile the political concepts of its representatives with the characteristics of the message it seeks to confirm, the reality supports the right of citizens to be surprised about the enthusiasm of the members of the association in joining processions of parliamentary abuse against the jurisprudence of the executive authority, confronting its proposals, and participating in scenes of condescension and the phenomenon of belittlement towards most of the proposals -- proposals of what the government puts forward, and joining the ranks of the opposition assembly, which will not be satisfied with anything that comes from the executive side, regardless of the sizes of its fruits.

"No matter how much the brothers affiliated with the association sought to soften the vocabulary and beautify the propositions, there is no doubt that the association's deputies are always at the forefront of the critical attack, and neither their policy nor their sharp and heavy interventions against the government were affected by the size of the embarrassments that afflict the association as a result of the dry and negative parliamentary platform that the association's group built.

"So there is no way here to ignore the type of relations between the association and the executive authority in constructive and generous sympathy, believing in the high values that adorn the association's proposals.

"Frankly speaking, the politics, with its filth, and the message of Islam, with its purity, are not compatible because of the tricks of politics.

"The deputies belonging to the assembly enjoy associative immunity with the assembly that contributed to their success.

"Despite that, they do not interact with the reality of the assembly in their inputs, nor do they take into account the sensitivity of the relations between the assembly and the government, and they do not exercise the virtue of alerting those who abuse the meanings of democracy in their objection to what is beneficial to what the government proposes including development programs.

"This happens although logic requires that their voice be heard in defense of the useful content of the executive authority's proposals instead of objecting, disrupting business and participating in embarrassing and offensive disputes to Kuwait's reputation and image, and exposing it to internal disputes and the resulting divergence and popular condemnation of the obstruction method.

Also:

"I mentioned in an article published on July 29, 2020 that the Arab was ignited to last, as the interests of all the West, Israel and Iran converged on the necessity of their sustainability. Do not believe the weeping over the hungry and the homeless, and over the destruction of their cities over their heads," columnist **Talal Abdul Karim Al-Arab** wrote for **Al-Jarida** daily.

"Whenever the parties to the conflict came close to reaching a solution, their igniters and agents rush to fuel it again. As for conferences, meetings and dialogues, they mean only one thing, which is how to prolong their wars to exhaust the Arab world, eliminate any national loyalty, and destroy any potential power for decades to come.

"They are sectarian conflicts that did not happen by chance, as they were planned decades ago with the aim of changing the map of the Arab East. They began with the destruction of its military power, and destabilizing its stability and national unity by removing its national affiliation and replacing it with a spirit of Sunni and Shiite sectarian loyalty.

"In order to rein in the quarrelsome Arabs aspiring to liberate all their usurped lands, including Palestine, the idea of establishing an "Iranian Shiite crescent" was born, provided that it would be under the control of a sectarian regime.

"The implementation of this infernal project, provided that it is matched by a Brotherhood rule from Egypt that leads the Sunni Arab side, Hillary Clinton, US Secretary of State under Barack Obama, revealed in her memoirs 'Password 360' the success of their destructive intervention in Iraq, Libya and Syria, and they were very close to the success of their satanic scheme in Egypt, but the revolution of the people and the army overthrew the rule of Mohamed Morsi and the Brotherhood.

"She stated that they were in agreement with the Egyptian Brotherhood to declare an Islamic state in Sinai on 5/7/2013, and to hand it over to Hamas and part of it to Israel to be its protector, with other arrangements with Sudan and Libya, and they were in agreement with Europe to recognize it as soon as it was established, but the plan was aborted.

"They wanted the Brotherhood party to control Egypt as the largest and strongest Arab country, and then divide it, and then go to the Arab Gulf countries, and Hillary stated 'The first country prepared for the fall is Kuwait through our agents there'.

"After that, the entire Arab region will be divided, Henry Kissinger called after the 1973 war, to have full control of oil sources and sea ports. What we see now is that there is rapid progress to achieve the goal of establishing a sustainable Arab sectarian situation led and dominated on the Arab Shiite side by Iran through mercenaries who are now making sectarian demographic changes in Iraq, Syria, Lebanon and Yemen.

"The battles of the Arab East, to which Sudan recently joined, and from which the south was carved out in a deal with Omar Al-Bashir previously, will continue as long as the remaining Arab patriots do not rise up, because the destruction of the Arab nation is in the interest of everyone except the Arabs, and our country will remain violated and weak as long as there are traitors and mercenaries and rulers who sold their honor and homelands for thrones that they no longer rule."

"The most dangerous occurrence for any country is when the citizen believes the State of institutions does not exist, and that all talks about it are just slogans to achieve certain goals, which are not in the interest of the citizen," columnist **Nasser Al-Abdali** wrote for **Al-Qabas** daily.

"Once this happens, the voter will not elect his representative in the Parliament. The ordinary citizen will no longer trust the promises of the government and ministers. As time goes by, he will adopt new beliefs.

"The public feels that the executive and legislative institutions are facing a major dilemma -- their inability to face challenges dominating the local arena. They cannot respond to these challenges in the way they should do so. This left a massive void that prompted the distinguished nationals to move away from the two institutions. These institutions got weaker as their role has been limited, thereby, allowing less efficient and privileged individuals to fill the void.

"The democratic experience of the country has had many setbacks, most notably the relentless war waged by the Islamic movement through participation and sabotage from within, in addition to questioning it and its inability to confront and resolve outstanding issues. Despite all these, it managed to recover from the setbacks at every turn.

"However, we are now facing a huge challenge that has obvious and hidden repercussions, just as the reluctance to join the executive authority has become clear over the past years. This reluctance has weakened the ability of governments to work politically and administratively, such that everyone is now making fun of various government formations.

"It seems the other institutions are not in good condition as well. These institutions suffering, so the average citizen is bewildered."

— Compiled by Mai Elsoukary



Sheikh Faisal Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah during his visit to the information security center.

Deputy Chief of National Guards visits information security center

The National Guards Deputy Chief Sheikh Faisal Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah on Monday affirmed that cyber security is key for safeguarding the military establishments against electronic hazards.

Sheikh Faisal, in a statement on margins of his visit to the information security center, said that the National Guards Command provides all required support for bolstering the cyber security, through cooperation with international and local institutions.

He lauded the center personnel potentials and their agility in executing the tasks. The deputy chief was briefed on state-of-art technologies to abort electronic

hacking and piracy.

Also:

The cadet officers at Saad Al-Abdullah Academy have been ordered to return home temporarily due to the ongoing strike of workers in charge of preparing their meals, reports **Al-Rai** daily quoting a reliable source.

The source said the academy officials contacted the cadet officers' families to inform them about the need for the trainees to return home until the problem is solved. (KUNA)

Several illegals held, 423 traffic citations issued in security raids

Woman arrested for swindling people

KUWAIT CITY, May 16: The surprise security campaigns organized by the security authorities in several areas culminated in issuing 423 traffic violations, and arresting a number of violators and wanted persons, reports **Al-Rai** daily.

The General Department of Relations and Security Media at the Ministry of Interior stated that "the Public Security Affairs Sector, with the participation of the General Traffic Department and the General Directorate of Rescue Police, carried out a surprise campaign in the Shuwaikh Industrial Area, Hawalli, Khaitan, Mahboula, Al-Qurain Markets, and Al-Jahra Industrial."

The sources added, "The campaigns resulted in the arrest of 63 violators of the residency law, 40 (residency expiration), 91 people without proof, 23 absences, two people wanted for (criminal arrest), 4 drugs, a street vendor, two alcoholics, and a drunk person."

Woman arrested for fraud: A Kuwaiti woman was arrested for collecting money from people whom she convinced to invest in setting up projects, which turned out to be dummy. The detectives nabbed her after 30 fraud cases were filed against her, reports **Al-Rai** daily.

According to security sources, a number of police stations in all governorates received many complaints from victims who were deluded by a Kuwaiti woman into investing in profit generating projects, and then disappeared with their money.

The number of cases recorded against her were 30 cases, which were referred to the General Department for Criminal Investigation.

The sources said, "The investigations conducted by the detectives indicated that the accused is a citizen who has been deluding victims into investing in dummy projects. She used to cast her net on those who get involved with her by concluding an official contract in order to erase any suspicion. She then received the agreed amount, which usually ranges between KD 5,000 and KD 10,000 in exchange for receiving profits on a monthly basis.

180 supervisors to retire - MoE

KUWAIT CITY, May 16: The Ministry of Education has compiled a list of 180 supervisors for retirement during the new fiscal year, reports **Al-Rai** daily.

Meanwhile the Minister of Education and Minister of Higher Education, Dr. Hamad Al-Adwani, has referred the Assistant Undersecretary for Educational Development and Activities, Raja'a Bouraki, to retirement 4 months before the end of her tenure which is next October, in addition to a number of other department directors some of whom who have reach the age of 55 after 6 months.

An educational source told the daily, "the retirement statement, which was addressed to the administrative sector by the Public Institution for Social Security (PIFSS), includes some former directors in the Ministry's general office and some educational positions.

THE GUEST SHOW
CHAITALI B ROY

Guest: **Sara Akbar**
CEO, Oilserv Kuwait

Director: **Anees Backer**

Listen on EPISODE 123

18/05/2023 @ 10am & 10pm
93.3fm and 963am

Radio Kuwait International English Station

The Guest Show poster.

TGS presents Sara Akbar

The Guest Show (TGS) is deeply honored to present Sara Akbar, one of Kuwait's living legends.

Sara Akbar has proved that ambition, competence and determination do not come with gender labels.

An inspiring role model, Sara Akbar's life is a fascinating narrative of the determination of a Kuwaiti woman to contribute to her country's success and development.

A chemical engineer by training, Sara Akbar is internationally famous in the oil and gas industry.

In 1991, when the skies above Kuwait was darkened by the oil well fires, she was the only woman in Kuwait's Wild Well Killers Team responsible for dousing the fire.

After the liberation of Kuwait, she left the public sector and founded Kuwait Energy, a multinational, independent, oil & gas exploration company.

At present, she is the CEO of Oilserv Kuwait, an independent oilfield service company focused on the Middle East & North Africa.

Social Affairs vows full support for charities

KUWAIT CITY, May 16: The Assistant Undersecretary of the Ministry of Social Affairs and the Community Development, Salem Al-Rashidi, affirmed the ministry's full support for charities and foundations in their charity work and activities that contribute to raising the name of Kuwait in international forums, reports **Al-Qabas** daily.

This comes upon the directives of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf

Al-Ahmad and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad.

This happened during his participation, on behalf of the Minister of Social Affairs and Community Development, Mai Al-Baghli Sunday while honoring the Kuwaiti families participating in the closing ceremony of the third family competition for memorizing and reciting the Qur'an, under the slogan "The Qur'an brings us together".

Minister forms panel to develop Capital

KUWAIT CITY, May 16: The Minister of Commerce and Industry, Muhammad Al-Aiban, has issued a ministerial decision to form a special committee to study proposals to remove obstacles to the development of the Kuwaiti capital through proposals, mechanisms and necessary solutions in this regard, reports **Al-Rai** daily.

The daily added, the committee

comprises of members from several government institutions. The ministry said in a press statement that "the terms of reference of the committee include setting plans to develop the market and proposals and mechanisms in cooperation with the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, and examining the indicators to measure the competitiveness of the Kuwaiti capital market."

The ministry added the committee has the right to seek the assistance of whomever it deems appropriate to perform its tasks, in addition to moving to the relevant authorities and reviewing all documents and data related to the subject, and the relevant authorities must facilitate the task of the committee in performing its mission when asked to do so.

Exotica
COSY & LEISURE DINING

إكزوتیکا
أجواء مميزة وخطابة

تيراس مول السالمية مطل على شارع الخليج شارع سالم المبارك
Terrace Mall Salmiya, overlooking Gulf Road Salem Al Mubarak Street

9222 4674 / 75 @exotica_kw

www.mughalmahal.com

7K requests for license to 'receive & deliver clothes'

70% of total commercial licenses in April: MoCI

KUWAIT CITY, May 16: According to informed sources, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, represented by the sector for corporate affairs and commercial licenses, witnessed a strange phenomenon in the past weeks, specifically during the month of April. The ministry received a torrent of requests, exceeding 7,000 in number, for the issuance of a particular commercial license, which is for the activity of "receiving and delivering clothes", reports Al-Qabas daily.

The sources explained that the ministry issues about 10,000 to 12,000 commercial licenses per month. The license for the activity of "receiving and delivery of clothes" accounted for no less than 70 percent of the total commercial licenses in April.

There may be a rumor that the commercial license, which has become a "phenomenon", will become parallel to the license to deliver consumer orders, which was suspended for many years at the request of the Ministry of Interior.

The license for "receiving and delivery of clothes" and the approval of its issuance in the automated system for the companies and commercial licenses sector of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry does not require the approval of the Ministry of Interior. This means that this activity is not subject to the registration of a large number of cars, as is the case with the delivery activity.

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry is registering and completing the process of establishing the activities of companies according to the "international code". There may be confusion among many applicants regarding the request for a license for "receiving and delivering clothes". They probably believe that it includes the activity of order delivery service in its broadest form, as the license is in fact concerned with receiving and delivering clothes from the laundry. This activity is applicable worldwide, as clothes can be received from a clothes cleaning company and delivered to the customer by a number of means, including on foot, especially in European countries and places with temperate climates.

The private commercial activity of delivering consumer orders is completely different from the activity of receiving and delivering clothes, as the issuance of licenses for the delivery of orders - before its suspension - required the approval of the Ministry of Interior, given that the delivery activity is based on means of transportation such as cars and motorcycles, and the ministry is concerned with regulating traffic. Therefore, all new commercial licenses related to land transportation - so to speak - are referred to the Ministry of Interior for the approval of the practice or not in terms of the activity of the new licenses before the suspension process.

Response

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry has addressed the Ministry of Interior about its desire to include this type of commercial license under its umbrella. It is currently awaiting a response, but is expecting that the Ministry of Interior will refuse to include the approvals for the issuance of this type of commercial license under its umbrella, on the grounds that it is not a land transport activity. Therefore, it does not contain large means of transportation, and it will not be licensed to do so in the future.

A large number of investors who submitted applications for obtaining a license to receive and deliver clothes are young Kuwaiti citizens registered under chapter five in the Public Institution for Social Security, followed by pensioners. A significant percentage are women.

The meetings that included representatives of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and the Ministry of Interior months ago dealt with a study to reopen the door for licensing to deliver consumer orders. There was a large increase in the number of expatriates in the country, especially workers who came to the country in bulk through work visas issued by companies trading in residency. These workers were brought to the country and then left to face their fate by working in places that are not of their sponsors, thus violating the labor law. The file of licenses for the delivery of consumer orders is linked to the issue of traffic jams that the country suffers from.

Furthermore, the sources said one of the advantages of improving the business environment in Kuwait is that the automated system for the companies and commercial licenses sector at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry allows applying for a commercial license application initially without any fees, provided that the procedures for obtaining the commercial license are completed within a year from the date of submission. It can be related to obtaining the approvals of the concerned authorities in terms of the licensing activity, or obtaining an unused automated number from others, and it is registered with the Public Authority for Civil Information, which requires renting an office as the company's headquarters.

Also, the advantage of incorporation without paying large amounts is one of the reasons for the great demand to establish a company for receiving and delivering clothes. The risk in the process of establishing the company does not exceed a mere request, and therefore the founder retains his right to establish a company according to his expectations that may have a future, and before the issuance of new licenses is suspended as it happened with the license to deliver consumer orders.



The meeting between Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry representatives and Swiss delegation



Representatives of Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry in the meeting with the Swiss delegation



Deputy Chairman of the (MoCI) Fahad Al-Joan with Head of the Swiss delegation Tiziono Balemlli, KUNA photos

Kuwait-Swiss trade reaches \$783 mln

Trade exchanges between Kuwait and Switzerland reached USD 783 million in 2021. Deputy Chairman of the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry Fahad Al-Joan declared on Monday.

Al-Joan, speaking during a reception of a Swiss delegation at the chamber headquarters, called for increasing volume of the commercial exchanges between the two countries, in light of the solid political ties between them.

He noted that such meetings could be helpful for expanding the economic cooperation, examining investment opportunities and establishing commercial partnerships particularly in the technology and clean energy sectors.

Swiss Ambassador Tiziono Balemlli, who attended the meeting, affirmed that the Swiss delegation's visit is partly aimed at presenting investment opportunities in the European nation and prospects of launching joint ventures.

For his part, the Swiss Consul General in Dubai Frank Eggmann -- also the head of the Swiss Business Council for the Middle East -- urged entrepreneurs in the two countries to cooperate for establishing common projects.

The meeting included a presentation of the investors' services in the Direct Investment Authority and the incentives provided in Kuwait such as 100 percent ownership and pardon of taxation for ten years.

KAF will soon launch national campaign to activate tourism

KUWAIT CITY, May 16: The Kuwait Association for Festivals (KAF) will soon launch the national campaign to activate tourism. It is the first and largest campaign of its kind in the field of promoting and defining the internal tourism destinations of Kuwait, in cooperation with a number of government agencies, headed by the Ministry of Information, with the participation of more than 150 initiators, reports Al-Qabas daily.

The head of the association, Tariq Al-Obaid, said that the national campaign to activate tourism in Kuwait will be the largest campaign of its kind, calling on all components of society and the private sector to participate in this campaign with the aim of unifying efforts to raise the level of tourism work in the country, which inaugurates a new era of hard work by all sectors and distinguished young entrepreneurs from various fields to build a system and a unified vision for tourism and entertainment.

0 leadership ...

Continued from Page 1

Today it is leading the global economy, and has built a network of roads and bridges in a number of cities and countries, with the highest standards and quality in their "Belt and Road" initiative. This is due to the fact that there was a conviction that self-closure would lead to the erosion of the state, and would only lead to complete isolation, while openness and market theory would revive the economy and achieve prosperity.

The reason for this renaissance is the decision of one man - Deng Xiaoping - who did not listen to the views of the partisan communist theorists, and did not take into account the sects, tribes, or clans, even though Chinese society is no different from many Arab countries.

Instead, there was a mind that was seeking the renaissance of China. Perhaps Kuwait and some Arab countries need to follow the example of the Chinese experience in order to get rid of the bickering and absurdity.

This is because what we are enduring cannot be overcome without updating and modernizing everything, starting from the administrative mentality and ending with the laws.

All of this requires the firm decision of one man, as is the case in some countries, especially the Gulf ones, which followed the Chinese experience and achieved great prosperity.

Those in

Continued from Page 1

In this regard, the Cabinet expressed Kuwait's condemnation and denunciation of the brutal aggression of the Israeli occupation forces on the Gaza Strip and the storming of the West Bank city of Nablus. It stressed Kuwait's absolute rejection of this dangerous escalation and attacks.

It dismissed the repeated crimes of the Israeli occupation forces against the Palestinian people as a flagrant violation of international humanitarian law.

The Cabinet renewed calls on the international community and the UN Security Council to assume their responsibilities and take immediate action to stop these attacks and work to provide full civil and legal protection for the Palestinian people in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the rules of law international.

It expressed Kuwait's condemnation and denunciation of the terrorist attack

that took place on the Tunisian island of Djerba, which resulted in a number of deaths and injuries.

It reiterated Kuwait's firm stance against violence and terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. It underlined the need to redouble international efforts to eradicate this dangerous phenomenon.

The Cabinet affirmed Kuwait's solidarity with the sisterly Republic of Tunisia and support to the measures it takes to maintain its security and stability.

It also voiced sincere condolences and sympathy of Kuwait to the Tunisian government and to the families of the victims, wishing the injured a speedy recovery.

Significance

In other news, Kuwait's Minister of Finance (MoF) and Minister of State for Economic Affairs and Investment Manaf Al-Hajri stressed on Monday the significance of galvanizing the economic deals on enhancing the joint Arab action.

Al-Hajri, head of the Kuwaiti delegation to the preparatory meetings for the extraordinary Arab summit, told KUNA in a statement that some topics on activating air, maritime and land transport have been discussed.

On Arab tourism, the Arab tourism strategy, which aims to boost Arab cooperation, and enhance confidence of Arab tourists and develop tourist innovation, has been adopted, he added in the statement after the meeting.

With regard to communication and information technology (digital technology), he said the Arab strategy for information and communication technology has been endorsed.

The strategy aims to develop the national and regional infrastructure in the Arab countries to form an inclusive Arab framework to coordinate efforts seeking to formulate national and regional policies and strategies in the Arab community during next years, he pointed out.

The conferees further discussed the latest developments of completing requirements related to establishing the Arab free zone and customs union, he stated.

In addition, several topics have been covered during the meetings that included Arab League Secretary General's report on implementing the 31st Arab Summit resolutions and others, he revealed.

Al-Hajri stressed Kuwait's keenness on making a successful Arab summit due in Saudi Arabia through helping making resolutions to enhance the joint Arab economic and social action.

He stated that Kuwait welcomed Syria's return to the Arab League after a 12-year suspension.



albander
hotel & resort

May

Room Promotion







Weekdays (Saturday - Wednesday)	Price
Queen Cabana (2 persons inclusive of breakfast) per night.	BHD 57.200/-net
2 Bedroom Chalet (4 persons inclusive of breakfast) per night.	BHD 128.000/-net
Weekends (Thursday & Friday)	Price
Queen Cabana (2 persons inclusive of breakfast) per night.	BHD 65.000/-net
2 Bedroom Chalet (4 persons inclusive of breakfast) per night.	BHD 145.000/-net

Promo period from 1st - 31st May 2023 Terms & conditions apply

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

Promo period from 1st - 31st May 2023

Terms & conditions apply

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

retail sales up 0.4% in April, buoyed by solid job market

Americans picked up their spending modestly in April, spending money online and dining out, buoyed by a solid job market and a retreat in prices for some things.

Car sales also rose despite prices that continue to soar, according to the Commerce Department report issued Tuesday. But consumers are facing plenty of challenges heading into the second half of the year from tightening credit to a weaker job market.

Retail sales increased 0.4% in April

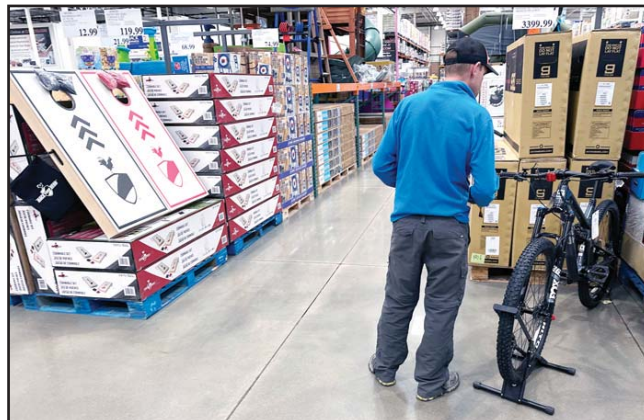
compared with March, when sales decreased 0.7%. That is the first retail sales increase since January, when unusually warm weather and a big jump in Social Security benefits juiced spending.

Retail sales data from the U.S. are not adjusted for inflation unlike many other government reports, so the headline increase only matched the monthly rise of 0.4% in the government's consumer price index for April. That indicates that shoppers are struggling to keep up with inflation.

Sales at car and auto parts dealers rose 0.4%. Business at gas stations fell 0.8% despite an uptick in prices at the pump, suggesting Americans cut back on holiday and spring break travel.

Excluding car dealers and gas stations, retail sales rose 0.6%.

Spending increased 1.2% at online retailers and ticked up 0.6% at restaurants and bars. However, department stores, electronic stores, sporting goods and hobby stores, as well as home furnishings stores all saw declines.



A shopper peruses a mountain bicycle on display in a Costco warehouse Wednesday, May 10, 2023, in Sheridan, Colo. On Tuesday, the Commerce Department releases U.S. retail sales data for April. (AP)

Market Movements

16-05-2023

	Change	Closing pts		Change	Closing pts
JAPAN - Nikkei	+0.73	29,842.99	UAE - DFM	-0.46	3,509.10
PAKISTAN - KSE 100	+0.63	41,980.13	SAUDI - Tadawul	-0.22	11,206.02
PHILIPPINES - PSEI	+1.01	6,588.90	EGYPT - EGX 30	-0.59	17,033.99

Business

McCarthy pushes for faster deal

Biden and congressional leaders to meet in debt ceiling showdown

WASHINGTON, May 16, (AP) — President Joe Biden is ready to discuss the debt ceiling with congressional leaders at the White House with reverberations across the globe as early outlines of a potential deal begin to emerge from painstakingly slow negotiations.

Raising the stakes, the Tuesday afternoon session comes as Biden is preparing to depart for the Group of Seven summit in Japan where the U.S. leadership will be on the world stage later this week. The president and House Speaker Kevin McCarthy are trying to strike a budget deal before the U.S. Treasury runs out of cash to keep paying the nation's bills, which could occur as soon as June 1.

While Biden has remained upbeat that "we'll be able to do this," McCarthy is prodding the president to move faster. The Republican speaker says they need an agreement soon to avoid default. Expectations are low that a deal is imminent. It is more likely that staff talks will continue while the president is overseas.

"How much is too much?" McCarthy said Tuesday about the nation's \$31 trillion debt load, as he pushed for stricter work requirements on government aid recipients as a way to cut spending.

McCarthy stopped short of suggesting Biden cancel his trip abroad. But he said

at the Capitol, "We've got 16 more days to go, I don't think I'd spend eight days out of the country."

Biden was optimistic, saying over the weekend, "There's a desire on their part as well as ours to reach an agreement."

It's the second time in a week that Biden has met with McCarthy of California and other congressional leaders at the White House. Biden is confronting a politically divided Congress for the first time on the debt ceiling, a test for both the president and McCarthy, the new speaker, as they work to stave off an economic crisis that could come from a federal default. The meeting will also include Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer of New York, Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky and House Democratic leader Hakeem Jeffries of New York.

Even as the Democratic president and the Republican speaker box around the politics of the issue - with Biden insisting he's not negotiating over the debt ceiling and McCarthy working to extract spending cuts - various areas of possible agreement appear to be emerging.

Talks have been under way at the Capitol for much of the past week, closed-door discussions where White House and congressional staff are discussing what

it would take to craft a budget deal that would unlock a separate vote to lift the nation's borrowing capacity to avoid a devastating default.

Among the items on the table: clawing back some \$30 billion in untapped COVID-19 money, imposing future budget caps, changing permit regulations to ease energy development and putting bolstered work requirements on recipients of government aid, according to those familiar with the talks.

Democrats are growing concerned about the idea of putting new work requirements for government aid recipients on the table after Biden suggested he may be open to such changes.

Democratic leader Jeffries' staff sought to reassure them in talks late Monday, while a separate group of more centrist Democrats have signaled to their moderate Republican colleagues they are prepared to work something out to reach a debt ceiling deal, aides said Tuesday.

While McCarthy McCarthy has complained the talks are slow-going, saying he first met with Biden more than 100 days ago Biden has said it took McCarthy all this time to put forward his own proposal after Republicans failed to produce their own budget this year.



Gregory Becker, former CEO of Silicon Valley Bank, arrives to testify to a Senate Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs hearing examining the failures of Silicon Valley Bank and Signature Bank, Tuesday, May 16, 2023, on Capitol Hill in Washington. (AP)

Senate hearing on banks

Execs from failed banks questioned on CEO pay

NEW YORK, May 16, (AP) — Executives from two of three banks that recently failed appeared in front of the Senate Banking Committee on Tuesday to respond to questions about why their banks went under and what regulators could have done to avoid the calamities.

Along with questions about how these banks failed, senators used the hearing to also address executive pay and whether senior executives in the U.S. are being rewarded more for short-term gains - like rising stock prices - than for ensuring their companies' long-term health.

Executives at Silicon Valley Bank, Signature Bank and First Republic Bank were paid millions of dollars over their tenures up until their banks failed, the bulk of the compensation coming in the form company stock. That stock is now largely worthless but the CEOs still pocketed millions from the planned sales of their shares before the banks' collapse.

Sen. Sherrod Brown, the Democratic chair of the Senate Banking Committee, took aim at executive compensation to open the hearing.

"You were paying out bonuses until literally hours before regulators seized your assets. To people in Ohio and around the country, this feels sickeningly familiar," Brown said. "To most Americans, a lack of Wall Street accountability tracks with their entire experience with our economy. Workers face consequences; executives ride off into the sunset."

Silicon Valley Bank's former CEO Greg Becker received compensation valued at roughly \$9.9 million in 2022, and also sold stock in the company only a few weeks before it failed. Joseph DePaolo, CEO of Signature Bank, also sold stock in the company in the years leading up to its collapse.

DePaolo did not appear in front of the Senate on Tuesday due to health concerns; instead Signature's co-founder and the bank's president agreed to testify.

The anger over CEO pay echoes that of roughly 15 years ago, when the 2008 financial crisis led to taxpayer-funded bailouts of major banks. The CEOs and high-level bankers still received millions in pay and bonuses, most notably at nearly failed insurance conglomerate American International Group.

"The recent bank failures prove yet again that banker compensation is at the core of causing banks to take too much risk, act irresponsibly if not recklessly, and blow themselves up," said Dennis Kelleher, co-founder of Better Markets, which was founded after the Great Recession focused on financial industry reform.

Clawing back CEO pay has gained bipartisan attention despite the fierce divisions between the two political

parties.

Four senators - two Democrats and two Republicans - have introduced legislation that would give the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation authority to claw back any pay made to executives in the five years leading up to a bank's failure.

The bill is sponsored by Warren, Josh Hawley, R-Mo., Catherine Cortez Masto, D-Nev. and Mike Braun, R-Ind. The White House, while not endorsing the specific bill, has called on Congress to pass laws to reform how bank CEOs are paid in the event of a failure.

"Bank executives who make risky investments with customers' money shouldn't be permitted to profit in the good times, and then avoid financial consequences when things go south," Hawley said when the bill was introduced in late March.

Kelleher said he supports the congressional efforts to claw back CEO pay following a bank failure.

Executives at big companies also tend get most of their pay each year in company stock. That means CEOs and other insiders have much to gain if the company's stock rises. And shareholders typically like it this way. The thought is that by tying a CEO's compensation to the stock price, it better aligns their interests with shareholders.

But the executives also have a lot to gain if they can sell their stock before the share price takes a steep dive.

Since 2000, the Securities and Exchange Commission has given CEOs and other corporate insiders a way to defend themselves against charges that they bought or sold stock using information unavailable to others, an illegal practice known as insider trading.

The method, known as the 10b5-1 rule, lets insiders enter into written plans to buy and sell stock in the future. The goal was to let insiders make trades, but not when they have their hands on material information not available to the public.

In prepared remarks for the Senate, Becker says he believed that these plans were "the most ethical means to manage this part of my compensation" and that his selling of Silicon Valley Bank stock before the bank failed was preplanned.

NEW YORK, May 16, (AP) : Stocks are ticking lower Tuesday after Home Depot warned of flagging sales, the latest discouraging signal for an economy under pressure.

The S&P 500 was 0.2% lower in afternoon trading. The Dow Jones Industrial Average was down 197 points, or 0.6%, at 33,150, as of 1:15 p.m. Eastern time, while the Nasdaq composite was 0.3% higher.

Energy producers were some of the heaviest weights on the market as Exxon Mobil dropped 2.1% and Chevron fell 1.9%.

Home Depot was also down 1.3% after it said its revenue fell by more in the latest quarter than expected. It described broad-based pressures across its business following years of big growth, and it cut its forecast for sales this fiscal year given all the uncertainty going forward.

The dour report helped cause other retailers to fall, including a 1% drop for Lowe's. Other big retailers are scheduled to report their results later this week, including Target and Walmart.

They're under the microscope because resilient spending by U.S. households has been one of the main positives keeping the economy from sliding into a recession. If it buckles, a recession may be assured, and the pressure is on because measures of confidence among shoppers have been on the decline.

Manufacturing and other areas of the economy have already craked under the weight of higher interest rates meant to bring down inflation.

A separate report on Tuesday said that spending at U.S. retailers across the country broadly rose last month, but not by as much as economists expected.

"There's often a gap between how people say they feel and how they spend their money, but the retail sales report shows people are beginning to cut back on big ticket items and discretionary categories like sporting goods," said Brian Jacobsen, chief economist at Annex Wealth Management.

Economists pointed to some brighter spots underneath the surface of the report on retail sales, including stronger-than-expected gains after ignoring auto fuel costs. A separate report released later in the morning also offered some encouraging data: The nation's industrial production unexpectedly grew in April.

Treasury yields in the bond market rose following the reports. The yield on the 10-year Treasury climbed to 3.56% from 3.51% late Monday. It helps set rates for mortgages and other important loans.

The two-year Treasury yield, which moves more on expectations for action by the Federal Reserve, rose to 4.08% from 4.01%.

The wide expectation on Wall Street is that the Fed will hold steady on interest rates in June. That would be the first time it hasn't raised rates at a meeting in more than a year, as it fights to get inflation lower. A pause by the Fed could offer the economy and financial markets some breathing room.

Europe

European shares were trading mostly higher after a mixed session in Asia following the release of data showing



A person rides a moped in front of an electronic stock board showing Japan's Nikkei 225 index at a securities firm Tuesday, May 16, 2023, in Tokyo. Asian shares were mostly higher on Tuesday even though the latest data showed China's economy is weaker than expected, with domestic demand failing to bounce back as much as hoped for after the pandemic. (AP)

Asian shares turn lower

Buffett's company 'recommits' to Bank of America stock while dumping other banks

OMAHA, Neb., May 16, (AP) — Investor Warren Buffett recommitted to his favorite bank stock, Bank of America, during the first quarter while dumping two other banks as part of a number of moves in Berkshire Hathaway's stock portfolio.

Berkshire provided a quarterly update on its U.S. holdings Monday in a filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Many investors follow the company's moves closely because of Buffett's remarkably successful investing record over the decades.

Berkshire slightly increased its 179.4 million share stake in Bank of America stock while eliminating long-time stakes in US Bancorp and the Bank of New York Mellon. Buffett has eliminated a number of bank investments in recent years, but he continues to back Bank of America.

Berkshire also picked up nearly 10 million shares of Capital One stock.

The quarterly filings don't identify which investments Buffett made and which ones were done by one of Berkshire's two other investment managers, but Buffett generally handles all

of Berkshire's biggest investments worth \$1 billion or more. Buffett doesn't regularly comment on these stock filings.

Berkshire continued to reduce its Activision Blizzard stake in the quarter down to 49.4 million shares from 52.7 million at the start of the year. Buffett has said he bought that stock as a way to bet that Microsoft's acquisition of the video game maker will ultimately go through. That deal is in doubt after British regulators rejected it and U.S. regulators sued to block it although the European Union did endorse Microsoft's purchase Monday.

Berkshire also cut its General Motors investment down to 40 million shares from the previous quarter's 50 million.

Monday's report doesn't include the biggest investment move Berkshire has made over the past year to sell more than half of its stake in Chinese electric carmaker BYD. Those sales, which have generated several billion dollars for Berkshire, are reported separately on the Hong Kong stock exchange. At the last update on that investment, Berkshire held about 108

million BYD shares worth roughly \$3.3 billion.

Until last August, Berkshire held 225 million shares that it bought in 2008 for \$232 million. The value of that BYD investment had ballooned to more than \$9.5 billion last summer before Buffett began selling.

One of the biggest other moves Berkshire made in the quarter was selling some 35 million Chevron shares to leave it with 132.4 million shares of the oil producer, but Berkshire had already disclosed that move in its quarterly earnings report.

And Buffett remains bullish on oil stocks.

One of Buffett's biggest purchases over the past year has been billions of dollars worth of Occidental Petroleum stock. Berkshire picked up another 17.4 million shares during the quarter, as it previously reported, to take control of nearly 24% of the oil producer's stock or some 211.7 million shares. Berkshire does hold warrants to buy another 83.9 million Occidental shares, but Buffett told shareholders at Berkshire's annual meeting earlier this month that he has no plans to try to buy the entire company.

China's economy is weaker than expected, with domestic demand failing to bounce back as much as hoped for after the pandemic.

Benchmarks rose in Paris and London.

Germany's DAX edged 0.1% higher to 15,928.83 and in London the FTSE 100 added 0.2% to 7,788.41. The CAC 40 in Paris shed 0.1% to 7,412.41.

Asia

Asian shares were mostly higher on Tuesday even though the latest data showed China's economy is weaker than expected, with domestic demand failing to bounce back as much as hoped for after the pandemic.

Benchmarks advanced in Tokyo, Hong Kong and Seoul but fell in Shanghai and Sydney.

China's economic recovery after the pandemic faces pressure from sluggish consumer and export demand, a government official said Tuesday, with retail sales and other activity in April weaker than expected.

Retail sales rose 18.4% over a year earlier, up 7.8 percentage points from March, official data showed. Other indicators were mixed: Factory output rose 5.6% over a year ago but was off 0.5% from March. Investment in factories, real estate and other fixed assets was up 4.7% in the first four months of 2023, but that was off 0.4 percentage

points from the first quarter's growth rate.

Oil

In other trading Tuesday, U.S. benchmark crude oil picked up 32 cents to \$71.43 per barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. It gained \$1.07 on Monday, to \$71.11 per barrel.

Brent crude oil, the international pricing standard, gained 33 cents to \$75.55 per barrel.

Currencies

The dollar slipped to 136.01 Japanese yen from 136.12 yen. The euro rose to \$1.0881 from \$1.0875.

'Results reflect our efforts to ensure positive performance of our core businesses'

KIPCO reports KD 5.1 million in net profit for Q1 of 2023

KUWAIT CITY, May 16: KIPCO – Kuwait Projects Company (Holding) – announced a net profit of KD 5.1million (US\$ 16.6million) for the first three months of 2023, an increase of 59% from the KD 3.2 million (US\$ 10.4million) reported in the corresponding period of 2022.

Earnings per share for the first quarter (the three months ended March 31, 2023) came to 1.1 fils (US\$ 0.36cents), compared to 1.3 fils (US\$ 0.42 cents) for the same period last year.

In the first quarter, KIPCO's consolidated revenue came to KD 313.7 million (US\$ 1.02 billion), an increase of 93% from KD 162.2 million (US\$ 529.1



Sheikha Dana

million) reported for the same period in 2022.

KIPCO's consolidated assets increased 4% and came to KD 11.8 billion (US\$ 38.5billion) at the end of the first three months of 2023, up from KD 11.4 billion (US\$ 37.2billion) reported at year-end 2022.

Sheikha Dana Naser Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah, KIPCO's Group Chief Executive Officer, said:

"The positive results of the first three months of 2023 reflect the performance of our portfolio companies. Our commercial banking sector, namely our operation in Jordan, has reported positive growth, together with the energy and the industrial & logistics sectors that were added to our portfolio as a result of the recent merger with Qurain Petrochemical Industries. As we said in our recent Annual General Assembly Meeting, we strive to build a holding company that is strong and able

to withstand market volatilities. These results demonstrate our efforts to ensure that KIPCO's core businesses continue to deliver enhanced positive performance, stemming from streamlined operations that are both efficient and effective."

□ □ □

Kuwait Projects Company (Holding) – KIPCO – is a holding company that focuses on investments in the Middle East and North Africa. Its strategy of acquiring, building, scaling and selling companies in the MENA region has worked successfully for over 30 years.

KIPCO's main business sectors are financial services, energy, media, real estate, industry and education. KIPCO's financial service interests include holdings in commercial banks, insurance companies, asset management and investment banking.

Warba Bank warns against 'fraudulent' messages on customer phones, emails

Bank committed to enhancing 'Diraya' campaign

KUWAIT CITY, May 16: Warba Bank is actively running an awareness campaign aimed at educating its customers about fraudulent messages associated with fake accounts that are received through phones and email. The bank strongly advises customers not to engage with such messages that claim to suspend their bank accounts or request updates to their banking details. This initiative aligns with Warba Bank's commitment to the "Diraya" banking awareness campaign, initiated by the Central Bank of Kuwait and the Kuwait Banking Association, to enhance financial literacy within the community and safeguard customer rights.

In this regard, Ayman Salem Al-Mutairi, Director Marketing & Corporate Communication, stated that Warba Bank contributes through multiple messages that carry different content related to the main elements of the campaign. The bank tailors these messages to cater to different customer segments, considering their varying levels of knowledge and interests, as well as aligning with their cultural and individual characteristics. Moreover, a series of messages is regularly communicated to employees as an essential component of the campaign's objectives. These messages aim to increase awareness, educate about potential risks, and emphasize the importance of adhering to safety and security guidelines while utilizing modern technology. Employees are specifically cautioned against sharing any account or personal transaction information with unfamiliar entities or responding to messages from unknown sources. Such actions would breach data confidentiality and compromise banking protection protocols.

Confidential

Al-Mutairi urged caution in dealing with electronic links and not to store any confidential information such as ATM card numbers, credit card numbers, or personal identification numbers on mobile phones. It is also advised not to write the PIN on the card or share it with anyone. This also applies to the One-Time Password (OTP). Additionally, the bank recommends logging out of applications or websites immediately after completing a transaction to ensure security.

Al-Mutairi emphasized the importance of ignoring suspicious emails that may expose customers to fraud. Phishing emails are usually sent from suspicious websites, making it difficult for users to distinguish between genuine and suspicious emails. Therefore, Warba Bank advises several important rules for dealing with emails, including ensuring that the email is sent from an official institution without sharing any personal or banking information and avoiding opening any links or providing any confidential information to third parties since the bank does not ask for confidential information or OTP passwords.

In addition, Al-Mutairi emphasized the bank's dedication to emphasizing the significance of personal data, privacy, passwords, and discouraging their sharing to prevent fraudulent activities. He also underscored the importance of cybersecurity in tackling the challenges related to the exploitation of user data across different electronic platforms.

Warba Bank's messages highlight the clear and specific policies set by the Central Bank of Kuwait to guide financial operations in banks. These include providing customers with financing details, installment amounts, repayment schedules, installment-to-net salary ratios, consequences of non-payment, and allowing customers at least two days to thoroughly



The all-new Geely Coolray on display.

Unleash your energy with the all-new car

Geely Coolray is now in Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, May 16: Geely Alghanim, the official distributor for Geely cars in Kuwait, is proud to announce the launch of the new Geely Coolray, a popular model born under new generation B-Segment Modular Architecture (BMA).

With its young and fashionable exterior design and excellent powertrain performance, Coolray has been gaining immense likes from the customers in Kuwait since the debut back in November 2019. This popular model has been making quite a noise in the SUV B segment with total sales of 2080 units up to from the time the car was launched till now.

Now, the new Geely Coolray is positioned as an "Intelligent SUV" with upgrades in design, powertrain, technology and safety, and is bound to trigger consumers' enthusiasm again.

To freshen up and elevate the exterior design, Geely adopted a more flamboyant "Energy Burst" design concept for the new Coolray. The new Coolray features the latest generation "Energy Storm" front face design – the blacked Robust Air Inlets with red accents, making the car more aggressive, dazzling and eye-catching. The LED headlights look sharp and shine like stars at night when they light up. The 18-inch tomahawk-style wheel with red sports callipers represents the speed and passion of the racing track. The large rear spoiler with the exclusive S logo enhances the sense of sportiness of the whole vehicle while optimizing aerodynamic performance.

The new Coolray boasts the segment's only exclusive Lavender color that has a dynamic color-changing finish. The calm grey and mysterious purple base brings to life the romantic, pearlescent and avant-garde Lavender color.

The "Energy Awakening" design concept is adopted in interior design. Geely created a powerful and sporty cockpit that can instantly stimulate the desire to drive. The contrasting design of gray-black and red-black gives the static cockpit a strong sense of visual flow. The flowing integrated double screens – a 10.25-inch LCD instrument cluster and a 12.3-inch infotainment display, bring an immersive visual experience and a strong sense of technology. The car is equipped with suede multifunctional sports seats, a premium leather multifunctional steering wheel,

72-color ambient lighting, and sporty electronic gear shifter. While creating a stylish and sporty atmosphere, the cabin also brings a refreshing sensory experience.

The new Coolray is equipped with a new generation of Leishen 1.5TD four-cylinder engine, incredibly efficient and powerful, which enables the vehicle to accelerate from 0 to 100 kmph in just 7.6 seconds with a combined fuel consumption of just 5.8 L/100km. Working together with a new generation of 7-speed wet dual-clutch transmission, which is a new generation of transmission derived from the Leishen Power, the new Coolray achieves higher efficiency, better NVH performance, and higher handling precision.

It is specially designed for urban working conditions. With the support of the new powertrain, the new Coolray will provide users with leading dynamic performance and live up to the "Intelligent SUV" claim. In addition to the traditional ECO, COMFORT and SPORT mode, the new Coolray has a new ADAPTIVE mode that recognizes driving habits and road conditions, and actively adjusts the powertrain to provide a better driving experience.

In terms of technological configuration, the new Coolray is equipped with L2 Advanced Driver Assistance System (ADAS). In addition to Intelligent Cruise Control (ICC) system, and Lane Keeping Assist (LKA) technologies, it also has the Automatic Parking Assist (APA) system, including 12 radars in total on the front and rear of the car to provide the all-around parking assist function. Users can just press one button to park the car easily with three parking options. At the same time, the new Coolray brings more user-friendly and convenient features that ensure the driver and passengers an easy and enjoyable mobility experience, including 15W fast wireless charging, automatic air conditioning, rear air outlet and an electric tailgate.

Lastly when it comes to driving safety, it is equipped with a 540° HD Panoramic Image System, giving drivers full information about the environment around and under the car. It helps drivers not only in parking but also at sharp turns when driving. At the same time, it also has a 4-way DVR system, 6 airbags and a high-strength cage body structure, safeguarding the driver and passengers as

much as possible.

With all the amazing upgrades and new function additions, Mr. Hamad Taleb Alanjari, General Manager of Geely Alghanim, said "The New Geely Coolray is a perfect example of Geely's mission to Create a Mobility Experience that Exceeds Expectations. The Leishen Powertrain platform gave birth to the all-new powertrain on the new Coolray that has a highly efficient and powerful 1.5TD 4 cylinder engine. Not to mention the BMA chassis tuned by two world-class race car engineers from Lotus and SAAB. The new Coolray is a game-changer in the SUV B segment and we are thrilled to be able to bring this vehicle to the Saudi marketKuwait Market. The Geely Coolray is not just a car; it is a lifestyle choice that enables drivers to unleash their inner drive and ignites their journey with style."

The new Coolray is ready for purchase from 15th May with a starting price of 5,699 KD with 5 years warranty & 3 years service.

Ali Alghanim & Sons Automotive is the exclusive distributor of Geely in Kuwait. For more info, please call 1832222 or visit www.geely.com.kw.

About AAS

Ali Alghanim & Sons Automotive was founded in 1986, and within just a few years it became the exclusive distributor of several world class luxury car brands such as, BMW, MINI, Rolls-Royce Motor Cars, Land Rover and McLaren. The company went on to build one of the world's largest automotive showrooms in the region, and the facility is now widely recognized as an architectural landmark in Kuwait. Today Ali Alghanim & Sons Automotive Co. offers a full line of customer support managed by the finest professionals in the industry and backed by superior after-sales services.

About GEELY

Geely Auto Group is a leading automobile manufacturer based in Hangzhou, China and was founded in 1997 as a subsidiary of Zhejiang Geely Holding Group (ZGH). Geely Auto Group is the holding company for several leading brands including Geely Auto, Proton Cars, Lynk & Co, and the Geometry range of vehicles. The group employs more than 50,000 people, operates 14 plants and has five global R&D centers in Hangzhou, Ningbo, Gothenburg, Coventry and Frankfurt.

with the terms and conditions, and fully comprehend their rights and responsibilities before giving consent to sign it.

It is worth mentioning that Warba Bank is one of the banks that has achieved significant success in a short period, occupying a leading position in the field of Islamic digital banking services for individuals. It is also one of the local banks with a large number of shareholders, making the bank accessible to all members of society. Additionally, in the year 2023, Warba Bank is recognized as one of the leading 50 banks in the Middle East in relation to market value, as stated by the Forbes Middle East ranking.

Bank partners IKEA® to offer service

KIB continues to provide best financing offers to customers

KUWAIT CITY, May 16: Kuwait International Bank (KIB) continues to provide the best exclusive financing offers on consumer products and services, in partnership with IKEA Kuwait. This comes within the framework of the Bank's continuous commitment and relentless efforts to provide unprecedented banking solutions and a unique shopping experience to its customers.

In this regard, Othman Tawfiqi, General Manager of Retail Banking Services, said: "KIB continues to strengthen its strategic partnerships with consumer service providers, to reward its customers with the best products and prices to meet their lifestyle needs and maintain its excellence. We at KIB see our partnership with IKEA as an important step to strengthen relations between the two parties. It is also an opportunity to provide the best offers and discounts to customers wishing to furnish or buy supplies for their homes, offices, or otherwise, in cooperation with one of the most well-known international brands that provide innovative, high-quality products. IKEA also happens to be the most popular brand among the majority of our customer segments."

Tawfiqi added: "We provide a series of comprehensive financing services at KIB, such as personal financing and consumer goods financing, which are among the most popular financing products that have been continuously in-demand by customers. This demand stems from their advantages, such as easy and flexible monthly payments, convenient grace periods, financing the purchase of many commodities, including home furnishings, and many others."

"From this standpoint, we continue our financing partnership with IKEA, to ensure that our customers enjoy the possibility of purchasing all they need from the company's products, including furniture and high-end accessories, and the ability to pay in convenient methods," Tawfiqi concluded.

The agreement between KIB and IKEA includes innovative and flexible financing deals, with long-term credit facilities, offered to customers of both parties. According to the agreement, KIB customers are granted easy credit financing for a period of up to 18 months. Meanwhile, the Bank offers a "Mosawama" financing deal with a value ranging between KD 300 and KD 25,000, up to a maximum of 24 months. KIB customers can easily apply for and follow up on their exclusive financing request via the PayTally platform.

For his part, Abdulaziz Al-Shammari, the Head of Central Sales at KIB, referred to the potential returns and positive results of this strategic financing partnership with IKEA, in light of the accelerated pace of distributing permits on housing units due to the urban expansion witnessed in Kuwait. This is also coupled with the demand of many citizens to build new homes, which will require complete furnishing. He added: "Under the umbrella of its corporate slogan 'Bank for Life', KIB seeks to contribute to enhancing the lifestyle of its customers, in their current or new homes, by providing all the convenience to repay their funds."

It is worth noting that KIB spares no effort to develop long-term strategic partnerships and relationships as part of the Bank's responsibility towards its customers, and in order to achieve its fixed goals. KIB aims to elevate the experience of banking, especially with financing services, to a more comprehensive and integrated level, in line with the modern lifestyle that meets the aspirations of customers.



Abdulaziz Al-Shammari



Othman Tawfiqi

About KIB

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

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

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

About IKEA

IKEA is the leading home furnishing company founded in Sweden in 1943. IKEA offers well-designed, functional, and affordable, high quality home furnishing solutions, produced with care for people and the environment. There are several companies with different owners, working under the IKEA Brand, all sharing the same vision: to create a better everyday life for the many people.



KIB-IKEA flyer

review the contract before signing it. The bank also provides a contract draft that includes details such as the type of financing, repayment period, installment amount, and returns after signing it. The available financing options for customers are divided into consumer financing and housing financing.

Moreover, the bank is obligated to offer financial guidance and disclose comprehensive information about the financing agreement, elucidating all aspects of the financing procedure, such as the return rate applied to the financed amount, the number of repayable installments, and the breakdown of each installment. The customer is granted a minimum of one

business day to review the contract thoroughly, acquaint themselves



Aymam Salem Al-Mutairi

BUSINESS

Omani Amb: Sultanate aims to attract 10m tourists by '30

The Sultanate of Oman had attracted three million tourists by 2022 and it aims to boost that number to 10 million by 2030, said a Omani diplomat on Tuesday.

Speaking at the "tourism in Oman" press conference, Omani Ambassador to Kuwait Dr. Saleh Al-Kharusi revealed that they number of international tourists visiting Oman in 2022 had

jumped by 172 percent in the first quarter of that year.

He called on Kuwaitis and residents to visit Oman during the current season to enjoy the beautiful nature and assortment of activities, pointing out that citizens of 103 countries were exempted from visas and that includes GCC citizens and residents of Gulf countries.

Those residing in Kuwait could visit Oman without the need for a visa on the condition that their residency documents and passports were still valid, added the ambassador. He touted the diverse touristic sites in Oman, saying that the 33,218 registered sites in 2021 had significant historical, geographic, and cultural importance. (KUNA)

China recovery faces pressure after April activity

Chinese leaders face pressure to shore up a slowing economic recovery and generate jobs after consumer spending and other activity in April were weaker than expected and a survey found 1 in 5 young workers in cities was unemployed.

Retail sales accelerated following the end of anti-virus restrictions in December but were

below forecasts, official data showed Tuesday. Factory output edged down compared with March.

Chinese economic activity has improved while the U.S. and European economies are cooling after interest rate hikes to extinguish inflation. But consumers, uneasy about possible job losses, are returning to shops

and restaurants less quickly than expected.

"The pace of recovery has slowed sharply," said Larry Hu and Yuxiao Zhang of Macquarie in a report.

Growth in retail sales accelerated to 18.4% over last year's depressed level in April, but that was below private sector expectations of up to 35%. (AP)

Market uncertainty, tighter liquidity cited

Real estate sales weaken in Q1 of '23

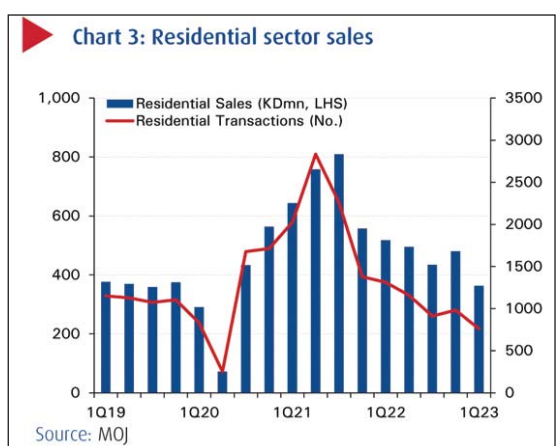
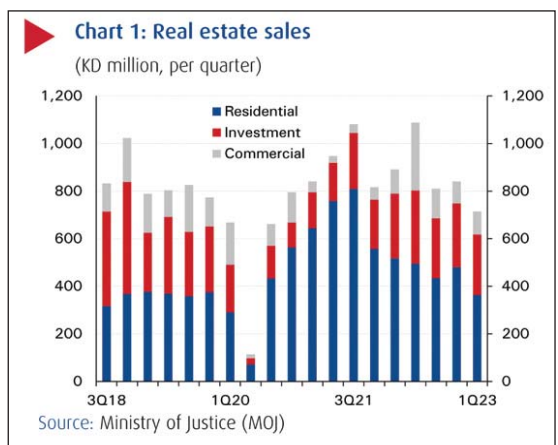
By National Bank of Kuwait

Real estate sales slipped to KD714 million in 1Q23, their lowest level since 3Q20, as demand moderated amid high valuations in the residential sector, rising borrowing costs and uncertainty over the prospects for reforming utility subsidies and the distribution of plots and residential units during the current year. (Chart 1.) Overall real estate prices, as measured by our real estate price index, eased as residential sector prices edged lower. (Chart 2.)

Residential sales activity took a sharp downward turn in 1Q23, falling to its lowest level since 2Q20 at KD363 million, mainly on lower transaction volumes (-23% q/q; -42% y/y). (Chart 3.) Sales (homes and plots) concentrated in Hawalli and Al-Ahmadi governorates accounted for 54% of total residential sales. The decline in sales could be due to a combination of lower speculation in residential areas, higher returns on deposits and a cloudier outlook regarding the path of government reforms in the sector.

Meanwhile, our residential price index (based on MoJ data) eased for the second consecutive quarter in 1Q23, with growth moderating to 8.4% y/y. In year-on-year terms, home (as opposed to land) prices were still up strongly, reflecting higher recorded valuations especially in the Kuwait city and Hawalli governorates. Higher prices could be deterring buyers from pursuing real estate ventures.

Mirroring the residential sector, sales in the investment (i.e. apartment and apartment buildings) segment also fell, to KD254 million, while the volume of transactions saw a slight uptick on a year-on-year basis. (Chart 4.) Lower sales



Greenback ends week on strong footing

US inflation decelerates but remains sticky

By National Bank of Kuwait

Looking at FX, the greenback ended the week on a strong footing as sticky inflation figures and expectations strengthened the case that rates might stay at current levels for longer. The EUR/USD currency pair broke below the 1.0900 level, last closing around 1.0848. Meanwhile, the GBP/USD currency pair broke below the 1.2500 mark following the release of mixed GDP data, closing the week around 1.2457. Finally, the USD/JPY currency pair traded below the 135.00 level, yet, it was able to recoup and was last seen trading around the 135.71 mark.

United States

Inflation Decelerates But Remains Sticky

The decelerating yet stubborn trend of inflation in the United States continues, after annual CPI for April came in at 4.9% versus a previous and consensus figure of 5.0%. Moreover, monthly CPI for both headline and core came in at 0.4%, in line with expectations. This is the 10th consecutive month where headline inflation has decreased. However, annual core CPI, which excludes food and energy, continues to show signs of stubbornness, as it remained unchanged at 5.5%. April's data showed further annual increases in the prices of used cars (4.4%), and shelter costs (8.1%) respectively. Furthermore, a 3% increase in gasoline costs helped boost the m/m energy index by 0.6%.

The Producer Price Index (PPI) in the United States rose 2.3% annually versus an expectation of 2.4% and a previous figure of 2.7%. Meanwhile, core PPI saw its 13th straight decline on an annual basis, with the print coming in at 3.2% versus a forecasted figure of 3.3% and a previous figure of 3.4%. Monthly figures saw both headline and core prints increasing by 0.2%. While the data shows a slowdown in inflation for producers, the most notable price increase was in the demand services sector, which was up 0.3% on the month marking it the largest such monthly increase since November 2022. Federal Reserve officials have previously stated that they are keeping a close eye on the services sector of the economy, which has specifically been extremely stubborn when it comes to inflation and is expected to weigh in on key interest rate decisions.

Labor Market Shows Sign of Softening

The number of Americans filing for unemployment benefits have hit highs not seen since October 2021, with 264k Americans filing for unemployment versus a consensus of 245k and a previous figure of 242k. Numbers within the 270k-300k range typically indicates a deteriorating labor market. The Federal Reserve, which is considering a potential pause after 10 consecutive rate hikes, have continuously lamented about the imbalance and stubbornness of the labor market. Signs of softening in the labor market will be a welcome sight for the Fed and could prove to be a key factor in deciding when to pause rate hikes.

Summary

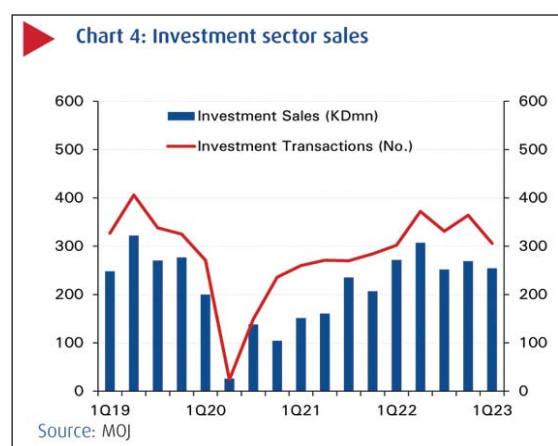
Real estate sales in the first quarter hit their lowest level since 3Q20 led by declining residential sales. Prices in the residential segment may now be falling, though are still up around 8% year-on-year.

Overall, market activity could remain relatively soft this year given tighter financial conditions versus 2022, still high valuations in the residential segment, the slow recovery in the rental market and investor worries about a global recession.

could be related to rising borrowing costs and the sluggish recovery in the rental market, despite the rise in the number of expats in 2022, historically a key driver of the rental market. Expatriate numbers are still 3.7% (125,000) below 2019 levels. Prices in the investment sector continue to trend downwards, on lower building prices, especially in Al-Farwaniya and Al-Ahmadi governorates, and are now more or less flat year-on-year. snt

Commercial sector sales declined by 5.8% y/y to KD96 million in 1Q23. Investment though activity was up on the previous quarter (+5.5% q/q). (Chart 5.) The concentration of sales in Jibla-Kuwait city supported the value of commercial sales, though transaction volumes saw a quarterly decline of 13.6%. 30 30 0

Separately, disbursed loans from Kuwait Credit Bank



Greenback ends week on strong footing

US inflation decelerates but remains sticky

Annual CPI in the United States came in at 4.9%, slightly below expectations. Meanwhile, core CPI proved to be more persistent, as it came in unchanged at 5.0%.

Annual PPI rose 2.3%, slightly below expectations and significantly less than the previous print of 2.7%.

Meanwhile, core PPI also came in slightly below expectations at 3.2% versus a previous figure of 3.4%.

Labor market in the United States shows signs of softening after 265k Americans filed for unemployment claims as opposed to the forecasted figure of 245k and previous figure 242k.

The University of Michigan consumer sentiment survey showed that its sentiments index deteriorat-

ed, while the long-term inflation expectations rose to 3.2%, fueling expectations that the FED might consider raising rates again.

The BOE delivered a 25 bps hike, sending their key interest rate to 4.5% and weighing on a potential pause.

The UK economy contracted by 0.3% in March versus a consensus of no change, meanwhile first quarter GDP expanded by 0.1% meeting expectations.

Final meeting for former Bank of Japan Governor Haruhiko Kuroda in March shows several officials wary of the threat of rising inflation amid producers in the country passing on inflationary raw materials and production costs to consumers.

Currencies	Open	Low	High	Close	Minimum	Maximum	Forward
EUR	1.1031	1.0846	1.1053	1.0848	1.0530	1.0950	1.0907
GBP	1.2636	1.2442	1.2679	1.2457	1.2150	1.2580	1.2482
JPY	134.81	133.73	135.76	135.71	134.25	138.60	133.85
CHF	0.8910	0.8866	0.8989	0.8980	0.8820	0.9100	0.8893

The number of Americans filing for unemployment benefits have hit highs not seen since October 2021, with 264k Americans filing for unemployment versus a consensus of 245k and a previous figure of 242k. Numbers within the 270k-300k range typically indicates a deteriorating labor market. The Federal Reserve, which is considering a potential pause after 10 consecutive rate hikes, have continuously lamented about the imbalance and stubbornness of the labor market. Signs of softening in the labor market will be a welcome sight for the Fed and could prove to be a key factor in deciding when to pause rate hikes.

US Consumer Sentiment Deteriorates

Consumer sentiment in the US deteriorated in early May with the University of Michigan's (UoM)

Table 1: Real estate sales

	Quarterly Average		Quarterly Sales/ Transactions				Change in 1Q23,%	
	2021	2022	2022	3Q22	4Q22	1Q23	q/q	y/y
Sales (KD million)	921	907	1,088	810	840	714	-15.0	-19.9
Residential	692	482	495	434	480	363	-24.3	-29.8
Investment	188	275	307	252	269	254	-5.3	-6.3
Commercial	40	151	285	124	91	96	5.5	-5.8
Number of Transactions	2415	1473	1621	1272	1368	1085	-20.7	-33.5
Residential	2124	1091	1158	911	982	760	-22.6	-42.1
Investment	271	342	372	331	364	306	-15.9	1.3
Commercial	19	40	91	30	22	19	-13.6	5.6
Average Transaction Value (KD '000)	381	616	671	637	614	658	7.1	20.5
Residential property	326	442	428	477	489	478	-2.2	21.2
Investment	694	803	826	760	738	831	12.6	-7.5
Commercial	2098	3745	3137	4145	4142	5061	22.2	-10.7

Source: Ministry of Justice

Table 2: NBK real estate price index*

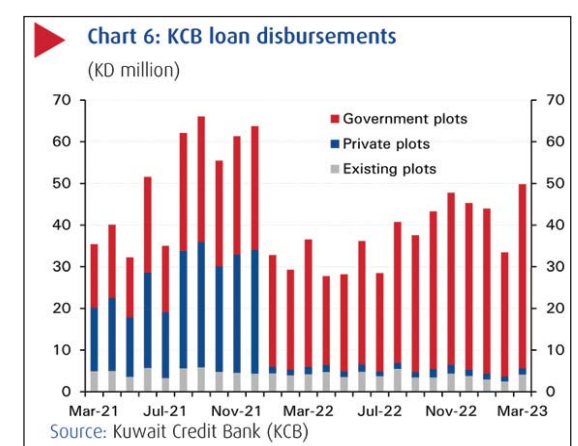
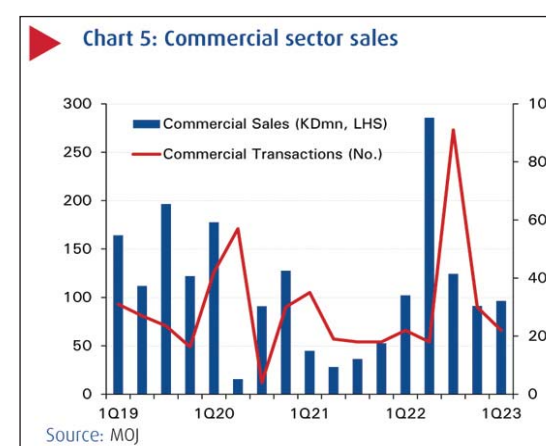
	Weight (100 = 2019)	q/q				y/y			
		2022	3Q22	4Q22	1Q23	2022	3Q22	4Q22	1Q23
RE price index	100.0	2.7	4.8	-3.2	0.5	9.9	12.2	5.4	4.7
Investment	45.5	-3.5	5.3	-3.3	2.0	1.9	7.6	0.7	0.3
Apartment	7.2	-0.6	0.7	4.9	-1.1	-0.4	1.0	3.4	3.9
Building	69.9	-5.0	5.2	-4.1	2.7	1.4	6.4	-1.7	-1.6
Plot	22.9	1.3	7.0	-2.9	0.7	4.3	14.1	9.1	5.9
Residential	54.5	8.1	4.4	-3.2	0.7	17.1	16.1	9.2	8.4
Home	62.4	11.0	4.8	-1.0	0.3	16.2	15.4	11.8	15.5
Plot	37.6	5.1	3.9	-5.5	-2.0	18.1	16.9	6.4	1.1

Source: Ministry of Justice, NBK calculations

* The NBK real estate price index is based on a dataset of real estate transactions that are available from the Ministry of Justice. The index is calculated on a quarterly basis by type of real estate for all governorates. The index methodology is based on a fixed-weight Laspeyres type with the base year 2019.

(KCB), the entity 25 Resentia pe ndex 25 responsible for granting housing loans to citizens, increased by 49% m/m (+36% y/y) to KD 49.8 million in March. (Chart 6.) Strong recent performance 5 15 is in line with increased plot disbursement by the government. KCB loans 100 1 3500 Residential Ses (Kmn LHS) 10 totaled KD127 million in 1Q23, which could auger well for the potential supply 000 of homes over the medium to long term. 80 3Q18 1Q20 3Q21 0

The KCB recently requested from the government additional and urgent 5 financing worth KD275 million for the Mutla's new suburbs (N1-4) project that -10 2000 -10 commenced in late April. The capital increase, if approved, could enhance -15 -15 1500 access to home financing and help reduce the backlog in housing applications, 1Q19 1Q20 1Q21 1Q22 1Q23 0 though at a reported 90,915 as of March 2023 and with 6-8 thousand new 200



hold rates or hike even more for the remainder of this year after the most recent increase. Speaking on the decision to raise rates, Governor Andrew Bailey said that "we are approaching the point when we should be able to set to rest in terms of the level of rates." However, the central bank warned that "if there were to be evidence of more persistent pressures, then further tightening of monetary policy would be required."

Weak GDP Growth

The United Kingdom's economy shrunk in March after the data showed a 0.3% contraction versus a previous and consensus of no change. Despite this, first quarter GDP showed an increase of 0.1%, in line with expectations. On an annual basis, this represents an increase of 0.2%. After the release of the mixed data, the GBP/USD currency pair broke below the 1.2500 mark, last trading around 1.2457.

Asia-Pacific

BOJ Minutes of Meeting for March Reveals Inflation Concerns

The Bank of Japan's monetary policy minutes for March revealed that several board members are wary of the risk that inflation might accelerate more than expected. The meeting in March, which was the final meeting chaired by former governor Haruhiko Kuroda, saw the Bank of Japan maintain their stance on ultra-loose policy by leaving it unchanged. Board members debated the nature of inflation and price hikes, with one member stating, "It was important to use a wide range of data and look back on the basic mechanism behind price moves, to deepen our understanding on inflation developments." The board also discussed how companies were hiking prices to pass on elevated costs in raw materials and production. Following this meeting, markets were speculating that the new governor, Kazuo Ueda, would shift the ultra-loose policy in place. However, so far Ueda has maintained and voiced his support for leaving monetary policy unchanged. The USD/JPY currency pair broke below the 135.00 level but eventually recovered, closing the week at 135.71.

Kuwait

Kuwaiti Dinar
USD/KWD closed last week at 0.30640.

INVESTMENT STRATEGY & RESEARCH

KAMCO INVEST

Oil Market Monthly Report May 2023

Oil's temporary recovery halts on demand concerns...

Crude oil prices showed partial recovery early last week following three consecutive weeks of declines. The gains came as a result of an oversold market that saw prices crashing to USD 70/b levels. However, prices once again dropped in the last three trading sessions led by concerns over demand momentum this year leading to a fourth consecutive week of declines. The temporary gains came after moderating inflation numbers in the US and a growing consensus on a rate hike pause in the coming months. However, rising US unemployment on one hand and low borrowing and flattish inflation in China once again questioned the demand growth expected during the rest of the year.

Supply side factors supported crude oil prices with disruptions in supplies from Canada due to the wildfires in the Alberta region. A state of emergency was declared in the region that resulted in producers shutting down around 185 tb/d of crude oil supplies, or around 2% of the country's output. This affected supplies of heavy oil sands crude oil from the region. On the other hand, Iraq's oil exports from Turkey's Ceyhan port continued to be halted affecting supplies from the country, although some ports resumed operations.

On the demand side, prices got support after a Reuters report that cited US energy secretary suggested buying of oil by the US government to refill its strategic oil reserves (SPR) later this year. The purchase is aimed at refilling the decades low reserve (at 372 million barrels, the lowest since 1983) as well as taking advantage of depressed prices this year. In addition, forecast of higher seasonal demand in the US also supported prices. The latest Short Term Energy Outlook from the EIA pointed to higher demand coupled with lower-than-expected output, especially from the OPEC producers.

Meanwhile, recent data from China outweighed the positives tempering oil demand expectations in the coming months highlighted by an uneven recovery. The latest inflation report from China showed y-o-y prices increase was near zero (+0.1%) in April-2023. Data also showed imports seeing a sharp decline in China while exports grew at a slower pace. On the other hand, a report from OilChem showed refiners in China are planning to boost refinery runs to the highest level since the start of 2021. A Bloomberg report that quoted JLC showed that China recently issued its second batch of export quota for oil products for 2023 at 12 million tons.

The latest oil production data from Bloomberg showed OPEC output declining for the second consecutive month during April-2023. OPEC production went below the 29 mb/d mark for the first time in 10 months to reach 28.8 mb/d during April-2023. The decline was mainly led by a steep fall in output in Iraq, further supported by falling output in Nigeria and the UAE. Saudi and Angola reported marginal increases during the year. Meanwhile, US oil output remained range bound at 12.3 mb/d reflecting a similar trend in oil rig count growth in the US.

Oil prices

Oil prices remained volatile during May-2023 but mostly trended downward since the second half of last month. Brent crude oil futures reached the lowest level since December-2021 on 3-May-2023 at USD 72.3/b led by fears of slowing demand later this year. However, the market showed temporary recovery last week as traders pointed to an oversold market along with some positive data points including lower-than-expected inflation in the US. A higher-than-expected decline in gasoline inventories in the US by 3.2 million barrels during the week ended 4-May-2023 also supported prices highlighting stronger demand for transportation fuels in the US. Distillate inventories also declined, while jet fuel demand rose to the highest level since December-2019. However, crude oil inventories witnessed a steep increase of 2.95 million barrels.

The recent disruption in production in Canada due to the wildfires also affected prices. This also resulted in the Western Canadian Select heavy crude grade to reach the strongest level since April-2022. Prices of other heavy crude grades also gained, especially for Asian and European buyers due to the sanctions on Russia as well as production cuts announced by the OPEC+ group. A Bloomberg report showed that Saudi Aramco will sell its usually expensive Arab Extra Light crude grade for less than the Arab Light grade to Asia next month. Disruption of oil flows from Iraq's Kurdistan also resulted in this price rise for heavy crude grades.

Elevated oil prices during the first half of April-2023 resulted in higher average prices for the month. OPEC crude basket averaged at a five month high level of USD 84.2/b during April-2023 registering a m-o-m increase of 7.3%. The gain in average Brent spot prices was higher at 8.2% at an average of USD 84.8/b while average Kuwait crude grade saw a similar gain of 8.1% to reach USD 85.7/b. In terms of forecast, the latest slide in oil prices resulted in the EIA slashing its forecast for Brent crude by 7% for 2023 to USD 78.65/b from USD 85.01/b in its earlier forecast. The forecast for 2024 was lowered by 8.3% to USD 74.47/b from USD 81.21/b in the previous forecast. That said, the broader Bloomberg consensus expectation for Brent crude oil was largely unchanged as compared to last month.

World oil demand

World oil demand estimates for 2022 was kept unchanged by OPEC at a growth of 2.5 mb/d to reach average demand of 99.57 mb/d during the year. However, there were revisions at the country level reflecting recently available data. Oil demand for the OECD countries during Q4-2022 was once again lowered by the OPEC reflecting lower-than-estimated demand in the OECD Americas region. This revision was fully

offset by upward revision to demand data for non-OECD countries mainly led by better economic activity in some countries.

For 2023, world oil demand forecast was also kept unchanged at a growth of 2.3 mb/d to average at 101.90 mb/d, although underlying country-level data was adjusted. There were downward revisions to quarterly data for the OECD regions reflecting recent data for Q1-2023. Near-term demand expectations for the US and Europe showed a softening trend in Q2-2023 with weakness in industrial fuel requirements being balanced by higher demand for jet fuel in Europe. The downward revisions were offset by upward revision to demand forecast for some non-OECD countries. The OPEC made minor upward adjustments of 0.2 mb/d to demand data for China for Q1-2023 reflecting better-than-expected economic performance. However, the recently released trade data for China showed slowing exports coupled with a steep decline in imports during April-2023. Property market and industrial activity in China has also showed sluggish trends in recent reports. Nevertheless, an official from UAE's ADNOC recently said that the markets in China and Asia are at an acceptable level of recovery although with mixed signals. The demand for jet fuel, especially, remains strong in China, he added, meanwhile, oil demand in India was marginally lowered by OPEC for Q1-2023. The weakness was also highlighted in a recent S&P report in which it lowered oil demand growth forecast for India by 40 tb/d to 220 tb/d for 2023 after demand in April-2023 was lower-than-expected. The decline in demand was mainly due to adverse weather conditions that affected the demand for gasoline, asphalt and minor petroleum products.

World oil supply

Global liquids production once again recorded a monthly decline during April-2023 after showing growth during the first two months of the year. According to preliminary data, global oil supply dropped by 0.5 mb/d to reach an average of 101.3 mb/d. The decline during the month was led by a fall in production in both non-OPEC and OPEC producers. Non-OPEC liquids production (including OPEC NGLs) declined by 0.3 mb/d during April-2023 to average at 72.7 mb/d mainly led by a fall in production in Russia and Canada that more than offset higher output in Other Asia and Latin America. OPEC production also witnessed a decline of around 0.2 mb/d resulting in a market share of 28.2%.

Non-OPEC liquids supply growth estimates for 2022 was kept unchanged at a growth of 1.9 mb/d to average at 65.76 mb/d.

However, there were downward revisions to supply estimates for Q1-2022 and Q2-2022 that were fully offset by upward revision to supply estimates for Q4-2022.

The forecast for 2023 was also kept broadly unchanged at a growth of 1.43 mb/d to average at 67.19 mb/d although minor downward adjustments were made to supply forecast for Q3-2023 and Q4-2023 especially to data for Other Eurasia and some other countries that were offset by upward revisions to data for the first two quarters of the year for the OECD Americas region. Supply forecast for Mexico was lowered by 35 tb/d while that of Azerbaijan was lowered by 11 tb/d. The OPEC expects gradual and steady growth in production in the US shale patch after seeing recovery from last years decline.

Opec oil production & spare capacity

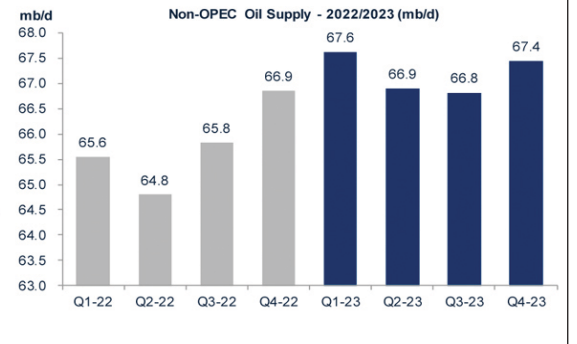
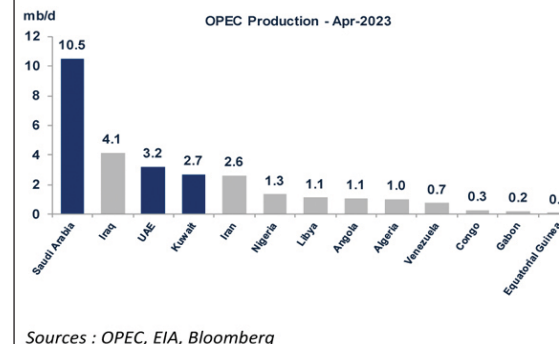
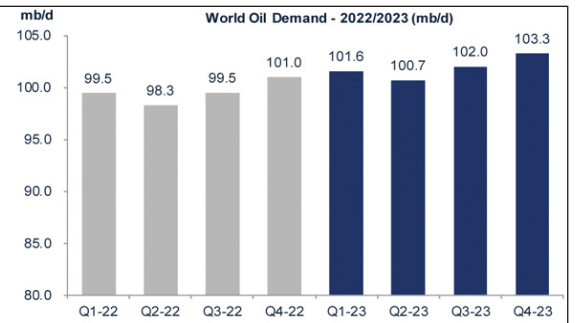
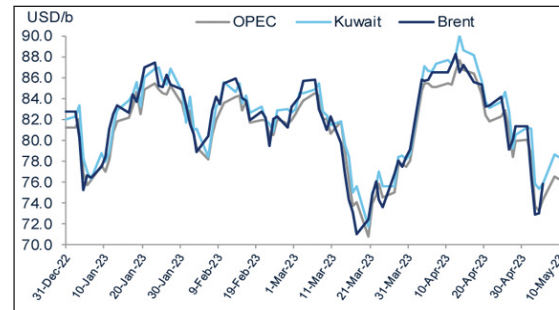
OPEC crude oil production declined for the second consecutive month during April-2023 to reach the lowest level in 10 months. According to Bloomberg data, production during the month went below the 29.0 mb/d mark for the first time since June-2022 and stood at 28.8 mb/d in April-2023 vs. 29.1 mb/d during March-2023, registering a decline of 310 tb/d. By contrast, OPEC secondary sources showed a relatively smaller production decline of 191 tb/d to reach an average production of 28.6 mb/d during April-2023 as compared to 28.8 mb/d during the previous month. The decline in output during the month mainly reflected a steep fall in production in Iraq followed by lower production in Nigeria. However, these declines were partially offset by an increase in production mainly in Saudi Arabia and Angola. Iran and Venezuela also posted a small increases in production during April-2023.

The drop in production from Iraq by more than 200 tb/d during April-2023 to reach the lowest in 20 months came mainly after the country was unable to export from its fields in the Northern region, according to S&P Platts. The pipeline supplying oil to the Turkish port of Ceyhan remained shut during the month. That said, a recent report said that the country has resumed production and exports from the Al-Qayyarah field with a capacity of 33.0 tb/d. Iraq's oil minister also said that they are ready to start the pipeline that runs from Kurdistan region to Ceyhan but are awaiting approvals.

Oil production in Nigeria also dropped by more than 100 tb/d to reach the lowest since November-2022. The decline came as a result of an industrial action from ExxonMobil's in-house workers' union during the 2H of April-2023 that affected four crude grades in Nigeria, as per to S&P Platts.

On the other hand, oil production in Angola recovered after sliding during the previous few months. The country produced at 1.05 mb/d during April-2023 after increasing output by 60 tb/d (+79 tb/d increase to reach 1.085 mb/d according to OPEC secondary sources). The increase reflected completion of maintenance at the Dalia field.

Meanwhile, in a recent interview, the oil minister of UAE reiterated about the shortfall in investment that would impact future oil supplies. He added that the recently announced cuts were aimed at balancing the oil market.



Sources : OPEC, EIA, Bloomberg

Average Crude Oil Prices, USD/b	Mar-2023	Apr-2023	Change (USD)	YTD Avg. 2022	YTD Avg. 2023
OPEC Reference Basket	78.5	84.1	5.7	99.9	81.4
Arab Light	80.3	85.7	5.4	100.4	83.2
Basrah Light	75.3	81.8	6.4	98.6	78.2
Bonny Light	79.2	85.9	6.7	103.6	82.4
Djeno	70.8	77.5	6.6	94.9	74.5
Es Sider	77.4	84.0	6.6	102.0	80.8
Girassol	80.3	87.0	6.7	104.4	83.2
Iran Heavy	78.8	84.6	5.8	99.6	81.6
Kuwait Export	79.9	85.5	5.6	100.5	82.7
Merey	57.3	62.6	5.3	76.8	60.7
Murban	79.6	84.1	4.6	99.4	82.3
Rabi	77.8	84.4	6.6	101.9	81.5
Saharan Blend	80.3	85.4	5.1	105.4	83.3
Zafiro	79.3	85.9	6.6	103.7	82.0
Other Crudes					
Brent	78.3	84.9	6.6	102.4	82.0
Dubai	78.4	83.4	5.0	97.5	81.0
Isthmus	65.1	70.9	5.8	94.6	68.1
LLS	76.0	81.3	5.3	98.7	79.5
Mars	72.8	78.3	5.5	94.9	75.2
Minas	77.1	81.4	4.3	97.8	80.3
Urals	49.7	60.0	10.2	86.8	53.2
WTI	73.4	79.4	6.1	96.6	76.8
Differentials					
Brent/WTI	4.9	5.5	0.5	5.8	5.2
Brent/LLS	2.3	3.6	1.4	3.6	2.5
Brent/Dubai	(0.1)	1.5	1.6	4.8	1.0

World Oil Demand - 2021/2022, mb/d	2021	Q1-22	Q2-22	Q3-22	Q4-22	2022	Y-o-Y Growth	% Chg.
Americas	24.32	24.77	24.98	25.33	24.95	25.01	0.69	2.86
of which US	20.03	20.38	20.41	20.62	20.32	20.43	0.40	1.98
Europe	13.13	13.19	13.43	14.07	13.34	13.51	0.38	2.90
Asia Pacific	7.38	7.85	6.99	7.22	7.68	7.43	0.05	0.70
Total OECD	44.82	45.81	45.39	46.62	45.97	45.95	1.13	2.51
China	15.00	14.77	14.45	14.67	15.51	14.85	(0.15)	(0.98)
India	4.77	5.18	5.16	4.95	5.26	5.14	0.37	7.66
Other Asia	8.67	9.13	9.31	8.77	8.89	9.02	0.36	4.11
Latin America	6.23	6.32	6.36	6.55	6.52	6.44	0.21	3.38
Middle East	7.79	8.06	8.15	8.53	8.44	8.29	0.50	6.45
Africa	4.22	4.51	4.15	4.25	4.69	4.40	0.18	4.21
Russia	3.61	3.67	3.42	3.45	3.71	3.56	(0.05)	(1.48)
Other Eurasia	1.21	1.22	1.16	1.00	1.21	1.15	(0.06)	(5.07)
Other Europe	0.75	0.79	0.75	0.73	0.80	0.77	0.01	1.75
Total Non-OECD	52.25	53.65	52.90	52.89	55.03	53.62	1.36	2.61
Total World	97.08	99.45	98.29	99.51	101	99.57	2.49	2.57

Source: OPEC Monthly Oil Market Report - May-2023

World Oil Demand - 2022/2023, mb/d	2022	Q1-23	Q2-23	Q3-23	Q4-23	2023	Y-o-Y Growth	% Chg.
Americas	25.01	24.61	25.14	25.51	25.09	25.09	0.08	0.31
of which US	20.43	20.16	20.43	20.75	20.37	20.43	0.00	(0.01)
Europe	13.51	12.99	13.36	14.10	13.37	13.46	(0.05)	(0.37)
Asia Pacific	7.43	7.89	7.05	7.27	7.70	7.47	0.04	0.55
Total OECD	45.95	45.50	45.55	46.87	46.15	46.02	0.07	0.15
China	14.85	15.63	15.40	15.43	16.16	15.66	0.80	5.42
India	5.14	5.40	5.44	5.21	5.50	5.39	0.25	4.89
Other Asia	9.02	9.43	9.65	9.14	9.24	9.36	0.34	3.75
Latin America	6.44	6.56	6.49	6.71	6.68	6.61	0.18	2.75
Middle East	8.29	8.59	8.47	8.86	8.73	8.66	0.37	4.43
Africa	4.40	4.71	4.34	4.43	4.88	4.59	0.19	4.32
Russia	3.56	3.68	3.45	3.59	3.87	3.65	0.09	2.49
Other Eurasia	1.15	1.24	1.16	1.02	1.22	1.16	0.01	1.15
Other Europe	0.77	0.84	0.76	0.75	0.83	0.80	0.03	3.61
Total Non-OECD	53.62	56.09	55.16	55.16	57.1	55.88	2.26	4.21
Total World	99.57	101.58	100.70	102.03	103.25	101.9	2.33	2.34

Source: OPEC Monthly Oil Market Report - May-2023

Non-OPEC Oil Supply - 2021/2022, mb/d	2021	Q1-22	Q2-22	Q3-22	Q4-22	2022	Y-o-Y Growth	% Chg.
Americas	25.45	26.09	26.50	27.26	27.50	26.84	1.40	5.48
of which US	18.04	18.51	19.07	19.57	19.68	19.21	1.17	6.47
Europe	3.79	3.72	3.46	3.51	3.59	3.57	(0.22)	(5.79)
Asia Pacific	0.51	0.49	0.51	0.43	0.49	0.48	(0.03)	(6.23)
Total OECD	29.75	30.30	30.48	31.20	31.58	30.89	1.14	3.85
China	4.32	4.54	4.54	4.42	4.42	4.48	0.16	3.70
India	0.76	0.79	0.78	0.76	0.76	0.77	(0.01)	(0.80)
Other Asia	2.42	2.37	2.32	2.24	2.31	2.31	(0.11)	(4.74)
Latin America	5.95	6.11	6.18	6.46	6.59	6.34	0.38	6.35
Middle East	3.20	3.25	3.29	3.32	3.30	3.29	0.09	2.85
Africa	1.35	1.33	1.31	1.32	1.29	1.31	(0.03)	(2.49)
Russia	10.8	11.33	10.63	11.01	11.17	11.03	0.23	2.15
Other Eurasia	2.93	3.04	2.76	2.59	2.92	2.83	(0.10)	(3.34)
Other Europe	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.10	0.10	0.11	(0.01)	(6.36)
Total Non-OECD	31.87	32.85	31.92	32.23	32.87	32.47	0.60	1.89
Total Non-OPEC Production	61.62	63.15	62.4	63.44	64.45	63.36	1.75	2.84
Processing gains	2.29	2.40	2.40	2.40	2.40	2.40	0.11	4.90
Total Non-OPEC Supply	63.9	65.55	64.8	65.83	66.85	65.76	1.86	2.91
OPEC NGLs and non-conventionals	5.28	-	-	-	-	5.39	0.11	2.08
OPEC Crude Oil Production	26.35	28.36	28.58	29.40	29.10	28.86	2.51	9.53
Total World Supply	95.53	-	-	-	-	100.01	4.48	4.69

Source: OPEC Monthly Oil Market Report - May-2023

Production ('000 b/d)	Mar-23	Apr-2
-----------------------	--------	-------

Menzies Aviation grows presence in Lat-Am

Menzies Aviation, the leading service partner to the world's airports and airlines, and an Agility company, is pleased to announce its acquisition of Aircraft Services and Consulting S.A., a highly experienced company with over 20 years operating in airports across Panama. This strategic acquisition enables Menzies Aviation to enter the vibrant aviation market in Panama and extend its range of services to customers at Tocumen International Airport (PTY) and Scarlett Martinez International Airport (RIH), with

additional operating licenses secured for David Airport (DAV) and Panama Pacific Airport (BLB). Panama is a pivotal commercial gateway within the Americas region, strategically connecting the Pacific and Atlantic oceans. Its geographical significance makes it an ideal hub for efficient cargo and passenger connectivity. Tocumen International Airport, the largest airport in Central America, handles over 15 million passengers annually, and serves as the home base for COPA Airlines and

accommodates more than 20 major regional and international carriers. We are looking forward to welcoming the Aircraft Services and Consulting S.A. team into Menzies, who bring with them a wealth of expertise. The business will be re-branded and trade as Menzies Aviation (Panama) S.A., and we are committed to providing safe, secure and consistent quality services to a valued list of existing airline clients including Iberia, Air Canada, Air Transat, and others.



Menzies Aviation enters its 7th country in Latin America.

Company congratulates Al Shabab and Khaitan

Al Shabab SC champions of Zain First Division League

KUWAIT CITY, May 16: Zain, Kuwait's leading digital service provider, joined in honoring Al Shabab SC on achieving the Zain First Division League title after their exciting match against Khaitan SC in the league's final fixture during the 20th round.

Zain took to the field in Mubarak Al Osaimi Stadium, home of Khaitan SC, to congratulate the champions, Al Shabab SC, on achieving the Zain First Division League, as well as Khaitan SC on securing the second-place title. The ceremony was attended by Zain Kuwait's Corporate Affairs Department Manager Hamad Al Musaiibeh, Kuwait Football Association Vice Chairman for Technical Affairs Hayef Al Dehani, KFA Board Member Jamal Al Otaibi, President of Al Shabab SC Dr. Menahi Al Azmi, and President of Khaitan SC Abdullah Al Otaibi.

The company also congratulated both clubs on securing their promotion to the Zain Premier League next season 2023-2024, after Al Shabab SC topped the league table with 38 points and Khaitan SC came in second with 28 points. Zain wishes both teams all the best of luck when they compete in the



Zain First Division Champions 2023

nation's top league.

Zain's participation came as part of its official sponsorship of the KFA's competitions for the 2022-2026 seasons, including the Kuwaiti Premier League (Dawri Zain), the Zain First Division League, H.H. the Amir's Cup, H.H. the Crown Prince's Cup, and the

KFA Cup (Zain Cup).

Cherished

The company recently joined in co-hosting the special event held at Jaber Al Ahmad International Stadium to celebrate H.H. the Amir's Cup Final. The event, which came in partnership with the Ku-

wait Football Association, the Ministry of Information, and the Public Authority for Sports, celebrated the final match of the most cherished local cup between title holders Kazima SC and Kuwait SC.

The special celebration kicked-off with many fun activities and competitions in the Fans Zone, and the packed

program included up to 200 valuable prizes like smartphones, smart watches, and headphones, along with special prizes for social media followers. The event also featured a unique performance prior to the match start whistle.

As the Official Sponsor, Zain offers KD 50,000 worth of prizes for athletes

and fans per season, which is the biggest prize pool ever to be distributed in the Kuwaiti League's history. By dedicating cash prizes for athletes, the company seeks to encourage players to pursue excellence and elevate the league's performance.

Zain's role centers around three main areas; supporting athletes with cash prizes, launching social events and interacting with fans at stadiums, and an all-new surprise: the first-ever Fantasy Football League in Kuwaiti football's history. These contributions and more go in line with the KFA's vision to further enrich the local football scene, given that it is the most beloved sports among Kuwaitis.

Zain firmly believe that the private sector has a vital and active role in developing the local sports and youth sectors, and it makes this belief a reality by sponsoring and supporting some of the biggest sports programs in the nation.

This partnership with Kuwait's top football competition comes to strengthen the leadership role Zain plays in the local sports scene and is perfectly in line with the company's sustainability and social responsibility strategy towards the sports and youth sectors.



KFH XTM device

High-end self-service

KFH's XTM's see high demand to 'open' new bank accounts

KUWAIT CITY, May 16: Kuwait Finance House (KFH), has announced that the new service that enables non-KFH customers to open a bank account through XTM's, has witnessed huge customers' demand during the past few days since its launch. This high-end service allows non-KFH customers to open a bank account in an automated, safe, and fast process through XTM branches available in 10 locations. Non-KFH customers wishing to open a bank account can communicate with a contact center agent through an XTM device using an audiovisual connection, enter the required information and then open an account at KFH instantly.

People benefiting from this step commended KFH's latest service and the ease of the integrated process required to complete the account opening request, describing it as realistic, accessible, and simple. They also praised KFH's customer service agents who provide valuable support and follow up until the customer receives his new account number and print his card within 3 minutes through the self-service printing machines, another service KFH offers exclusively at the market level.

Affirms

The latest service affirms KFH's commitment towards digitalization, maximizing the role of technology to achieve financial inclusion, expanding its customers' portfolio and market share in addition to enhancing the quality and accessibility of KFH services, allowing the Bank to be closer to its current and potential customers.

It is worth noting that the service is available for residents and citizens alike of 15 years of age and above free of charge and without a requirement of an opening balance. The available types of accounts that customers can open at KFH are saving, electronic and AIRabeh accounts. It only involves one quick visit to the nearest KFH Go smart branch, where non-KFH customer can communicate with KFH staff through XTM. KFH Go smart branches are in 10 different areas across Kuwait as follows: KFH Auto-Shuwaikh showroom, the Avenues, Abdullah Al-Salem, Jabriya, AlSalam, Ishbiliya, Kuwait Airport, Abu Fatira, Mangaf and Sabah Al-Ahmad.

The customer can easily attach any documents required for the transaction directly through the XTM mini branch, and with the help of a customer service agent connected online during the process. After opening the account successfully, the customer can also print the ATM card within 3 minutes through the self-service printing machines located in the same e-branch. Thus, opening his account and receiving his card in record time.

KFH offers an easy banking experience through a unique self-service device "XTM" which offers several banking services available 24/7 allowing customers to benefit from different



Alfouz draw

KD 10,000 prize

Yousef Qurtom wins ABK's 'Al Fouz' prize

KUWAIT CITY, May 16: Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) announced Yousef Sameer Qurtom, as the winner of KD10,000 in the Alfouz weekly draw. The winner was announced on Monday, May 15, 2023 under the supervision of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

The Alfouz draw account offers ABK customers the chance to win life-changing rewards as they will get a chance to win KD10,000 in the weekly draw and the ultimate grand prize of KD5,000 monthly additional income for 10 years.

Both new and existing ABK customers can benefit from this opportunity, with a minimum account balance of KD100 only. ABK encourages everyone to open Alfouz draw account and/or increase their balances to have more chances in winning in the upcoming draw which will occur on Monday, 22 May 2023. The higher the deposits are, the higher the chances to win.

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

services and complete many transactions. Among the main services available through XTM's are: buying 10g gold biscuit and receiving it instantly by Self-service (Opening Gold Account is not required), cardless cash withdrawal up to K.D 5,000 through a video call with KFH agent using the civil ID, cardless cash deposit up to K.D 3,000 per day (150 Notes/ Each transaction) through a video call with KFH agent using the civil ID, cheque deposit by self-service or through a video call with KFH agent, money transfer between own accounts up to K.D 10,000 per day by self-service or through a video call with KFH agent, and money transfers to KFH or other banks' beneficiaries.

The XTM device also provides other services such as requesting and printing a cheque book, updating information using the civil ID through a video call with KFH agent, opening investment deposits, creating a Murabaha transaction, as well as requesting credit and prepaid cards.

Digital transformation strategy

Burgan Bank optimizes its mobile & online onboarding experience

KUWAIT CITY, May 16: In continued efforts to offer its customers an outstanding, seamless banking experience, Burgan Bank announced that it has optimized its SMS onboarding service for uncompromised efficiency at every step of the process. This comes as part of the Bank's comprehensive digital transformation strategy, which aims to make all services and products available through its online and mobile digital banking channels.

The SMS onboarding service is offered to all new Burgan customers who open their accounts at any of Burgan's physical branches, whereby an SMS link is automatically sent to the newly registered customers as soon as their data has been logged into the Bank's database. The SMS link redirects the customers to the Burgan Mobile application on the app store, fit for the users' phone operating system. Once the Burgan Mobile application has been successfully downloaded, customers can easily register their Burgan Mobile account, and carry out numerous digital banking activities via mobile, such as opening new accounts, transferring money, and much more. Thousands of SMS Onboarding links have been sent out to new Burgan Bank customers since the feature launched.

Service

Commenting on the SMS onboarding service, Mr. Deniz Cengiz, Group Chief Digital Banking Officer at Burgan Bank, said: "Much of the modern lifestyle happens on-the-go, whether people are shopping, texting and emailing, or of course, banking. To make sure that Burgan Bank's services continue to cater to its customers' needs and aspirations, we are constantly working on upgrading our digital products and services. This comes as part of our rigorous digital transformation strategy that entails a holistic upgrade of our digital infrastructure, enabling us to deliver the best banking experience to all of our customers."

It serves to note that the SMS onboarding service, as well as the full suite of digital services, falls under the umbrella of Burgan's commit-



A group photo from the event.

More than 400 participate

Gulf Bank concludes Datathon contest

KUWAIT CITY, May 16: With the participation of more than 400 young and talented Kuwaiti contestants, Gulf Bank announced the winning teams of the second edition of the Datathon competition – the first platform of its kind in Kuwait, to empower data professionals, high school, and university students, as well as new employees interested in working in the fields of data and analytics.

The Datathon competition lasted for two days at Al Shaheed Park, in cooperation with Coded Academy and INJAZ Kuwait, witnessing the participation of young individuals aged 14 to 18 years, for the first time. Participants over 18 years old also took part in the competition, which aimed to teach students how to use data analysis and visualization skills.

Gulf Bank offered three valuable prizes to the winning projects – where the Data Modeling category winners received a prize of KD 1,000, the best Data Visualization category winners received a prize of KD 500, and the best Digital Analytics category winners received a prize of KD 500 – which was specifically designated for individuals aged 14 to 18 years.

The competition's tracks included Data Analysis with ChatGPT, Data Visualization, and Digital Analytics using an array of tools including: ChatGPT, Python, Tableau, R and other coding languages. The bank also awarded participants with trophies in the categories of Next Google, Fancy Dataviz, and Neat Coder.

The Chief Data and Innovation Officer at Gulf Bank, Ms. Mai Bader Al-Owaish, expressed her happiness with the doubling number of participants, in comparison to first edition of the Datathon competition. She pointed that not only did this year's Datathon witness great diversity with age groups but has also witnessed the participation of sev-

eral youths from across the GCC.

Al-Owaish indicated that the student members of the winning teams will have the opportunity to receive internships in the Data and Innovation Unit at Gulf Bank, which will allow them to apply what they have learned in the competition into a real-work environment. This is part of the bank's efforts to prepare young individuals for the labor market.

She said: "The next decade will depend heavily on data analysis, which is why it's our duty, at Gulf Bank, to work hard to build and spread the culture of data in society – especially with regards to qualifying and equipping young people for the future. This enables them to keep pace with the future requirements of universities and helps prepare them to join the labor market."

Competition

Al-Owaish added: "The competition reflects Gulf Bank's distinguished role in social responsibility and sustainability, as well as its continuous efforts to support the digital transformation process. This helps to achieve Kuwait Vision 2035 goals and consolidates the bank's leading position in the field of data and digitization; by working to spread the data culture in society, with a major focus on youth. Hence, we were keen to add a new age group for young people aged 14 to 18 years old."

For her part, the CEO of INJAZ Kuwait, Ms. Laila Al-Mutairi, said: "Empowering youth is one of the main objectives of the association, and for this reason, we are keen to equip them with the necessary skills to keep pace with the future. And based on this goal, we were eager to cooperate with Gulf Bank and Coded in this competition."

She added: "The winning projects showcase high level talents and capabilities in Kuwait, as seen through the ideas and projects that were presented

to the judges from the various age groups."

On this occasion, Mr. Ahmed Marafie, CEO of Coded Academy, said: "We are pleased to cooperate with Gulf Bank in this successful event, and we expect more success and an increase in the number of participants in the upcoming competitions."

Throughout the Datathon competition, the judges assessed the submission of the participants, and evaluated them on whether they have completed the required tasks. The judges included several local experts from the industry, namely:

- Mai Bader AlOwaish – Chief Data and Innovation Officer at Gulf Bank
- Dr. Zainab AlMeraj – Acting Chair of the Information Science Department at Kuwait University
- Hashem Behbehani – Head of the Health Informatics Unit at Dasman Diabetes Institute
- Laila H. Al Mutairi – CEO at INJAZ Kuwait

• Dr. Ahmad Al Baqsami – Assistant Professor of Computer Engineering at the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET)

Free Workshops
The Datathon featured free educational workshops as a chance to learn hands-on skills with data science, visualizations and digital analytics tools and techniques.

The workshops were held at Coded, with the participation of experts from Gulf Bank and the industry. They included Assistant Professor of Computer Engineering at the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training, Dr. Ahmad Al-Baqsami, Chief Data and Innovation Officer at Gulf Bank, Ms. Mai Bader Al-Owaish, and Data Scientist at Gulf Bank, Ms. Mariam Bazzi. The workshops included: Tableau, Modeling with Python, and Google Analytics.



Deniz Cengiz – Group Chief Digital Banking Officer at Burgan Bank.

ment to ESG practices, which aim at promoting sustainability and higher environmental awareness. By encouraging customers to fulfill banking activities digitally via Burgan

Online or Mobile, the Bank contributes to reducing the carbon footprint by reducing the number of transportation methods initiated to be physically present at a Burgan branch. In

addition, Burgan Bank continues to raise its customers' financial literacy (PFM) through its digital features, which enable them to be more in control of their spending.



Margaret Helen Shepherd from the UK - winner of the Aster Guardians Global Nursing Award 2023.

UK's nurse wins Global Nursing Award 2023

Margaret Helen Shepherd from UK has been announced as the winner of the Aster Guardians Global Nursing Award 2023 in a prestigious award ceremony held at Queen Elizabeth II Centre in London. The winner was announced by Dr. Azad Moopen, Founder Chairman and Managing Director of Aster DM Healthcare and the award was presented by Professor Jamie Waterall, Deputy Chief Public Health Nurse for the Office of Health Improvement & Disparities at Govt. of UK alongside Ms. Sheila Sobrany - President of Royal College of Nursing; Ms. Alisha Moopen, Deputy Managing Director, Aster DM Healthcare; and Mr. TJ Wilson - Executive Director and Group Head - Governance & Corporate Affairs, Aster DM Healthcare.

Launched on International Nurses Day in May 2021 by Aster DM Healthcare, with an aim to recognise the selfless contribution of nurses to millions of patients worldwide, Aster Guardians Global Nursing Award 2023 received an overwhelming response from nurses worldwide with over 52,000 nurses from 202 countries, a 116% growth from the last edition which had received 24,000 applications.

The award ceremony also saw a special video message from Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus - Director General of World Health Organisation being played to congratulate all the finalists and thank Aster DM Healthcare for the initiative. "I am deeply humbled and grateful to receive the prestigious Aster Guardians Global Nursing Award. As healthcare professionals, we are privileged to be able to make a positive impact on the lives of our patients, and I feel blessed to be part of such a rewarding profession."

NerdWallet

Cook Medical to cut 500 jobs globally

What's concierge medicine? Is it worth the expense?

By Kate Ashford

My primary care doctor recently left her practice and invited me to join her at her new gig - a concierge medicine group. There, for a membership fee, I'd have better and more personal access to her services: same-day appointments and long conversations! Concierge medicine - a model in which patients pay a membership fee for a more direct relationship with a primary care doctor - used to feel like a perk for the superwealthy. But as fees have come down and people have gotten more frustrated with the state of traditional primary care, concierge services may not seem like such a pie-in-the-sky option. There's less waiting, more access, longer visits and greater coordination of care. However, the fees can be high, and if you don't have complex medical needs, it may not feel worth the expense.

medicine physicians. Typically, you have access to your provider at all hours of the day, and because they have fewer patients, your doctor has more time to spend with you. "With a smaller patient roster, your doctor can take the time to know you and your health history intimately, which can lead to more personalized and effective care," says Dr. Shoshana Ungerleider, a practicing internal medicine physician and host of the TED Health podcast. "Concierge doctors can focus more on preventative care, which could potentially catch health issues early and save costs in the long run."

Disadvantages

The biggest stumbling block for most people is the price tag. "For people on a tight budget or those without substantial health care needs, this could be a significant cost without enough perceived benefit," Ungerleider says.

On top of the cost, there are practical concerns: Concierge doctors are still a small percentage of the medical field, so your options for care may be limited. And while a concierge doctor can manage your regular or chronic concerns, you'll still pay for visits to the hospital or emergency room, major surgeries and visits to other specialists. Advocates argue that concierge preventive care can save you money overall. Consider the scenario where a text exchange with your doctor saves you a 2 a.m. trip to the emergency room. Jorgensen says. "More than 80% of our interactions with our members are virtual," he says. "Those are just bundled and included in the service."

Concierge care

Concierge medicine isn't a slam-dunk for everyone. If you can't afford the membership fee or are an infrequent health care user, this model probably isn't a good fit.

But it can be a game changer for patients with chronic illnesses who would benefit from the higher level of care. And for people who are frustrated by the conventional medical system, concierge care offers an alternative.

"There are great outcomes for the doctor and patient alike," Jorgensen says. "We consistently renew in excess of 90% of our patients every year."

Also:

BLOOMINGTON, Ind: Cook Medical will cut 500 jobs under a plan to refocus efforts on product innovation, the Indiana-based maker of medical devices said Monday.

The cuts affecting about 4% of its global workforce will include about 223 workers in the US, including about 123 in Indiana.

Cook Medical said the layoffs will affect sales representatives and other workers dealing with customers. No hourly workers in manufacturing or distribution will be laid off, the Bloomington-based company said.

Concierge medicine

Concierge medicine is an arrangement in which a patient pays a membership fee to gain access to a doctor's practice. Your fee may cover a wide range of services, with insurance covering any needs you have outside the practice, or your fee may cover basic preventive care and the practice might accept insurance for the rest.

But your experience, overall, is more personal. Concierge medicine typically offers same-day appointments and 24/7 access to your doctor (who, by the way, isn't rushed during visits).

Patients like it because they have more time with their provider, says Terry Bauer, CEO of Specialdocs, a company that helps doctors transition to concierge medicine. People with a medical situation after hours can call, text or email. "They have that doctor, in essence, on speed dial," Bauer says. "It makes people a lot more comfortable and a lot less anxious."

Concierge medicine cost

Membership fees for concierge medicine vary widely. For one large concierge network with doctors in 44 states, the fee is typically between \$1,800 and \$2,200 per year (or between \$150 and \$183 per month). Other practices can run much more.

"I know a couple that charge \$4,000 a month," Bauer says. Doctors who charge those prices may be board certified in two specialties - cardiology and internal medicine, for instance - or they may be in an extremely wealthy area of the country, he says.

The good news is that if you have a flexible spending or health savings account, you can use those funds to pay your annual membership fees as long as they go toward wellness benefits.

Advantages

There's plenty to like about concierge medicine. It's usually possible to get same-day or next-day appointments with your doctor, and wait times are minimal, says Bret Jorgensen, chairman and CEO of MDVIP, a network of concierge

Protecting children's mental health in the digital age

Globe #MakeITSafePH cyber safety goes beyond its campaign promise

MANILA, Philippines, May 15: As the world prepares to celebrate Mental Health Action Day on May 18, Globe, the leading digital solutions platform in the Philippines, highlights how a simple tech-enabled cybersecurity and safety campaign evolved into a meaningful movement that has gained support from various stakeholders, including commercial partners, the academe, and lawmakers.

Globe reintroduced the #MakeIT-SafePH campaign to promote responsible and mindful online behavior and raise awareness about cyberbullying, placing focus on its impact on Filipino youth and the role of parents and guardians to mitigate it. The campaign kicked off in June 2022 to coincide with World Social Media Day, followed closely by the launch of the #MakeITSafePH microsite shortly after.

Using blocked data, social listening, and crowdsourcing, the #MakeIT-SafePH microsite features a Cyberbullying Glossary, collecting common terms and emojis used in such acts alongside real anecdotes where these were perpetuated. Globe later turned these terms into digital and physical flashcards to bring parents' learning offline, also partnering with external organizations to demonstrate how seemingly-harmless terms or emojis can be used against children.

Consultations

Globe launched two digital films on social media to encourage visits to the website. The first film, "Parents Social Experiment," showed how parents find it hard to decipher words and emojis that kids today use for cyberbullying, and how learning this novel language may help them better protect their children. The second film, "Off to School," emphasized the impact of cyberbullying on children's physical and mental health.

Globe also tapped KonsultaMD, its telemedicine platform that recognizes the need for digital and mental health. For a more holistic approach, the #MakeITSafePH site provides access to free mental health consultations via KonsultaMD for families who have experienced or are experiencing cyberbullying.

Globe also spearheaded cyberbullying awareness through Facebook Community webinars featuring its brand Ambassadors.

Efficient and accurate analysis tools

Esaote presents its latest solutions for cardiac imaging at EACVI meet

BARCELONA, Spain, May 16: Esaote, one of the world's leading manufacturers of medical diagnostic systems (specifically, ultrasound, dedicated MRI and Medical IT systems) took part in the Congress held by the European Association of Cardiovascular Imaging in Barcelona on May 10-12, 2023. On this occasion, it unveiled MyLab™ Omega eXP, a new portable ultrasound system featuring advanced cardio tools and AI-powered automation and showcased Suitestensa CVIS, an all-in-one cardiovascular management solution for enterprises, and Caas Qardia, a cutting-edge echocardiography software platform, the latter two respectively developed by Ebit and Pie Medical Imaging (PMI), the subsidiaries of the Esaote Group focused on Medical IT.

Artificial Intelligence, advanced quantification tools, enhanced connectivity for better data sharing and remote consultation are the key features that the Esaote Group is investing heavily in for cardiovascular imaging in order to provide clinicians with efficient and accurate analysis tools. Thanks to Augmented Insight™ solutions, the new MyLab™ Omega eXP presented in Barcelona delivers precise quantification while reducing elaboration time and overall examination time. With the CV-dedicated configuration, Esaote offers best-in-class diagnostic capability and high-level flexibility to cardiologists and mobile service professionals, anytime and anywhere.

Healthcare

"Advanced imaging processing tools, portability and connectivity are the strong points of this scanner, aimed at meeting the needs of tomorrow's healthcare systems," said Martina Cereseto, Global Product Manager at Esaote. "Furthermore, the new generation of XCrystal transducers enables the acquisition of detailed images with high temporal and spatial resolution, thus enhancing diagnostic confidence in any clinical setting, from private echo-labs to hospitals, and from general cardiology departments

to ICU, CCU, emergency rooms and Point-of-Care units".

Sharing data and information between different hospital departments or between different health facilities is one of the main features of Suitestensa, the enterprise-wide system developed by Ebit. Encompassing all workflows, exams, images and postprocessing, the Suitestensa CVIS platform is the most comprehensive patient-oriented approach to all cardiology specialties: Cardiac Catheterization, Interventional Cardiology, Echocardiography, ECG, Arrhythmology, General Cardiology, and Cardiovascular Surgery. Complementing patient workflow management, the platform includes a complete telemedicine and remote monitoring module.

AI-driven workflows aimed at automating key clinical echocardiography measurements are one of the distinctive features of Caas Qardia, the latest product line launched by PMI that excels at myocardial strain analysis, stress-echo, diastolic function assessment, and (PISA) valve analysis.

ties, including through webinars.

Senator Sherwin Gatchalian, who is leading the call to revisit the Philippines' anti-bullying law, expressed his gratitude for the efforts.

"We need to explore avenues to educate more people on a larger scale, and that can be achieved through enacting laws and allocating budgets. This type of awareness is crucial, and I am grateful to Globe for spearheading this initiative," Gatchalian said.

Yoly Crisanto, Globe Group Chief Sustainability and Corporate Communications Officer, also emphasized the importance of teaching online safety and responsibility to protect the youth's mental health.

"The family serves as the ultimate safety net against cyberbullying. We

want to equip parents and guardians with the necessary tools and knowledge to provide a safe and responsible online environment for their children. We hope to promote digital well-being among the youth by emphasizing the crucial role of families in protecting young people from the harmful effects of cyberbullying," she said.

Globe's #MakeITSafePH campaign has not only raised awareness about the negative impact of cyberbullying on mental health but has also led to real-world interventions that will help create safer digital spaces and mindful young netizens in the longer term. The success of the campaign underscores the need for continued efforts to promote mental health and well-being, especially among children and young adults.

MEDICAL CLASSIFIEDS

Take care of your health

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

ROYAL CITY CLINIC
A CARING MISSION

Dr. Nishida C
MBBS, MS
Orthopaedics

Scan to connect

For Appointments
+965 55443382
24340122

JLEEB AL-SHYOUKH, BLOCK 23, BUILDING-4, NEAR POLICE STATION

Timings
Saturday to Thursday
10am to 2 pm & 4 pm to 8.30 pm
Friday Off

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

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

Dr. Abdul Nazer
MBBS, MD
Dermatologist & Cosmetologist

Phone : 24 734 000
Hotline: 60 749 749

CLINIC WORKING HOURS: 7 am to 12 Midnight

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

Hollywood striking writers vow not to picket Tony Awards

NEW YORK, May 16. (AP): Striking members of the Writers Guild of America have said they will not picket next month's Tony Awards telecast, clearing a thorny issue facing show organizers and opening the door for some sort of Broadway razzle-dazzle on TV.

The union last week denied a request by Tony organizers to have a waiver for their June 11 glitzy live telecast. It reiterated that in a statement late Monday, saying the guild "will not negotiate an interim agreement or a waiver for the Tony Awards."

But the guild gave some hope that some sort of Tony show might go on, saying organizers "are altering this year's show to conform with specific requests from the WGA, and therefore the WGA will not be picketing the show." What is being altered was not clear, but it may be to allow a non-scripted version of the Tonys to go on.

The strike, which has already darkened late-night TV shows like "The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon," "The Late Show With Stephen Colbert" and "Saturday Night Live" and delayed the making of scripted TV shows, was jeopardizing theater's biggest night, one that many Broadway shows rely on to attract interest with millions of people watching.

The union - representing 11,500 writers of film, television and other entertainment forms - has been on strike since May 2, primarily over royalties from streaming media. While the guild doesn't represent Broadway writers, it does represent writers who work on the Tonys telecast.

Tony organizers faced a stark choice after the request for a waiver was rejected: either postpone the ceremony until the strike ends or announce winners in a non-televised reception that would ask nominees

to cross picket lines. The decision Monday means the possibility of a third way: A non-scripted show that leans heavily on performances.

That is largely what happened during the 1988 awards, which were broadcast during a Writers Guild of America walkout. Host Angela Lansbury and presenters speaking impromptu and with performances from such shows as "A Chorus Line" and "Anything Goes."

Before the Writers Guild of America decision, a two-part Tony ceremony had been planned, with a pre-show of performances streaming live on Pluto, and the main awards ceremony broadcasting live on CBS and streaming live to premium-level Peacock members.

Impact

Meanwhile, the impact of the Hollywood writers strike was felt as major television networks began their annual week of sales presentations to advertisers on Monday, with news personalities like Willie Geist and Stephanie Ruhle left to hawk comedies and dramas for NBC Universal.

Fox declined to announce a fall television schedule on Monday, citing uncertainties created by the strike.

Some 11,500 members of the Writers Guild of America, saying the rise of streaming has hurt their earning power, walked off the job two weeks after talks on a new contract broke down, and haven't returned to the negotiating table since.

Network late-night shows immediately shut down. Picketing writers targeting some of the few shows shooting episodes forced the shutdown, at least temporarily, of programs including Showtime's "Billions," "Severance" on Apple TV+ and the new Marvel show, "Dare-

devil: Born Again" on Disney+.

The network sales presentations, known as upfronts because TV executives use them to convince advertisers to lock in commercial spending months in advance, are major events on the television schedule. They opened with turmoil; writers picketed in front of Radio City Music Hall where NBC previewed programming it hoped viewers would be able to see.

Mark Lazarus, NBC Universal president of television and streaming, quickly acknowledged the uncertainties in speaking to the ad representatives.

"It may take some time, but I know we will eventually get through this," Lazarus said, "and the result will be a stronger foundation from which we can all move forward together."

Lazarus came to the stage following a song-and-dance routine by an animated bear, Ted, voiced by creator Seth MacFarlane. Following two movies, the "Ted" character is set to begin a series on the Peacock streaming network.

The upfront presentations are generally known for star power attempting to woo advertisers, but entertainers were notably missing from NBC Universal's presentation. For example, the network and Peacock announced new series that will star Jon Cryer, Jesse L. Martin, Kaley Cuoco and Anthony Hopkins and none of them were there on Monday.

Instead, the new personalities were put in the odd position of pitching entertainment fare, like Geist highlighting programming around the upcoming 50th anniversary of "Saturday Night Live," while Ruhle and business journalist Andrew Ross Sorkin touted new dramas.

Television

Variety

Features

ARABIC TIMES

WEDNESDAY, MAY 17, 2023



This image released by Lucasfilm shows Harrison Ford in a scene from 'Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny.' (AP)

Film

Festival promises spectacle, scandal and cinema

Cannes kicks off with 'Jeanne du Barry'

CANNES, France, May 16. (AP): The Cannes red carpet springs to life again Tuesday as the 76th Cannes Film Festival gets underway with the premiere of the Louis XV period drama "Jeanne du Barry," with Johnny Depp.

This year's festival promises a Cote d'Azur buffet of spectacle, scandal and cinema set to be served over the next 12 days. It's unspooling against the backdrop of labor unrest. Protests that have roiled France in recent months over changes to its pension system are planned to run during the festival, albeit at a distance from the festival's main hub.

Meanwhile, an ongoing strike by screenwriters in Hollywood could have unpredictable effects on the French Riviera festival.

But with a festival lined with some much-anticipated big-budget films, including James Mangold's "Indiana Jones and the Dial of the Destiny," and Martin Scorsese's "Killers of the Flower Moon," the party is sure to go on, regardless. Stars set to hit Cannes' red carpet in the next week and a half include Natalie Portman, Leonardo DiCaprio, Cate Blanchett, Sean Penn, Alicia Vikander, the Weeknd and Scarlett Johansson.

The festivities Tuesday was to include an opening ceremony where Michael Douglas is to receive an honorary Palme d'Or. (Later, one will also be dished out to "Indiana Jones" star Harrison Ford). The jury that will decide the festival's top prize, the Palme d'Or, will also be introduced.

This year, the jury is led by Swedish filmmaker Ruben Östlund, a two-time Palme winner who last year won for the social satire "The Triangle of Sadness." The rest of the jury includes Brie Larson, Paul Dano, French director Julia Ducournau, Argentine filmmaker Damián Szifron, Afghan director Atiq Rahimi, French actor Denis Ménochet, Moroccan filmmaker Maryam Tourzani and a Zambian-Welsh director Rungano Nyoni.

The opening night selection has attracted some controversy. "Jeanne du Barry," directed by and co-starring the French actor-director Maïwenn, co-stars Depp as Louis XV. It's Depp's first new film since his trial last year with Amber Heard, his ex-wife. After both Depp and Heard accused each other of physical and verbal

abuse, a civil jury awarded Depp \$10 million in damages and \$2 million to Heard.

In remarks to the press Monday, Cannes director Thierry Fremaux defended the choice, saying Depp is extraordinary in the film and he paid no attention to the trial.

"To tell you the truth, in my life, I only have one rule, it's the freedom of thinking, the freedom of speech and the freedom to act within a legal framework," said Fremaux. "If Johnny Depp had been banned from acting in a film, or the film was banned we wouldn't be here talking about it."

After one of France's top actors, Adèle Haenel, announced she was quitting a French film industry that she denounced for "complicity toward sexual aggressors," Cannes Film Festival chief Thierry Fremaux rejected her criticisms while addressing members of the media Monday.

Defend

Haenel, star of the 2019 Cannes entry "Portrait of a Lady on Fire," last week published an open letter in the Telerama magazine in which the 34-year-old said Cannes and other pillars of the French film industry are "ready to do anything to defend their rapist chiefs."

Fremaux strongly disagreed while speaking to journalists before the festival kicks off Tuesday with the premiere of Maïwenn's historical drama "Jeanne du Barry," starring Johnny Depp.

"No doubt for somewhat radical reasons, she had to make this comment about Cannes, which was obviously false," said Fremaux.

In 2019, Haenel accused French director Christophe Ruggia of sexually harassing her for years beginning from the age of 12. Ruggia has denied it. Since then, Haenel has often vocally protested what she's called an insufficient response sexual abuse in French filmmaking. At the César Awards in 2020, she walked out of the ceremony after Roman Polanski won best director.

In his remarks, Fremaux only specifically addressed Haenel's criticism of Cannes. When she came to the festival with Celine Sciamma's "Portrait of a Lady on Fire," he said: "She didn't think that when she came to Cannes unless she suffered from a crazy dissonance.

"The proof is that if you believed it, you would not be here, listening to me now, taking your accreditations and complaining about the press screenings for a festival of rapists," Fremaux said the gathered reporters.

How the #MeToo movement has reverberated in Cannes, one of the world's oldest and most glamorous film festivals, has been a subject of debate. Harvey Weinstein was for years a prominent presence in Cannes, and some of the incidents of sexual abuse alleged against the producer took place during the festival.

Cannes also has traditionally had a low rate of female filmmakers in its prestigious competition lineup, where only two female directors have won the Palme d'Or: Jane Campion in 1993 with "The Piano" and Julia Ducournau in 2021 with "Titane." In 2018, 82 women led a protest on the Cannes red carpet. The following year, Fremaux bowing to pressure, signed a pledge promising to strive toward greater gender parity.

Fremaux acknowledged that the festival once had a problem in gender inclusivity. "Maybe I was clumsy," he said. This year, there are a record seven films directed by women out of the 21 movies in competition, which he said reflects the growing prominence of female filmmakers around the world.

Now, he added, "when we hesitate between a film made by a man or a film made by a woman, we'll select the film made by the woman. But only when we hesitate. "This all denotes progress," said Fremaux.

At the same time, Cannes has sometimes been accused of being too welcoming to some of the men who have been accused of misconduct. Polanski returned to the festival in 2017. This year, some had been expecting Woody Allen's latest film to premiere in Cannes but it didn't make the lineup. Asked about it, Fremaux said he would only address films in the selection.

Fremaux was, though, questioned about the selection of "Jeanne du Barry" as the opening night film. The film, which co-stars Maïwenn, is Depp's first since his high-profile trial with Amber Heard, his ex-wife. After both Depp and Heard accused each other of physical and verbal abuse, a civil jury awarded Depp \$10 million in damages and \$2 million to Heard. In December, they reached a settlement.

ABUJA, Nigeria: A Nigerian Afrobeat star was arrested Monday after being accused of assaulting a police officer in the commercial hub of Lagos.

Seun Kuti was detained at the Lagos State police headquarters after turning himself in, according to police spokesperson Benjamin Hundeyin, who tweeted photos of the celebrity in handcuffs.

The son of Nigerian musical icon and political agitator Fela, who himself was serially detained by Nigerian military regimes, Kuti was "captured on video assaulting a police officer in uniform," the police said.

Videos posted online appeared to show an agitated Kuti pushing a police officer as the officer stood beside a police vehicle along a major road in Lagos on Saturday.

It was unclear what led to the confrontation, though Kuti tweeted that the officer in question "tried to kill me and my family." He suggested the officer tried to ram their car.

Inspector General of Police Usman Alkali Baba ordered an investigation into the incident. The inspector general "assures Nigerians that acts of contempt/disdain for symbols of authority will not be tolerated while offenders of such heinous crimes will be surely brought to book," the police said. (AP)

ABUJA, Nigeria: A Nigerian chef on Monday set a new global record for the longest hours nonstop cooking as she cooked for 100 hours, surpassing the current record.

Hilda Baci had been cooking since last week Thursday when she set out to beat the Guinness World Record of 87 hours and 45 minutes set in 2019 by Lata Tondon, an Indian chef.

At around 19:45 GMT on Monday, Baci cooked for the 100th hour in the Lekki area of Lagos, Nigeria's commercial hub, to become a national sensation in the West African nation. Thousands who gathered at the scene jubilated and sang her praises as she stopped cooking a few minutes after.

The Guinness World Records tweeted it was aware of the chef's attempt to break the cooking record. "We need to review all the evidence first before officially confirming a record," the global brand said.

By attempting to beat the record, the Nigerian chef said Thursday she wanted to show how hard-working and determined Nigerian youths are and also as a campaign for young African women who are sidelined in society. "Even when it comes to the brands you want to work with, it is like you have to go an extra mile



Kuti



Baci

to be taken seriously," said Baci, adding that she hoped too that the world would learn more about Nigerian cuisines.

At 15:00 GMT on Thursday, she started to cook dozens of Nigerian delicacies under supervision, ranging from soups to stew and various proteins. Jollof rice, one of the most iconic West Af-

rican dishes, also featured on the menu. (AP)

LOS ANGELES: Closing arguments were expected to begin Tuesday at the second trial of "That '70s Show" actor Danny Masterson, who is charged with raping three women at his Los Angeles

home between 2001 and 2003.

Attorneys for both sides rested their cases Friday, three weeks into the trial. Masterson's defense attorneys declined to call any witnesses.

The 47-year-old's first trial ended in a mistrial in December, with jurors hopelessly deadlocked on all three counts. (AP)

People & Places

People

'Obama portrait'

Wiley taking his art far and wide 'all at once'

NEW YORK, May 16, (AP): **Kehinde Wiley** was already well into his influential art career when his portrait of Barack Obama - arms crossed, perched on a chair amid brilliant foliage - was unveiled in 2018. But there's no doubt it changed the artist's life.

Here's one way he describes the shift: Now, should he ever show up at the bank and realize he's forgotten his ID - which hasn't happened yet, but still - he could say: "You know that portrait of Obama? I'm that guy, and I didn't bring my ID, so if you could just Google that..."

But Wiley, proud as he is of the groundbreaking work - an official portrait of a Black president by a Black artist - does wonder how long he'll be referred to in that context.

"I wonder if I will ever be able to do anything that



Wiley

lives up to the gravity of that moment," he says. "Everybody wants to be seen in a number of different contexts ... but I mean, what a great project to be involved in. So, come on, here's the world's smallest violin, playing just for me."

If Wiley, 46, is on a mission to make sure he's remembered for a lot more, he seems well on his way. With shows currently on both US coasts, another headed to Paris, and growing artistic bases in Africa, he truly seems to be everywhere all at once.

Just take the last few months. In March, he was in San Francisco for the US premiere of "Kehinde Wiley: An Archaeology of Silence" at the de Young Museum, a powerful display of massive paintings and sculptures exploring anti-Black violence in a global context. The museum has set up dedicated spaces for attendees who need a breather from the intensity of the show, which runs until Oct. 15.

Focus

Meanwhile, at the Sean Kelly gallery in New York, he's just opened "Havana," running through June 17, focusing on circus performers and carnival street dancers in Cuba.

In between, he was in Africa, where he's been doing y from negotiating prices with vendors to selecting stone for the floors while building his second artist residency campus on the continent, Black Rock Nigeria, in Calabar (the first is in Senegal).

Wiley is also at work on a new portrait show on Black heads of state at the Musée du Quai Branly in Paris, scheduled for September.

With homes in Senegal, Nigeria, New York City and the Catskills, plus a studio in Brooklyn, not to mention roots in his native Los Angeles - including his mother and twin brother - Wiley is not an easy man to pin down for an interview. But he was generous with his time - and anecdotes - as he recently showed The Associated Press around "HAVANA." Later that night, a passerby peering into the gallery would have seen the airy space packed to the gills with admirers for an opening reception.

Wiley had just returned from Ethiopia, and before that Nigeria. The rhythm of his travels, he says, goes like this: "You'll be on the road working on something and you'll be in some amazing place and there's a couple of down days, and then you're (again) in some extraordinary part of the world. I guess work and play are all kind of intertwined. But I'm also incredibly hungry for new experiences."

Wiley's projects often overlap and intersect over a number of years. His current Cuba show stems from two visits there, in 2015 and in 2022.

It features new paintings, works on paper and a three-screen film downstairs, exploring the phenomenon of the "carnavalesque." On this particular day, with the opening only hours away, he was still actively discussing changing the font for the film's subtitles.

During his 2015 visit, Wiley visited the Escuela Nacional de Circo Cuba - a circus school. He became intrigued by the idea of "not fully formed technicians, this metaphor of not quite being quite perfect at creating magic." During his second visit, he met with performers from Raices Profundas, a nearly 50-year-old dance ensemble that performs in the Yoruba tradition.

Background

Just like Obama's portrait features, in its background, flowers from places of significance in the president's life, the backgrounds of the Cuba paintings are comprised of "things from Africa that found their way to the Americas like sugar cane, yams, cola nut, okra ... All of these fit into the narrative of African presence in the Americas."

Wiley's method of working has been much discussed - he has studio assistants work on the backgrounds, and then he comes in to execute the figure, or figures. There are variations, though, "moments when I'm super excited about doing that figure and the crew is already working on something else, so I'll just go ahead and they'll catch up with me. Now that I've got studios all over the place, you can swing it both ways."

This gallery show is more intimate than his massive show in San Francisco, which has drawn significant attendance, museum officials say. In that show, portraits of young Black people in positions of rest (or in some interpretations, death) inhabit settings that recall famous artworks of the Western world. On the audio track, one of the most moving sections is commentary from Wanda Johnson, the mother of Oscar Grant, who was killed by police at a BART station in Oakland in 2009.

Museumgoer La Tanya Carmical, 66, of Castro Valley, was struck by that commentary, particularly "the tragedy in her voice." Carmical took a Friday in March to see the show, where she spent four hours. She was particularly moved by an image of a man laying on rocks.

"For me it was the hands, the way they're positioned," she said. "I took a couple of pictures. And then (Wiley's) color - these are just beautifully colored, the skin tones. It's the hands, it's the color, it's the lighting."

The show is not only about anti-Black violence in the United States.

"It's a story of anti-Blackness globally," says Abram Jackson, director of interpretation at the de Young. "It's not limited to a particular country or region. There's a universality to the ways in which Black people have been mistreated and the violence that has happened to us from colonialism forward."

For this show, models were found in Senegal, Jackson says. The way Wiley chooses his models depends on the project - sometimes he recruits them on the streets, whereas in Cuba it took research and outreach.

Does he remember everyone? The artist laughs.



A woman looks at a bronze sculpture by Kehinde Wiley titled 'Death of Two Soldiers,' at the de Young Museum in San Francisco, Friday, March 24, 2023. The sculpture is part of the 'Kehinde Wiley: An Archaeology of Silence,' exhibition. (AP)

Music

'Bebe' is an uplifting, feel-good album

Rexha ignites a '70s disco inferno

NEW YORK, May 16, (AP): Bebe Rexha's eyes welled with tears after hearing Dolly Parton on her song "Seasons" for the first time. Recruiting the music icon for the record, which Rexha initially thought was a "shot in the dark," was now reality.

"The first time listened to it, I cried," said the Grammy nominee. "It's just so beautiful. I cry every time - I get goosebumps all over my body."

"Seasons" was the first song created for Rexha's new album, "Bebe," which released recently.

"I was really inspired by Fleetwood Mac, and they have a song called 'Landslide'... 'Landslide' is one of the greatest songs of all time, but I just loved how it talked about change. And I was like, 'I want to write my own version,'" said Rexha.

"Growing up with immigrant parents, I never thought that I would have Dolly Parton on my song, you know? She's an icon. Not only is she an incredible artist, but she's a songwriter, which is how I started. Yeah, it's surreal."

"Bebe" is the third studio album from the New York City-raised, Albanian-American songstress, following up her pandemic-released "Better Mistakes" in 2021. With the bulk of the production handled by Ido Zmishlany (Shawn Mendes, Camila Cabello, Demi Lovato) along with contributions from Joe Janiak (Britney Spears, Ellie Goulding) and Jusifer (Kelly Clarkson, Kim Petras), Rexha channeled the energy and musicality of the '70s for her self-titled project - as well as her glam and vibrant album art.

Rexha didn't know much about the era until she and Zmishlany conducted a musical deep dive by listening to artists like Parton, Donna Summer, Fleetwood Mac, Stevie

Nicks and more.

"We're like, 'How could we take all of our favorite sounds of the '70s and put it into a project?'" said the 33-year-old. "I just love the freedom when it came to music... And I love the aesthetic, I love the fashion of it - everything that it encapsulates."

Parton's collaboration is an outlier on the 12-track album, since much of it centers around dance music, led by "Heart Wants What It Wants." Rexha said she wanted to create feel-good music as the world entered a post-coronavirus pandemic phase.

"I wanted to do something a little different... There are thoughtful songs and slower records, but the majority of the songs are definitely feel-good and very uplifting and dancey," explained Rexha, who also serves as the executive producer. "That was really important to me."

Channel

She was able to channel "Saturday Night Fever"-esque vibes on songs like "I'm Not High" and "Miracle Man," which she sings, "I need a miracle man/Who can make me believe in love again/Say amen (yeah!) amen (yeah!)." Rexha also brings her plat-

forms and disco ball on the road by embarking on a 28-show tour starting in May, her first in six years. One of concurrent themes on this album is freedom, a defining characteristic of the '70s. Never afraid to speak her mind, Rexha says whether it's in her music or how she lives her life, she just wants to exist in authenticity.

"What I'm learning is that not everybody is going to connect with you and understand you, and that's OK. And I feel like you have to just be your realest, truest version of yourself because, at the end of the day, if you try to change yourself to be liked by other people, you're not really being yourself," said Rexha. "I just want to be my truest form."

"When you look at the title, you think automatically it's going to be like, 'Oh, if you need a friend or if you need something, just call on me.' And the hook is actually a flip,"

explained Rexha, who had a role in writing every song on her album. "I'm going to call on me."

Rexha also managed to bat 1,000 for album icon-recruitment after securing music's chief-green leaf ambassador, Snoop Dogg, her only other feature for the fun, THC-themed "Satellite." Rexha said the partnership developed after sending the rap legend a message on Instagram, with the Dogg Father returning his guest verse less than 24-hours later.

"I'm always sliding into other celebrities' DMs, constantly," she said. "I think that sometimes you can create friendships like that, and I think it never hurts to reach out."

Other notable songs include "Visions (Don't Go)" and the previously released David Guetta-collab, "I'm Good (Blue)," a song she initially laid vocals for around five years ago - and actually forgot about - until it was unearthed last year, reaching No. 1 on Billboard's Radio songs chart and No. 1 on Pop Airplay after going viral on TikTok.

Rexha will also bring her plat-forms and disco ball on the road by embarking on a 28-show tour starting in May, her first in six years. One of concurrent themes on this album is freedom, a defining characteristic of the '70s. Never afraid to speak her mind, Rexha says whether it's in her music or how she lives her life, she just wants to exist in authenticity.

"What I'm learning is that not everybody is going to connect with you and understand you, and that's OK. And I feel like you have to just be your realest, truest version of yourself because, at the end of the day, if you try to change yourself to be liked by other people, you're not really being yourself," said Rexha. "I just want to be my truest form."



Bebe Rexha poses for a portrait in New York on March 9, 2023, to promote her album 'Bebe.' (AP)



Stewart



Mohammadi

Variety

NEW YORK: At 81, **Martha Stewart** isn't slowing down and some might say she's heating up. Stewart has been chosen as one of Sports Illustrated's swimsuit cover models, the magazine announced Monday.

She's the oldest model to grace the cover of the annual swimsuit issue, surpassing **Maye Musk** who posed for the special issue in 2022 at 74.

The businesswoman and media personality wrote in an Instagram post Monday that she hopes the cover inspires people "to try new things, no matter what stage of life you're in." She also posted a video clip from an interview on her podcast with MJ Day, SI Swimsuit editor in chief. The video showed a series of images of Stewart from a photo shoot in the **Dominican Republic**, including one of her emerging from water in a blue swimsuit wearing sunglasses.

"They were pouring water over my head," Stewart said during the podcast.

Stewart founded Martha Stewart Living Omnimedia in the 1990s and became synonymous with cooking, entertaining and homemaking. She released cookbooks, cookware, magazines, towels and other items. She's hosted numerous TV shows and in recent years has had a number of ventures with rapper **Snoop Dogg**. In 2004, Stewart was convicted of lying to the government about a stock sale. She served five months in prison.

Other cover models chosen for this year's swimsuit edition are recording artist **Kim Petras**, actor **Megan Fox**, and model **Brooks Nader**. (AP)

NEW YORK: The Iranian writer, journalist and human rights activist **Narges Mohammadi** will be honored at this week's PEN America Literary Gala. Mohammadi, currently jailed for "spreading propaganda," is to receive the 2023 PEN/Barbey Freedom to Write Award.

"Narges Mohammadi inspires awe across the world for her unflinching courage and resistance to the Iranian government's determined campaign to silence her," PEN America CEO **Suzanne Nossel** said in a statement released Monday. "The sacrifices that she and her family have made are heartbreaking. She is a beacon for free expression in one of the most harsh places in the world for writers, journalists, and artists."

Mohammadi's husband, the journalist and activist **Taghi Rahmani**, will accept the prize on her behalf. The PEN gala will take place Thursday night at the American Museum of Natural History, with fellow honorees including "Saturday Night Live" creator **Lorne Michaels**, winner of the PEN/Audible Literary Service Award.

The PEN/Barbey prize is given to writers persecuted for their work. Previous recipients include Ukrainian freelance journalist **Vladyslav Yesypenko** and Chinese activist **Xu Zhiyong**.

The 51-year-old Mohammadi has a long history of imprisonment and harsh punishment, including torture and solitary confinement. In 2020, she was

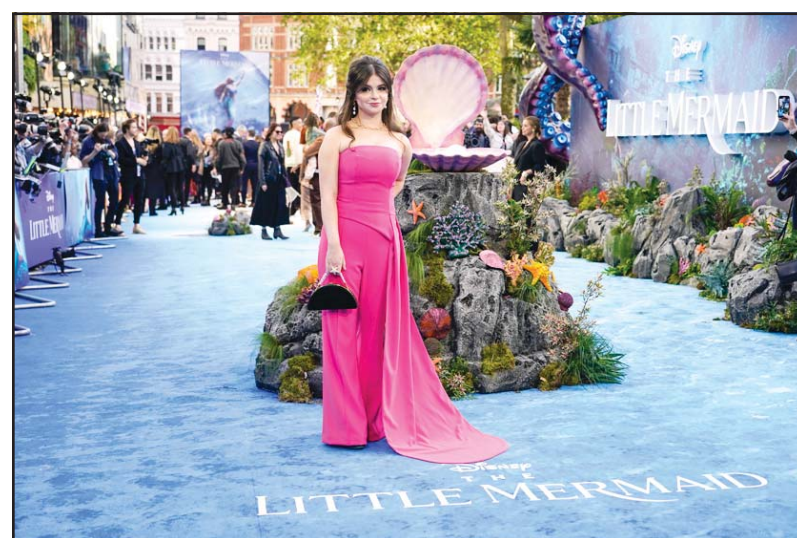
released after serving 8 1/2 years on charges ranging from planning crimes against Iran to forming an illegal organization. At one time, Mohammadi was vice president of the banned Defenders of Human Rights Center. (AP)

NEW YORK: Two New York City police detectives have been charged with swiping pricey drink while on duty at an electronic music festival, and a third detective did nothing to stop them, prosecutors said Monday in announcing indictments of all three officers.

Detectives **Wojciech Czech** and **Warren Golden** were arraigned Monday and suspended from their jobs. Czech pleaded not guilty to felony charges of grand larceny and criminal possession of stolen property; Golden pleaded not guilty to official misconduct, a misdemeanor. Both were released without bail.

A third detective, **Jonathan Gonzalez**, is due to be arraigned on all three charges later in the week. "Detective Czech is shocked and saddened by the criminal charges," said his lawyer, Oliver Storch, adding that his client is a 10-year law enforcement veteran who "loves being in the business of protecting and saving lives."

Gonzalez's attorney, **Peter E. Brill**, said he believed the charges "come from a misunderstanding of the facts, and after a jury has had the opportunity to hear the evidence in this case, he will be cleared of all charges." (AP)



Emily Coates upon arrival for the premiere of The Little Mermaid, in London, Monday, May 15. (AP)

Health

Fentanyl overdoses

VM latest tool to help fight opioid epidemic

WASHINGTON, May 16, (AP) — Vending machines (VM) that have long been stocked with snacks are getting repurposed to distribute life-saving supplies to help fight the opioid epidemic.

A growing number of cities and local governments are making so-called "harm reduction" items, including the overdose-reversal drug naloxone, available for free via machines.

Interest in the approach is expected to grow after US regulators recently approved Narcan, the leading naloxone brand, to be sold without a prescription. That switch allows the nasal spray to be stocked in convenience stores, supermarkets and vending machines.



Turner

Machine supplier Shaffer Distributing, which also sells arcade games and pinball machines, is one of the companies that has worked with US communities to put the medication in machines even before the FDA's over-the-counter approval.

Marty Turner, the Columbus, Ohio, company's director of vending sales, explains that many other items for promoting public health can be stocked and distributed this way. The interview has been edited for length and clarity.

Q: How do these machines work and what types of items do they dispense?

It's a basic vending machine that we've modified to dispense the products that health departments, harm-reduction groups or other nonprofits are looking to get into the neighborhood.

We've worked on machines that dispense Narcan nasal spray, fentanyl testing strips, HIV testing kits, prescription disposal bags and then even some first aid kits and safe sex kits. Really anything that they're looking to get into the hands of the public.

Q: How many have you sold?

We've probably sold close to 200 or more machines to the harm-reduction community. They've put them everywhere from public libraries to city hall. There've been a couple delivered to post offices, college campuses, sheriff's offices - almost anywhere that you have 24-hour public access.

Q: What's the advantage of using a vending machine for this effort?

The vending machine just gives the end user the opportunity to walk up without being judged or having to have the money to purchase the product.

And in the case of Narcan, where it's now an over-the-counter drug, we feel the vending machines are going to be just as popular and in-demand, because your next-door neighbor might not want to walk into Walgreens and have you standing in line behind him wondering "OK, why is this guy buying Narcan?" It kind of takes away the stigma and offers 24/7 access.

Q: How much do these machines typically cost?

The naloxone machines sell for anywhere from \$4,500 to about \$7,400 for an outdoor machine. The outdoor machine is resistant to the rain and it has a compressor so that it can maintain its temperature in the summer that's safe for the product.

Q: Do users ever have to enter any personal information or other details when using the machine?

What we've found is that the more information you're asking of the end user - for example, if you're asking whether they're male or female or their ZIP code or their age - then they're less likely to get a product.

We are working primarily with the folks that are looking for a low barrier. They'd just like to walk up to the machine, press the selection button and get the product. That just seems to be the best opportunity to get these into the hands of the people who need them most.

Meanwhile, a series of suspected drug overdoses left at least eight people dead over the weekend in Portland, Oregon, according to the city's police bureau.

Six of the deaths were likely related to fentanyl, a potent synthetic opioid. Several of those who died believed they were using cocaine, when it was actually fentanyl or a mix of the two substances, the city's police bureau said in a news release.

"Users are warned that there may be a batch of purported cocaine circulating on the street that is particularly dangerous to use," the release said.

The deaths occurred between early Friday morning and late Saturday afternoon. They're being investigated by the Portland Police Bureau's narcotics and organized crime unit.

Like many states around the country, Oregon in recent years has grappled with a surge in opioid overdose deaths fueled by fentanyl, a highly addictive and potentially lethal drug.

Fentanyl was developed to treat intense pain from ailments like cancer. Use of fentanyl, a powerful synthetic opioid that is cheap to produce and is often sold as is or laced in other drugs, has exploded. Because it's 50 times more potent than heroin, even a small dose can be fatal.

It has quickly become the deadliest drug in the nation, according to the Drug Enforcement Administration. Two-thirds of the 107,000 overdose deaths in 2021 were attributed to synthetic opioids like fentanyl, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said.

In Multnomah County, home to Portland, more than 60% of the county's 271 opioid overdoses in 2021 involved fentanyl, according to the Tri-County Opioid Safety Coalition.

That year, fentanyl also contributed to a record number of homeless deaths in Portland. Compared with 2020, the number of homeless deaths involving fentanyl jumped more than eightfold, from four to 36, according to a Multnomah County report released in February.

Statewide, the number of fatal and unintentional overdoses involving fentanyl more than doubled from 2020 to 2021, from 226 deaths to 508, according to the Oregon Health Authority. Fentanyl and methamphetamine were the most common drugs in overdose deaths in 2021, the agency found.

Also:

BENNINGTON, Vt: A man who died alone in a Bennington police holding cell this spring ingested a large amount of drugs that had been "concealed in his person" and he was killed by "acute mixed drug intoxication," the state police said Monday.

On Monday, the Vermont Health Department released the death certificate for **Darrell Jones**, 33, of **Easton, Pennsylvania**, that found his death was caused by the ingestion of fentanyl, heroin and cocaine. His death was ruled an accident.

Later Monday, the state police, which investigated Jones' death, said its investigation concluded that Jones had drugs "concealed in his person" when he was arrested by Bennington Police on March 23. He subsequently ingested a large amount of drugs while in the cell, and he experienced "extreme medical distress" and died.

Bennington police did not immediately return an email Monday seeking comment.

Jones was one of three people arrested by Bennington police. Less than an hour after Jones was taken to the station, an officer spotted Jones sitting on the holding cell floor and leaning against the wall.

The officer checked on him, immediately began providing medical care and called an ambulance. But Jones was pronounced dead at the police department.

The initial state police investigation found no evidence that Bennington police used physical force on Jones.



Jessica Tincopa and her husband, Rob Tran, stand for a portrait in Orange, Calif., Friday, May 5. Tincopa may leave the photography business she spent 14 years building for one reason: to find coverage for fertility treatment. After six miscarriages, Tincopa and her husband started saving for in vitro fertilization, which can cost well over \$20,000, but the pandemic wiped out their savings and the state's health insurance marketplace doesn't cover things like IVF. (AP)

Health

More companies help with IVF

Fertility care out of reach for many

NEW YORK, May 16, (AP) — Jessica Tincopa may leave the photography business she spent 14 years building for one reason: to find coverage for fertility treatment.

After six miscarriages, Tincopa and her husband started saving for in vitro fertilization, which can cost well over \$20,000. But the pandemic wiped out their savings, and they can't find coverage for IVF on their state's health insurance marketplace. So, the California couple is saving again, and asking politicians to help expand access.

"No one should ever have to go through this," Tincopa said.

Infertility, or the inability to get pregnant after a year or more of trying, is a common problem. The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that it affects nearly one in five married girls or women between the ages of 15 and 49.

Yet coverage of fertility treatments can be hard to find in many corners of health insurance even as it grows briskly with big employers who see it as a must-have benefit to keep workers.

It's a divide researchers say is leading to haves and have nots for treatments, which can involve a range of prescription drugs and procedures like artificial insemination or IVF, where an embryo is created by mixing eggs and sperm in a lab dish.

"It is still primarily for people who can afford to pay quite a bit out of pocket," said Usha Ranji, associate director of women's health policy at KFF, a nonprofit that studies health care issues.

Clouding this picture are insurer concerns about cost as well as questions about how much fertility coverage should be emphasized or mandated versus helping people find other ways to build families, such as adoption.

"If you're going to offer one, there should be a corollary and maybe even more significant benefits for adoption," medical ethicist Dr. Philip Rosoff said.

A total of 54% of the biggest US employers - those with 20,000 workers or more - covered IVF in 2022, according to the benefits consultant Mercer. That's up from 36% in 2015. Walmart started offering coverage last fall and banking giant JPMorgan began this year.

Many businesses that offer the cov-

erage extend it beyond those with an infertility diagnosis, making it accessible to LGBTQ+ couples and single women, according to Mercer.

The benefits consultant also said there's big growth among employers with 500 or more workers, as 43% offered IVF coverage last year. But coverage gets spotty with smaller employers.

Lauderhill (Florida) Fire Rescue Lt. Ame Mason estimates she and her husband have spent close to \$100,000 of their own money on fertility treatments over the past few years, including several unsuccessful IVF attempts. Mason and her husband both work for the same department.

Coverage

Her brother-in-law also has a fertility issue. He works for a bigger fire department in nearby Palm Beach County and got coverage. Mason said that couple has a son.

"It's pretty wild. You could work a county away and have coverage," Mason said. "There's nothing regulating it ... two government jobs."

Twenty-one states have laws mandating coverage of fertility treatments or fertility preservation, which some patients need before cancer treatments, according to the nonprofit patient advocacy organization Resolve. Of those states, 14 require IVF coverage.

But most of these requirements don't apply to individual insurance plans or coverage sold through small employers.

"People tell us that their biggest barrier to family building is lack of insurance coverage," Resolve CEO Barbara Collura said, adding that some insurers don't view the care as medically necessary.

The state and federally funded Medicaid program for people with low incomes limits coverage of fertility issues largely to diagnosis in several states, according to KFF, which says Black and Hispanic women are disproportionately affected. States also can exclude fertility drugs from prescription coverage.

"By not covering this for poor folks, we're saying we don't want you to reproduce," said medical ethicist Lisa Campo-Engelstein of the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston, Texas. She noted Medicaid programs

do cover birth control and sterilization procedures like vasectomies.

In California, Tincopa says she has talked to both state and federal legislators about creating some sort of option for people to purchase individual insurance with the coverage.

The state Senate is weighing a bill that would require coverage of fertility treatments, including IVF, for large employers. But the California Association of Health Plans opposes it, just as it opposed similar bills in recent years, because of how much it might cost.

Spokeswoman Mary Ellen Grant noted independent analysis has shown that bills like this could increase premiums by as much as \$1 billion in the state. She also said it would create a coverage gap because it wouldn't apply to the state's Medicaid enrollees.

"This is not about the treatment itself," she said. "It's strictly based on the increased costs for our members. It would impact everybody regardless of whether they received the benefit."

But large fertility cost estimates often overstate how many people will use the benefit, said Sean Tipton, of the American Society for Reproductive Medicine. He also said most people with fertility problems don't need IVF. Tipton, who has advocated for benefit mandates in several states, said he expects to see fertility treatment coverage grow, especially with small employers who may need to offer it to attract and keep workers.

Any states that decide to require fertility treatment coverage should also require support for adoption, said Rosoff, a retired Duke University medical school professor. He said "fairness and justice" dictate doing so, adding that adoption promotes the social good of finding homes for children.

Many companies that have expanded fertility benefits also support adoption.

Ame Mason's employer helps with neither.

Mason said she has thought about adoption, but will stick with IVF for now - scrimping wherever they can and working overtime as much as possible to pay for it. They've found a doctor in Florida after traveling to Barbados for care that was slightly less expensive.

Plus, she and her husband are seeing improvements in their most recent IVF attempts. This makes her reluctant to stop trying.



A vial containing 2mg of fentanyl, which will kill a human if ingested into the body, is displayed at the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Special Testing and Research Laboratory in Sterling, Va., on Aug. 9, 2016. Police in Portland, Ore., say that at least eight people died from suspected drug overdoses over the weekend. The police bureau said that six of the deaths were likely fentanyl related. (AP)



Sánchez



Ribera

Discovery

Spain announces measures: The Spanish government announced 2.2 billion euros (\$2.4 billion) worth of drought response measures, including funding for urban water reuse and further aid for struggling farmers.

Currently, 27% of Spanish territory is in a drought "emergency" or "alert," Spain recorded its hottest and driest April ever last month.

"Spain is a country used to facing periods of drought," Ecological Transition Minister **Teresa Ribera** said. "But as a result of climate change, what we are witnessing is a much higher incidence ... for which we must prepare ourselves."

Ribera said 1.4 billion euros would go toward building the infrastructure to double the use of treated wastewater in urban areas and constructing new desalination plants to increase the national supply of drinking water.

More work is needed to modernize and repair Spain's water infrastructure, she added. Unattended leaks cost Spaniards 15% of their total water supply.

Meanwhile Spain's Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food promised 636 million euros of direct aid and help with insurance, loans and tax breaks for farmers, ranchers and beekeepers. Water allowances for irrigation have been cut and vegetation has dried up during the drought. Prime Minister of Spain is **Pedro Sánchez**.

Spain is Europe's leading producer and exporter of fresh fruit and vegetables. The country requested emergency funds from the European Union last month given the poor prognosis for this year's crops.

On Wednesday, the government announced plans to ban outdoor work during periods of extreme heat. (AP)

'Dogs in dining spaces': Just in time for the summer dining season, the U.S. government has given its blessing to restaurants that want to allow pet dogs in their outdoor spaces.

But even though nearly half of states already allow canine dining outdoors, the issue is far from settled, with many diners and restaurants pushing back against the

increasing presence of pooches.

"I'd like to be able to enjoy my meal without having to worry about fleas, pet hair, barking and entitled dogs and their owners," said Tracy Chiu Parisi, a food

blogger in New York, who was once startled by a dog that stuck its head in her lap while she was reading a menu.

Restaurants have been required to allow service dogs for decades. But it



This 2023 image provided by Guinness World Records shows Bobi in Conqueiros, Portugal. Guinness World Records says the world's oldest dog recently celebrated his 31st birthday. Bobi's owner says a party was held Saturday, May 13, for the purebred Rafeiro do Alentejo, a breed of Portuguese dog. (AP)

wasn't until the mid-2000's that a handful of states - including Florida and Illinois - began passing laws allowing dogs in outdoor dining spaces, according to the Animal Legal and Historical Center at Michigan State University. Twenty-three states now have such laws or regulations.

But the legal landscape is confusing. Michigan law doesn't allow dogs in outdoor dining spaces, for example, but lets restaurants apply for a variance from their county health department.

So in 2020, the Conference for Food Protection - a group of food industry and health experts that advises the government - asked the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to issue guidance for states. It cited a 2012 risk assessment in Australia and New Zealand that found that the health risk to human diners from dogs was very low.

The FDA's updated food code, issued late last year, says restaurants can have dogs in outdoor areas if they get approval from a local regulator. Restaurants should have signs saying dogs are welcome and should develop plans to handle dogs and their waste. They should ensure dogs remain properly restrained and provide separate food bowls so dogs don't use plates or utensils meant for humans. (AP)

Djokovic reaches quarters for 17th straight year

Musetti qualifies at Italian Open

ROME, May 16, (AP): Novak Djokovic's angry glare made it clear how furious the 22-time Grand Slam champion was with his opponent.

And it wasn't just because Cameron Norrie hit him in the left calf with an overhead smash after Djokovic had already turned his back and conceded a point early in the second set of the Serb's 6-3, 6-4 win on Tuesday.

There were also other instances of bad sportsmanship from Norrie, Djokovic said after reaching the Italian Open quarterfinals for the 17th straight year.

Djokovic also took issue with how his British opponent took a medical time out just before he served out the match.

"I did watch the replay when he hit me. Maybe you could say he didn't hit me deliberately," Djokovic said when asked about his angry glare toward Norrie after the incident. "It was not so much maybe about that. ... From the very beginning, he was doing all the things that were allowed. He's allowed to take a medical timeout. He's allowed to hit a player. He's allowed to say 'Come on' in the face more or less every single point from basically first game.

TENNIS

"Those are the things that we players know in the locker room it's not fair play, it's not how we treat each other," Djokovic said.

"He brought the fire, and I responded to that. I'm not going to allow someone behaving like this just bending my head. I'm going to respond to that."

Clearly motivated by Norrie's behavior, Djokovic produced his best clay-court performance of the year against the 13th-seeded Norrie, who was not made available for comment.

Aiming for his seventh title on the red clay of the Foro Italico, Djokovic had his entire game clicking after struggling at times in the previous rounds and in his previous two tournaments on clay.

On an overcast day after it had rained all morning, Djokovic appeared focused from the start.

"I actually finished my warmup 10 minutes before I went on the court. So I was rushing a bit with everything but we couldn't (warm up) earlier because of the rain," Djokovic said. "So I'm just glad to overcome today's challenge in straight sets and move on."

Djokovic was seen in the trainer's room before the match, having taken three weeks off before this tournament because of a lingering issue with his surgically repaired right elbow.

"Every day is something," the 35-year-old Djokovic



Novak Djokovic of Serbia returns the ball to Cameron Norrie of Britain at the Italian Open tennis tournament, in Rome. (AP)

said, without specifying what was bothering him. "But thankfully I was able to play and finish the match, so hopefully tomorrow it will feel a bit better."

Djokovic committed less than half as many unforced errors as Norrie, 14-29; and had two more winners, 21-19.

Norrie won a title on clay in Rio de Janeiro earlier this year, beating Carlos Alcaraz in the final.

Djokovic will lose the No. 1 ranking to Alcaraz after this tournament - even though Alcaraz was beaten by 135th-ranked Hungarian qualifier Fabian Marozsan in the third round on Monday.

Alcaraz will therefore be seeded No. 1 and Djokovic will be No. 2 at the French Open, which starts in 12 days.

Djokovic will next face seventh-seeded Holger



Lorenzo Musetti, of Italy, returns the ball to Frances Tiafoe, of the US, during their match at the Italian Open tennis tournament, in Rome. (AP)

Rune in a rematch of the Paris Masters final that the 20-year-old Dane won in November. Rune beat Australian qualifier Alexei Popyrin 6-4, 5-7, 6-4.

"He kind of reminds me a little bit, the way he plays," Djokovic said of Rune. "Really fit physically, great defense, but also great counter-puncher."

He can hurt you from both forehand and backhand side. Really solid serve. Aggressive returns. Just all-around player on all surfaces.

Rune reached the final of the Monte Carlo Masters last month. "It's going to be a very physical match," Djokovic said.

Musetti rallied past Frances Tiafoe 5-7, 6-4, 6-3 in a match that was also suspended.

US soccer officials to discuss head injuries

Four more ex-players diagnosed with CTE

Real Betis keep 'alive' CL hopes

MADRID, May 16, (AP): Real Betis defeated Rayo Vallecano 3-1 in the Spanish league to keep alive its hopes of making it to the Champions League next season.

The victory moved Manuel Pellegrini's team within seven points of fourth-placed Real Sociedad in the final Champions League place. Betis was sitting sixth, two points off fifth-placed Villarreal.

It was the second victory in a row for Betis after a run of three winless matches. Betis' next game is at Sevilla in the Sevilla derby.

Rayo, which dropped to 11th, has lost four of its last seven games.

Betis opened a 2-0 lead with goals by Youssef Sabaly in the fifth minute and Ayoze Pérez in the 44th. Santiago Comesaña pulled the visitors closer in the 52nd but Boja Iglesias sealed the victory deep into stoppage time.

Rayo hit the woodwork three times at Benito Villamar Stadium.

Barcelona clinched its 27th league title with a win at Espanyol on Sunday.

SOCCER

The Spanish league is working with Espanyol to identify those involved in the field invasion that forced Barcelona players to cut short their title celebrations and rush into the locker room.

The league said it was taking action a day after a large group of Espanyol supporters from the ultra section behind one of the goals jumped onto the field following Barcelona's 4-2 win and headed for the players who were singing and celebrating the Spanish league title.

The Espanyol and Espanyol were analyzing television images to try to identify the fans and report them to authorities.

Riot police had to stand in front of the player tunnel entrance with shields to prevent the hundreds of fans from going in. Some Barcelona players exchanged words with the fans from inside the tunnel.

The Espanyol supporters threw chairs and other objects before dispersing without any other incidents.

The club apologized but will likely face sanctions after the investigation. Espanyol is in danger of relegation, sitting second to last with four games remaining.

WASHINGTON, May 16, (AP): English soccer star Jimmy Fryatt was known for his ability to head the ball, and the proof of his prowess may be in the damage it did to his brain.

Still physically fit in his late 70s, Fryatt played tennis but couldn't keep score or remember which side of the net he was supposed to be on. He lived in Las Vegas for almost 50 years but started to get lost while riding his bicycle in the neighborhood.

"I had to put a tracker on him," his wife, Valerie, said this week. "I'd call him and say: 'Stop. I'm coming to get you.'"

A North American Soccer League champion who played 18 years in Britain, Fryatt is one of four former professional soccer players newly diagnosed with chronic traumatic encephalopathy. The Concussion Legacy Foundation announced Tuesday that English pro and Oregon State head coach Jimmy Conway, Scottish and Seattle NASL midfielder Jimmy Gabriel, and NCAA champion Franny Pantoosco also were found to have the degenerative brain disease that has been linked to concussions in athletes, combat veterans and others who have sustained repeated head trauma.

Valerie Fryatt said her husband had several diagnosed concussions, but CTE researchers believe the disease can also be caused by repeated sub-concussive blows to the head.

In soccer, that means heading the ball.

"Jimmy was a prolific header

of the ball. He was very skilled at that," Valerie Fryatt said. "A lot of players from that era said he was the best header of the ball they'd ever seen."

The new diagnoses come as soccer officials gather in Chicago for a Head Injury Summit, a conference cohosted by U.S. Soccer and the top American men's and women's pro leagues that promises "two days of presentations and panel discussions led by medical professionals, stakeholders and researchers."

But CTE researchers and families of those affected by the disease say that the agenda, the guest list - and even the name - belie a desire to only give the appearance of confronting brain injuries, part of a trend among sports leagues to downplay the long-term effects of concussions and delay measures that could prevent them.

"In rugby and hockey and, of course, still in football, we're so familiar with that," said Dr. Ann McKee, director of the Boston University CTE Center - the brain bank that has led the research into the disease that can cause memory loss, violent mood swings, depression and other cognitive difficulties.

"I'm sorry. I'm very, have a jaded point of view about these summits," she said. "I think they're largely a PR stunt production to make people think that they're taking the injury and the condition seriously. But they're so shallow in the representation ... that the outcome is a foregone conclusion."

A U.S. Soccer spokesman listed as the media contact on a summit

release did not immediately respond to a request for comment. A Major League Soccer spokeswoman forwarded an agenda, which lists panels conducted by, among others, scientists, soccer officials and unnamed current and former players.

But no researchers from the BU CTE Center were invited to speak at the summit, even though McKee and Robert Cantu are two of the most-published, most prolific - and most outspoken - in the field. (U.S. Soccer Federation President Cindy Parlow Cone is among those who have pledged their brains to BU for research.)

"What happens with these large sports groups is they often invite a roster filled with people who minimize the long-term effects," McKee said. "And they come away saying: 'Here, we have held a summit. We looked at the evidence. It's not very strong, and the scientists are undecided.' And so it's sort of fait accompli that they don't have to do anything about it."

Even the title was a problem for Concussion Legacy Foundation co-founder Chris Nowinski, a former Harvard football player-turned-professional wrestler-turned Ph.D. who has been a leader in educating professional and amateur athletes about the dangers of concussions.

"Head injury" is what you say when you don't take it seriously," Nowinski said. "To call it 'head injury' when you're actually talking about 'brain injury' is a tactic the NFL used to use."

BU researchers have diagnosed more than 100 football players

with CTE; it also has been found in boxers and members of the military. Cases among soccer players - at least in the United States - have been less common, but researchers expect the numbers to increase now that those who began playing the growing sport as children are reaching old age.

Last year, Scott Vermillion was the first former MLS soccer player to be diagnosed with CTE. His father, David Vermillion, said he would have made it his "first priority" to attend the summit if he had been invited.

Instead, he is going on a family vacation.

"They're not going to have people there that have dealt with it firsthand," Vermillion said. "Folks like that have all this knowledge, that can have input into trying to make things safer for the athletes, aren't going to be there."

Nowinski said he offered to connect summit organizers with families of those who died with CTE but was ghosted.

"It's not good for business, I assume," said Bruce Murray, a former U.S. national team member who has gone public with his cognitive difficulties.

"They need to hear the ugly side of it, too. I had an ugly side, and Scott Vermillion died very ugly," Murray said. "He was pretty normal and then he went upside down. I don't know if I'm going to go upside down again. There's no doubt that something's going on."

CTE can only be diagnosed posthumously. Fryatt and Conway both died in 2020. Conway revealed 10 years before his death that he'd been diagnosed with dementia. Gabriel's family reported cognitive difficulties and depression for the last dozen years of his life before he died in 2021. Pantoosco also died in 2021.

All four had the most severe stage of the disease, McKee said.

McKee said the families of CTE victims are often the best source of information on how to recognize brain injuries, which can take years to develop and cause problematic behavior like alcohol abuse or violent mood swings that can destroy families uneducated to the underlying cause.

"These are human beings. These are the people that played the game, that made the owners rich, that caused the fans that have all the enjoyment, who are really responsible for the popularity of soccer today," McKee said. "And yet when they get into trouble, when they start to develop problematic behaviors, when their families start suffering, when they start suffering, no one pays any attention, including these summits."



Barcelona men's team players celebrate from a bus during a parade to celebrate winning La Liga in Barcelona, Spain. (AP)

REQUIRED
FOR A MANUFACTURING CO :
QUALITY CONTROL CHEMIST

- Minimum (3) Years Experience
- English Literate

Contact No. **24710120**

Or Send C.V to:
Email : **sales@gtpaints.com**

Moving Soon?

Get your move where you want with stress-free.

Services Offered:

- Free Estimates
- Full-service Packing
- Comprehensive Insurance
- Door to Door Shipping
- Customs Clearance
- Storage
- Pet Moving

Contact :

• Nisha : 90079810 • Sreesha : 98571513

GLOBAL FREIGHT SYSTEMS COMPANY W.L.L.
fast and reliable movers

FOR RENT

COLD STORES

24/7 SERVICE

Available Facilities: Pallets, Loading
and Offloading, Forklift

ARDIYA Industrial Area (Stores)

For Inquiries: **66798402**

Archer out of Ashes series for England

Gill's first IPL century confirms top-two playoffs spot for Gujarat

AHMEDABAD, India, May 16, (AP) Shubman Gill's first Indian Premier League century led Gujarat Titans to a 34-run win over Sunrisers Hyderabad on Monday.

Defending champion Gujarat confirmed a playoff spot and was assured of a top-two finish after the regular season. Top two offers a shorter route to the final. Meanwhile, Hyderabad was knocked out of the playoffs race.

Seven teams, separated by three points, were vying for three playoff berths.

Gill's 101 runs off 58 balls spearheaded Gujarat to 188-9. Hyderabad could muster only 154-9 as Gujarat fast bowlers Mohammed Shami and Mohit Sharma shared eight wickets.

Bhuvneshwar Kumar earned a second five-wicket haul in his IPL career, but his 5-30 wasn't enough to rescue the Sunrisers.

Kumar started in fine fashion by dismissing Wriddhiman Saha in the

first over. Gill arrived and stayed until the last over. He Sai Sudharsan, back in the side after a long gap, combined for 147 off 84 balls.

Gill, coming off an unbeaten 94 against Lucknow Super Giants two games ago, reached 50 off 22 balls with nine fours.

Sudharsan scored 47 off 36, falling to Marco Jansen in the 15th over. No other Gujarat batsman reached double digits as Gill anchored one end.

CRICKET

Gill scored 51 off the next 36 balls faced, hitting another four fours and a six as he rallied Gujarat to a par score.

Kumar returned to claim three wickets in the final over. Gill was out off the first ball, Rashid Khan for a duck off the next, and Noor Ahmad run out off the third ball.

Kumar missed the hat trick but dismissed Shami for a four-wicket over.

In reply, Hyderabad was down to 12-3 in 2.1 overs. Shami tore through the top order, including skipper Aiden Markram for 10, and the Sharma the tail.

Heinrich Klaasen delayed the inevitable with his second half-century of the season, a 44-ball 64.

But Shami finished with 4-20, including Klaasen, and Sharma got 3-28.

England fast bowler Jofra Archer was ruled out of the upcoming Ashes series against Australia on Tuesday because of ongoing problems with his right elbow that have limited his playing time since 2021.

Archer will miss the entire summer of international cricket, England said, after scans revealed he has sustained a recurrence of a

stress fracture to his elbow.

The 28-year-old Barbados-born pacer underwent two operations on his elbow in 2021 and was forced to cut short his time in this season's Indian Premier League after experiencing discomfort in the same area.

"It has been a frustrating and upsetting period for Jofra Archer," England managing director Robert Key said. "He was making good progress until a recurrence of the elbow injury, which kept him out for an extended period previously."

"We wish him the best of luck with his recovery. I'm sure we will see Jofra back to his best and winning games for England, whatever the format. Hopefully, sooner rather than later."

The Ashes starts on June 16 with the first of five tests. England will warm up for the series with a one-off test against Ireland at Lord's from June 1.



Gujarat Titans' Shubman Gill plays a shot during the Indian Premier League cricket match between Gujarat Titans and Sunrisers Hyderabad in Ahmedabad, India. (AP)

'Suspects have contacts in Greece and Lithuania'

Brazil's match-fixing scandal has international reach: investigator

SAO PAULO, May 16, (AP) The lead investigator of Brazil's sprawling match-fixing scandal said he has uncovered potential evidence of wrongdoing by players in other countries, and he hopes foreign authorities will use his team's findings to start probes of their own.

Goias state District Attorney Fernando Cesconetto said in interviews with The Associated Press between Saturday and Monday that the case of Colorado Rapids midfielder Max Alves, who was reportedly named in the probe, could be prosecuted in the United States.

"There are some conversations regarding contacts of bettors from here with athletes abroad. And in its due moment that will be shared (with foreign authorities)," Cesconetto told. "(Alves') own club preemptively suspended the athlete after news reports from here. Sharing our investigation so it can be investigated there is the natural path."

O Globo reported last week that Alves, who is Brazilian, had been named in the probe. The Rapids of Major League Soccer confirmed in a statement that a player suspended in connection with the case is a member of their squad, but did not identify him. Alves has not commented publicly.

The investigation began in November, focusing on three matches, and has widened to 11 games, though some were in lower

leagues. The matches spanned the second half of 2022 and the first three months of this year, the district attorney said.

Investigators said players were offered between \$10,000 and \$20,000 to perform specific actions, like receiving yellow cards and giving out penalty kicks. Alleged criminals would profit on betting sites.

Local media reported that suspected criminals mentioned having contacts in Greece and Lithuania, which Cesconetto did not confirm.

SOCCER



Alves

"There's still a lot of material to be looked into," he said. "We are more focused on what happened here in Brazil."

Some of the cooperation with foreign authorities could also come via Brazil's federal police. Justice Minister Flavio Dino said on Wednesday that he will launch a national investigation into match-fixing. The country's congress is also expected to start its own probe this week.

The Brazilian soccer confederation (CBF) said in a statement it had asked the government to investigate so it can "centralize all the information about the cases under investigation."

A series of videos aired by TV Globo on Sunday showed suspects celebrating when players allegedly involved in the scheme were booked or committed penalties in Serie A, Serie B or state championship matches.

Another video showed a man holding a pistol and suggesting he could shoot Santos defender Eduardo Bauermann because the player had allegedly failed to deliver.

Ohtani 1st pitcher since '64 to reach base five times; Angels beat Orioles



Los Angeles Angels starting pitcher Shohei Ohtani throws during the sixth inning of a baseball game against the Baltimore Orioles in Baltimore. (AP)

Padres snap four-game skid

BALTIMORE, May 16, (AP) Shohei Ohtani became the first starting pitcher since 1964 to reach base five times in a game as the Los Angeles Angels beat the Baltimore Orioles 9-5 Monday night.

Ohtani (5-1) had four hits and a walk to make up for his shaky pitching outing in which he allowed five runs in seven innings. He hit a 456-foot, three-run homer and finished a double shy of the cycle on a night the Orioles tagged him for three home runs.

The last person to reach base five times in a game he started on the mound was Mel Stottlemyre of the New York Yankees, on Sept. 26, 1964, against Washington.

Chad Wallach added a solo homer for the Angels.

BASEBALL

Dodgers 9, Twins 8, 12 innings

In Los Angeles, Chris Taylor scored on a bases-loaded walk in the 12th inning. Max Muncy homered twice to move back into the major league lead, and Los Angeles won its sixth straight.

Trayce Thompson drew a walk on a full count with the bases loaded count off Jorge López (1-1) to give Los Angeles the victory.

Will Smith also went deep as the Dodgers led 6-3 thru seven innings before the game saw three ties and three lead changes in the final five innings.

Minnesota's Trevor Larnach hit a game-tying home run in the eighth inning. Jorge Polanco had three hits, including a solo shot. Christian Vázquez also had three hits for the AL Central-leading Twins, who have dropped 11 straight to the Dodgers.

Yankees 7, Blue Jays 4

In Toronto, Aaron Judge homered twice, including a 462-foot drive over the center field batter's eye three pitches after manager Aaron Boone was ejected for arguing a called strike to the slugger, and New York beat Toronto.

Judge hit a pair of solo homers, putting the Yankees ahead in the first inning with an opposite-field shot to right against Alek Manoah (1-4) and extending New York's

lead to seven in the eighth. Judge had three RBIs and reached base five times.

Willie Calhoun hit a two-run homer in the first, and Anthony Rizzo and Kyle Higashioka each drove in a run as New York won for the sixth time in eight games. Rookie Jhony Brito (3-3) earned the win.

Padres 4, Royals 0

In San Diego, Michael Wacha took a no-hitter into the eighth inning before allowing Michael Massey's leadoff single and struck out a career-high 11 as San Diego snapped a four-game skid with a win over Kansas City.

Massey's hit to right field came on Wacha's 103rd pitch and the right-hander was immediately lifted from the game. Nick Martinez came on and retired the side and then finished the combined two-hitter.

Wacha (4-1) walked one and had a perfect game going before hitting Edward Olivares with a pitch with one out in the fifth. He walked Bobby Witt Jr. with two outs in the sixth.

Mariners 10, Red Sox 1

In Boston, Cal Raleigh became the first catcher to homer from both sides of the plate at Fenway Park, and George Kirby pitched Seattle past Boston.

Raleigh hit a pair of long two-run homers and Eugenio Suárez added a two-run shot of his own. Ty France had two doubles to extend his hitting streak to 12 games for Seattle, which has won 10 of 14.

Kirby (5-2) scattered eight hits over 6 2/3 innings of one-run ball. He struck out six and walked one.

Cardinals 18, Brewers 1

In St. Louis, Nolan Arenado homered in his fourth straight game

and Nolan Gorman had a career-high five RBIs to lead St. Louis over Milwaukee for its season-best fourth straight win.

Andrew Knizner hit his first career grand slam in a 10-run eighth after entering as a pinch runner earlier in the inning, which began with Tommy Edman homering. The Cardinals tied their season high with 16 hits and have won seven of their last eight.

Nationals 10, Mets 3

In Washington, Joey Meneses had four hits and drove in four runs, CJ Abrams homered and Washington beat New York to split a four-game series.

New York has lost nine of its last 13 and dropped 15 of 21 since its 14-7 start. The Mets are 0-5-2 in their last seven series and have not won consecutive games since taking three in a row from April 19-21.

Patrick Corbin (2-5) earned his first home victory since last Aug. 28, surrendering two runs and eight hits over six innings.

Braves 12, Rangers 0

In Arlington, Kevin Pillar and Ronald Acuña Jr. each hit a two-run homer in the second inning, spoiling Cody Bradford's big league debut, as Atlanta routed Texas in an interleague matchup of division leaders.

Orlando Arcia, Austin Riley and Marcell Ozuna also hit two-run shots for the Braves, who hold the top spot in the NL East. Charlie Morton (5-3) struck out a season-high 10 and limited the Rangers to seven singles and one walk in 6 2/3 innings to win consecutive starts for the first time this season.

Astros 6, Cubs 4

In Houston, Alex Bregman hit a

tiebreaking two-run homer in the seventh inning, helping Houston over Chicago.

Houston led 4-0 after the first inning, but Christopher Morel slugged a three-run homer as the Cubs tied it by scoring four in the fourth.

It was still knotted at 4-4 when Mauricio Dubón singled and Bregman launched his homer off Michael Fulmer (0-3).

Dubón had three hits, José Abreu drove in two runs and Yordan Alvarez extended his career-best hitting streak to 12 games for the Astros, who have won five of six. Rafael Montero (1-3) pitched a scoreless seventh and Héctor Neris got his second save.

Rockies 9, Reds 8

In Denver, Rookie Brenton Doyle had his first multihomer game and Harold Castro had a tiebreaking, two-run double with two outs in the seventh inning that lifted Colorado over Cincinnati for the Rockies' 10th win in 14 games.

With the score 6-6, Ryan McMahon singled off Ben Lively (1-1) leading off the seventh. Luke Sims relieved with one out and walked Randal Grichuk with two outs. Castro doubled off the base of the right-field wall, giving him three hits and three RBIs, and putting the Rockies ahead 8-6.

Wil Myers' sacrifice fly in the eighth cut the gap, and Doyle homered off Buck Farmer in the bottom half.

Giants 6, Phillies 3

In San Francisco, Michael Conforto hit his fourth homer in the last six games as part of a six-run second inning and San Francisco beat Philadelphia to end a three-game skid.

Conforto's team-leading eighth home run came with two aboard and the Giants trailing 2-1. Wilmer Flores, Mitch Haniger and Brandon Crawford also produced runs in the inning, which matched the Giants' biggest of the season.

Scott Alexander (3-0) won in relief. Camilo Doval completed a four-out save, his ninth in 10 opportunities.

Diamondbacks 5, Athletics 2

In Oakland, Geraldo Perdomo hit a two-run homer in the second inning and Lourdes Gurriel Jr. added a two-run shot in the third to back Merrill Kelly's third straight winning decision in Arizona's win over Oakland.

The A's drew an announced crowd of 2,064, their smallest for a home game fans were allowed to attend since drawing 1,037 against Texas on Sept. 19, 1979.



Houston Astros' Alex Bregman hits a two-run home run against the Chicago Cubs during the seventh inning of a baseball game in Houston. (AP)

MLB Results/Standings

WASHINGTON, May 16, (AP) Results and standings from the MLB games on Monday.

LA Angels	9	Baltimore	5	LA Dodgers	9	Minnesota	12 inn	8
NY Yankees	7	Toronto	4	Washington	10	NY Mets		3
Seattle	10	Boston	1	St Louis	18	Milwaukee		1
Atlanta	12	Texas	0	Houston	6	Chicago Cubs		4
Houston	6	Chicago Cubs	4	Colorado	9	Cincinnati		8
Arizona	5	Oakland	2	San Francisco	6	Philadelphia		3
San Diego	4	Kansas City	0					

American League				National League					
East Division				East Division					
W	L	Pct	GB	W	L	Pct	GB		
Tampa Bay	31	11	.738	Atlanta	26	15	.634	—	
Baltimore	26	15	.634	4-1/2	Miami	20	21	.488	6
Toronto	24	17	.585	6-1/2	Philadelphia	20	21	.488	6
New York	24	19	.558	7-1/2	New York	20	22	.476	6-1/2
Boston	22	20	.524	9	Washington	18	23	.439	8
Central Division				Central Division					
W	L	Pct	GB	W	L	Pct	GB		
Minnesota	23	19	.548	Milwaukee	23	18	.561	—	
Cleveland	19	21	.475	3	Pittsburgh	22	19	.537	1
Detroit	18	21	.462	3-1/2	Chicago	19	22	.463	4
Chicago	14	28	.333	9	Cincinnati	18	23	.439	5
Kansas City	12	31	.279	11-1/2	St Louis	17	25	.405	6-1/2
West Division				West Division					
W	L	Pct	GB	W	L	Pct	GB		
Texas	25	16	.610	—	Los Angeles	27	15	.643	—
Houston	22	19	.537	3	Arizona	24	18	.571	3
Los Angeles	22	20	.524	3-1/2	San Diego	20	22	.476	7
Seattle	21	20	.512	4	San Francisco	18	23	.439	8-1/2
Oakland	9	34	.209	17	Colorado	18	24	.429	9

ARAB TIMES
Kuwait's No.1 English Newspaper

For Subscriptions and Complaints

Please Call
51526559





Sampdoria's Filip Djuricic, (left), and Empoli's Sebastiano Luperto, (right), challenge for the ball during the Serie A soccer match between Sampdoria and FC Empoli in Genoa, Italy. The match ended 1-1. (AP)

Sports

Latest sports scores at — <http://sports.arabtimesonline.com>

Stars set up showdown with Golden Knights

DeBoer 7-0 as coach in Game 7s

DALLAS, May 16, (AP) — Wyatt Johnston is no longer a teenager, not that he's played like one at all during his rookie season with a Dallas Stars team that is headed to the Western Conference final.

A day after his 20th birthday, Johnston scored a crucial goal for the Stars off a hard ricochet in their 2-1 victory over the Seattle Kraken in Game 7 in the second-round series Monday night.

"It's a world-class play by one of the youngest players in the league," Stars coach Pete DeBoer said. "He's been fantastic all year. He's a big part of our group. It feels like the deeper we get, the more we rely on him, the more responsibility he wants."

Roope Hintz also scored for the Stars and 24-year-old goalie Jake Oettinger had 22 saves while again bouncing back after a loss.



Dallas Stars center Wyatt Johnston (53) celebrates after scoring against the Seattle Kraken as Seattle Kraken's Will Borgen (3) skates past in the third period of Game 7 of an NHL hockey Stanley Cup second-round playoff series in Dallas. (AP)

Dallas moves on to play first-year Stars coach DeBoer's former team, the Vegas Golden Knights. Game 1 of the West final is Friday night in Las Vegas.

DeBoer improved to 7-0 in Game 7s, this being the fourth different team he led to a win in the finale of a best-of-seven series that went the distance. Darryl Sutter and Scott Bowman are the only other coaches to do that.

It was the fourth time in five seasons the Stars got a Game 7 - the others were all away from home. They hadn't won a Game 7 at home since 2000, when they made the Stanley Cup Final for the season in a row, a year after their only title.

In the only other Game 7 they hosted at American Airlines Center, the Stars lost 6-1 to St. Louis in a second-round series in 2016.

ICE HOCKEY

Johnston made it 2-0 with 7:12 left, when he gathered a puck that ricocheted off the back boards to the left of the Seattle net. The kid who has played in every game this season, and is living with veteran Joe Pavelksi's family, then sent a shot that went off the shoulder and mask of goalie Phillip Grubauer before going into the net.

Grubauer stopped 26 shots, two weeks after his 33 saves when Seattle won at Colorado 2-1 in another Game 7 to knock out last year's Stanley Cup champion.

Hintz's ninth goal of the playoffs was credited as an unassisted tally and came with 4:01 left in the second period, the deepest in this series any game got before a score.

Oliver Bjorkstrand scored with 17.6 seconds left, preventing the second shutout this postseason season for Oettinger. Bjorkstrand had the both goals against the Avalanche in that Game 7 last month.

This series finale came exactly one year after Oettinger's 64-save performance in another Game 7 - a



Dallas Stars center Luke Glendening (11) takes a shot at the net after gaining control of a loose puck between Seattle Kraken's Jaden Schwartz (17) and Jared McCann (19) in the first period of Game 7 of an NHL hockey Stanley Cup second-round playoff series in Dallas. (AP)

3-2 loss at Calgary after Johnny Gaudreau's OT goal ended the first-round series.

Oettinger improved to 5-0 after losses this postseason. He allowed four goals on 18 shots during Game 6 in Seattle on Saturday, when he was pulled 4 1/2 minutes into the second period.

"Yeah, that's playoff hockey. I don't think had my best series of my career, but it shows how good of a team we are," Oettinger said. "It's ups and downs and, you know, you think might be out of it, and the next thing you know you're going to the conference final."

Dallas and Las Vegas will meet in the Western Conference final for the second time in four seasons. The Stars beat the DeBoer-coached Golden Knights in five games in 2020, the postseason that was played in the NHL's bubble in Toronto and Edmonton during the pandemic.

The second-year Kraken had forced Game 7 with a 6-3 win at home on Saturday.

"We pushed as hard as we could push tonight. We couldn't find our top gear," Seattle coach Dave Hakstol said. "Give Dallas a lot of credit in that regard. To a certain degree,

they answered the game that we played in Game 6. They came home into their home building and put us under pressure."

Adam Larsson had four of Seattle's 13 blocked shots in the first period, two in quick succession before Dallas had its only power play. After blocking Evgenii Dadonov's shot, Larsson knocked away Jamie Benn's attempt on a rebound before the Stars captain was cross-checked by Eeli Tolvanen in front of the net.

Seattle then had seven blocked shots during the power play, not al-

lowing the Stars to get a shot on goal even while they pretty much kept the puck in their offensive zone that entire time.

The Kraken had only eight more blocked shots the rest of the game.

Dallas had the only shot, a short-hander try by Hintz, when the Kraken had its only man-advantage after Benn was called for a high stick later in the first period.

Stars defenseman Miro Heiskanen got a puck past Grubauer only 3 1/2 minutes into the game, but it ricocheted off the crossbar and went out of play behind the net.

Thomas stays in lead

Cort wins Giro 10th stage in a miserable conditions

VIAREGGIO, Italy, May 16, (AP) — Magnus Cort won a wet and cold 10th stage of the Giro d'Italia on Tuesday and Geraint Thomas kept hold of the pink jersey.

Thomas, who rides for Ineos Grenadiers, moved into the lead on Sunday after pre-race favorite Remco Evenepoel had to withdraw after testing positive for the coronavirus. Evenepoel had a 45-second advantage over Thomas.

Other riders have also had to abandon after returning positive tests for COVID-19, including Domenico Pozzovivo and Rigoberto Urán. Thomas maintained his two-second lead over Primož Roglič after they both finished safely in the peloton, in terrible conditions, 51 seconds behind Cort.

Tao Geoghegan Hart was third overall, five seconds behind his teammate Thomas.

CYCLING

Cort edged Derek Gee and Alessandro De Marchi at the end of the rolling 196-kilometer route through the Tuscan Apennines from Scandiano to Viareggio on the Mediterranean coast. All three were part of a breakaway.

The victory completed a Grand Tour set for Cort, who won six stages in the Spanish Vuelta and two in the Tour de France.

The near miss was particularly painful for De Marchi, who is still seeking his first stage victory in his home Grand Tour in his seventh Giro.

There were miserable conditions from the start of the stage, with rain and freezing temperatures.

76ers fire Rivers after 3 seasons

PHILADELPHIA, May 16, (AP) — The Philadelphia 76ers fired coach Doc Rivers on Tuesday following a third straight exit in the second round of the playoffs, a person with direct knowledge of the decision told The Associated Press.

The person spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity because the team had not announced the move.

Rivers led the 76ers to their second



Denmark's Magnus Court Nielsen celebrates winning the 10th stage of the Giro D'Italia, tour of Italy cycling race, from Scandiano to Viareggio, Italy. (AP)

It was even discussed whether to amend the route over the top of the day's main climb, the second-category Passo delle Radici. Team buses followed the riders for a while in case they were needed to transport them if conditions worsened, before it was eventually decided to race the stage as normal.

However, race organizers announced that Friday's Stage 13 to the summit finish at Crans-Montana would be shortened with the top-category climb of the Passo del Gran San Bernardo cut due to snowfall and risk of avalanches.

Wednesday's 11th stage is a 219-kilometer (136-mile) route from Camaiore to Tortona, with three lower-classification climbs.

straight 50-win season behind NBA MVP Joel Embiid but again failed to lead them to the Eastern Conference Finals.

The 76ers held a 3-2 semifinals series lead against Boston before dropping Game 6 at home and were crushed in Game 7 on the road.

Rivers fell to 6-10 in Game 7s. The 10 defeats are five more than any other NBA coach.

Liverpool push Leicester toward relegation

LEICESTER, England, May 16, (AP) — Liverpool plunged Leicester toward relegation and kept alive its own chances of finishing in the top four of the English Premier League with a 3-0 win.

Curtis Jones was the unlikely scorer of the first two goals before Trent Alexander-Arnold whipped an indirect free kick into the top corner to wrap up a mismatch at King Power Stadium between teams heading in opposite directions.

For Liverpool, a seventh straight victory in an impressive end-of-season rally secured at least a spot in the Europa League and moved the fifth-placed team a point behind both Newcastle and Manchester United in the race for the final two Champions League qualification positions, behind Manchester City and Arsenal.

Liverpool has two games left - against Aston Villa at home and already-relegated Southampton away - while Newcastle and Man United have three to play.

"I don't think it's likely but if they slip, we have to be there," Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp said. "Will they slip? I don't know. Will we win both games? I don't know."

For Leicester, morale could hardly be lower with its top-flight status seriously under threat just seven years after winning the league in one of the great underdog stories in the history of sports.

The Foxes are in next-to-last place and two points from safety with two games remaining. They are at third-placed Newcastle, for one of the most daunting away games in the league, and at home to West Ham.

Leicester has won just one of its last 14 league games and has conceded eight goals in its last two, after the 5-3 loss at Fulham last week.

Jones is an academy product enjoying a fine end to an injury-hit season. The 22-year-old midfielder had scored only once this season before running onto Mohamed Salah's right-wing cross to the far post and neatly side-footing home a finish in the 33rd.

The groans from the home fans inside the stadium were already au-

dible and they increased three minutes later when Salah again picked out Jones, who controlled the ball in a central position at the edge of the area, spun and smashed a dipping effort into the far corner.

Salah completed a hat trick of assists when he tapped a free kick backward with the sole of his foot to give Alexander-Arnold a clearer view on goal to curl a shot high and beyond goalkeeper Daniel Iversen into the corner in the 71st.

"It is a group of really good footballers," Leicester interim manager Dean Smith said, "but we came up against a team that overran us physically today. It's pretty simple."

Alexander-Arnold has also come

into his own in the final section of the season after being deployed in a hybrid defender-midfielder role, a tactical switch that helps to cover his defensive fallibilities and pushes other midfielders - like Jones - further forward. It has benefitted both players.

SOCCER

Since the positional tweak, Alexander-Arnold has picked up six assists along with his goal against Leicester.

Liverpool's return to form might have come too late to qualify for the Champions League, but it at least

signals that Klopp's team could return to being a title contender next season.

Klopp's repeated fist pumps in front of Liverpool fans after the match was a sign for them to maybe keep the faith, with Newcastle and Man United perhaps needing two wins from their final three games.

Newcastle has the tougher finish, at home to Brighton and away to Chelsea either side of a home match against Leicester, which - with a win - could yet condemn the Foxes to relegation.

Leicester might have to win both of its remaining games, but looks like a beaten group of players.

"We know what we need to do now," Smith said.



Liverpool's Andrew Robertson (right), and Leicester City's James Maddison in action during the English Premier League soccer match at the King Power Stadium, Leicester, England. (AP)