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soccer

Iran unveils latest ballistic missile



In this picture released by the Iranian Defense Ministry on Thursday, May 25, 2023, Khorramshahr-4 missile is launched at an undisclosed location, Iran. (AP)

Opinion

O Finance Minister ... 'Knowledge has also come to you'

By **Ahmed Al-Jarallah**

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

UNDOUBTEDLY, the Minister of Finance is well aware of the suffering of a large segment of Kuwaitis because of loans, especially those in debt, as they live the worst kind of life in terms of either being imprisoned, or being issued travel bans and "seizure and habeas corpus" procedures, or the suspension of their transactions in state departments.

Unfortunately, this issue is still unresolved. This is because there are some who do not want to solve it either because of the interest obtained from it, or because of jealousy, something that makes an entry into any matter only to make it more complicated.

These people are the ones who have been misinforming the leadership, the executive authority, and the Minister of Finance, as if they present a reading that the loans exceed KD 14 billion, or they confuse personal loans that were taken because of an urgent need, with bank loans, and add to them the debts of the defunct Al-Manakh Stock Market, which are still calculated in the budgets as losses and recorded as a deficit.

In fact, for a long time, easy solutions were available to successive finance ministers, but they turned a blind eye to them. It was either because they serve the money "mafias", or because they were involved in irregularities and corruption, and wanted to cover up the matter by pushing to reject any solution in order to show that their handling of this issue is on the right path. They thus offer contradictory advice to the leadership, even though the truth is that the amount required to solve this issue does not exceed KD 1.9 billion.

A few days ago, the Minister of Social Affairs issued a decision requiring cooperative societies to spend 50 percent of their Zakat (charity) amount for Kuwaiti debtors.

However, it stipulated the approval of the general assembly of the cooperative society. Of course the cooperative society will have its opinion, and it is mainly linked to the interests of parliamentarians and money "mafias", so the matter is like closing the circle on those in debt.

His Excellency the Minister, in your capacity as the one responsible for the state's finances, with your extensive authority in this regard, you can issue decisions related to the imposition on charitable funds and the collection of donations.

You can also propose a law to disburse the amount from public money and those funds, especially those who issued dud cheques to borrow but were in difficulty and against whom lawsuits were filed, and those with small debts that do not exceed KD 20,000.

As for the rest, you can reschedule it over a period of ten to twenty years, or stop the physical coercion of the debtors, especially with regard to those who are wanted for usurious interest. You know very well that this matter is prohibited by law and Sharia. Its mere practice leads the creditor who takes interest of this kind to prison.

In addition, the constitution prohibits any party or authority from restricting a citizen's freedom except in criminal cases, forgery, embezzlement, and theft, and not specifically civil and financial disputes. Therefore, preventing a citizen from practicing his daily life and striving to secure his livelihood would mean one thing, which is that he would violate the law in order to live, even if illegally. Is that what you really want?

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Other Voices

GCC countries can stabilize their currency and chart their course

By **Khalaf Ahmad Al Habtoor**
UAE businessman

In today's interdependent global economy, the strength of financial currencies and unilateral decisions made by some countries has a significant impact on the entire world. The dominance of the US dollar in the exchange market often jeopardizes other countries. I wonder, has the time not come to establish independent monetary policies?

Most of the time, our economies are closely linked, in a negative way, to a country that charts the economic and financial path of the whole world based on its own interests and unilateral decisions. This dependency is harmful because of the Federal Reserve's policies and how it deals with crises. The world's countries are forced to catch up with the Federal Reserve and follow the same monetary policy with prior knowledge of the damage that may affect their economies, especially recently after inflation rates rose to around five per cent in the USA. The US Central Bank raised interest rates ten times in 14 months to reach their highest levels in around 20 years, according to BBC.

On the other hand, the GCC states have proven their supremacy and economic and political sway at the global level, in addition to their strategic position as a geographic focal point. These countries are major players in the economic and political fields on the global scene, whether through oil trade that rules over the global market or the non-oil trade exchanges that have exceeded, for example, AED 281 billion between the UAE and the group of Gulf states in 2022, with an increase of 14 per cent compared to 2021, according to UAE newspaper Al Bayan.

Based on these facts, it is high time for the GCC countries to fully assume the helm, namely at the economic level, by establishing a common currency for the Gulf countries. The Egyptian Arab Republic and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan can be invited to join. Such a step would reduce dependency and ensure more independence in shaping monetary policies, in addition to enhancing economic stability and consolidating regional integration. It will also consolidate the position of the UAE and Saudi Arabia as global leaders, thanks to their infrastructure with solid economic, social, and political foundations.

It should be noted that such a model is not a product of imagination; there are successful examples, such as the BRICS Alliance (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa), that seek to establish their own currency to shield the member states from the fluctuations and influence of the American dollar and gain more control over their economies and monetary policies. As Alexander Babkov put it, the unified BRICS currency will be developed strategically and will not be pegged to the USD or Euro—the BRICS plan to back their currency with gold and rare metals.

In Europe, the Euro emerged as a solid and successful alternative to get rid of the dollar's dominance. The Eurozone (comprised of 19 member states of the European Union) has adopted the Euro as a common currency. The Euro gave these countries greater autonomy and enhanced domestic control over economic factors. Despite occasional economic challenges and disparities within the Eurozone, the Euro stands as a viable alternative to the dollar, offering the potential for successfully breaking free from dollar hegemony.

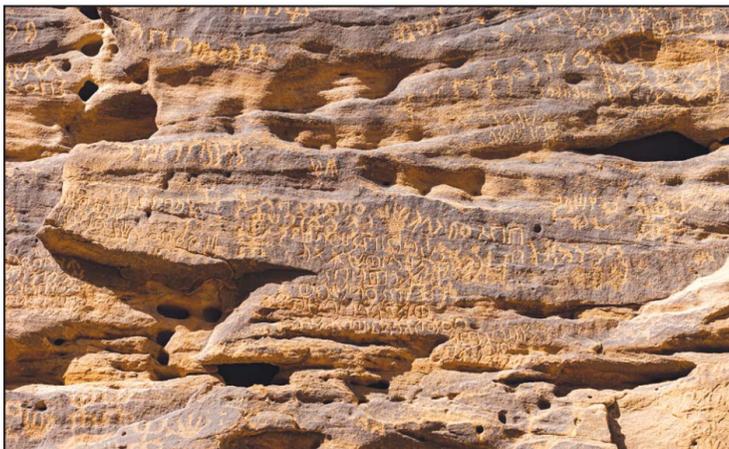
The experience of economic interdependence among GCC states is one of the most critical and realistic models in the global order so far. We must strive to free ourselves from the shackles and fluctuations of the dollar. We shall have the

of the dollar's dominance. The Eurozone (comprised of 19 member states of the European Union) has adopted the Euro as a common currency. The Euro gave these countries greater autonomy and enhanced domestic control over economic factors. Despite occasional economic challenges and disparities within the Eurozone, the Euro stands as a viable alternative to the dollar, offering the potential for successfully breaking free from dollar hegemony.

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Al Habtoor



AlUla Jabal Ikmah

AlUla's Jabal Ikmah recognized

The Royal Commission for AlUla (RCU)'s efforts to conserve the region's documentary heritage have been acknowledged with the listing of Jabal Ikmah on UNESCO's Memory of the World Register.

The spectacular mountain and its sandstone canyons feature more than 300 historically significant carved inscriptions, most of which date from the second half of the first millennium BCE. The site features the largest collection of inscriptions recording the ancient Dadanite Kingdom's religious rituals, daily activities, and relations with neighboring peoples.

As part of its role in delivering Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030, RCU is heavily investing in the study and conservation of sites such as

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'Able to evade radar detection'

TEHRAN, May 25, (AP): Iran unveiled on Thursday what it called the latest iteration of its liquid-fueled Khorramshahr ballistic missile amid wider tensions with the West over its nuclear program.

Authorities showed off the Khorramshahr-4 to journalists at an event in Tehran, with the missile on a truck-mounted launcher.

Defense Minister Gen. Mohammad Reza Ashtiani said the missile could be prepared for launch in a short period.

"One of the prominent characteristics of this missile is its ability to evade radar detection and penetrate enemy air defense systems, thanks to its low radar signature," the general told journalists. "This missile has the capability to utilize various warheads for different missions."

Iranian officials described the missile as having a 2,000-kilometer (1,240-mile) range with a 1,500-kilogram (3,300-pound) warhead. They also released undated video footage purportedly showing a successful launch of the missile.

The Khorramshahr has the heaviest payload of Iran's ballistic missile fleet, which analysts say may be designed to keep the weapon under a 2,000-kilometer range limit imposed by the country's supreme leader. That puts most of the Mideast in range, but falls short of Western Europe.

The Khorramshahr-4 is named after an Iranian city that was the scene of heavy fighting during the Iran-Iraq War in the 1980s. Iraq seized the city in the oil-rich southwestern province of Khuzestan at the start of the war, but Iran retook it over a year later.

During the event, loudspeakers blared the "Symphony of the Epic of Khorramshahr," an orchestral composition marking Iranian soldiers ending the Iraqi siege of the city during the war.

Conflict

Teheran created its ballistic missile program after suffering through Iraqi Scud missile attacks in the conflict - and as a hedge against its Western-armed neighbors as embargoes have kept it from accessing modern attack aircraft.

The missile also is called Kheibar, after a Jewish fortress conquered by the Muslims in the 7th century - in what is now Saudi Arabia.

Regional tensions likely played a role in Iran's missile display Thursday. A miniature example of Jerusalem's golden Dome of the Rock on the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound, a holy site in both Islam and Judaism that Jews call the Temple Mount, stood next to the mobile launcher.

Iran views Israel as its arch-enemy and arming anti-Israeli militant groups in the Palestinian territories and surrounding countries. Tensions between the two nations are high, particularly as Iran enriches uranium closer than ever to weapons-grade levels. The Khorramshahr would be able to reach Israel.

Iran made a point, however, to keep the truck that transports the missile covered up during the event. Its missile program has been targeted for sabotage in the past - and Iran has previously used foreign-sourced vehicles to tow such massive missile systems.

It remains unclear, however, why the missile has been called Khorramshahr-4 as only two other variants of the missile are publicly known. It is modeled after North Korea's Musudan ballistic missile, which is believed to have up to a 4,000-kilometer (2,485-mile) range with a 500-kilogram (1,100 pound) payload.

Iran made a point, however, to keep the truck that transports the missile covered up during the event. Its missile program has been targeted for sabotage in the past - and Iran has previously used foreign-sourced vehicles to tow such massive missile systems.

Day by Day

PATIENCE is like a bitter medicine, although it leaves a bad taste in the mouth, its results are fruitful. Glory be to God, he rewards those who are patient.

In our world most people are impatient. Such people do not get glad tidings, rather their impatience brings them pain.

Those who are patient will win, because although the equation is difficult, this is the course of life. The Egyptians say: "Patience is good, its end is happy and joyful." The beginning is tiring, but this is the nature of life.

... Yet tomorrow is another day.

Zahed Matar



SPECIAL REPORT

'Class' ... in session

Mathaf schools the world on Arab art

By Andrea Lauria

Prof. Andrea Lauria (lower right) is an Italian museologist graduated from Rome's Accademia of fine arts. He also holds a History of Art degree from University di Roma Tre in Rome. Andrea Lauria lectures a Masters course in museology at Rome's Universities Tor Vergata and American Temple University (Rome Campus). In 2020 he has become a published author of the book: "From the Renaissance studiolo to the contemporary museum" which is also his course manual. Lauria's field of research is the phenomenon of hyper-museums with special attention to the Arabian countries in comparison with the western world.



Today I won't write about an important hyper museum or an incredible land mark but about an interesting museum for modern and contemporary art in the Gulf. We are going to discover together the Mathaf.

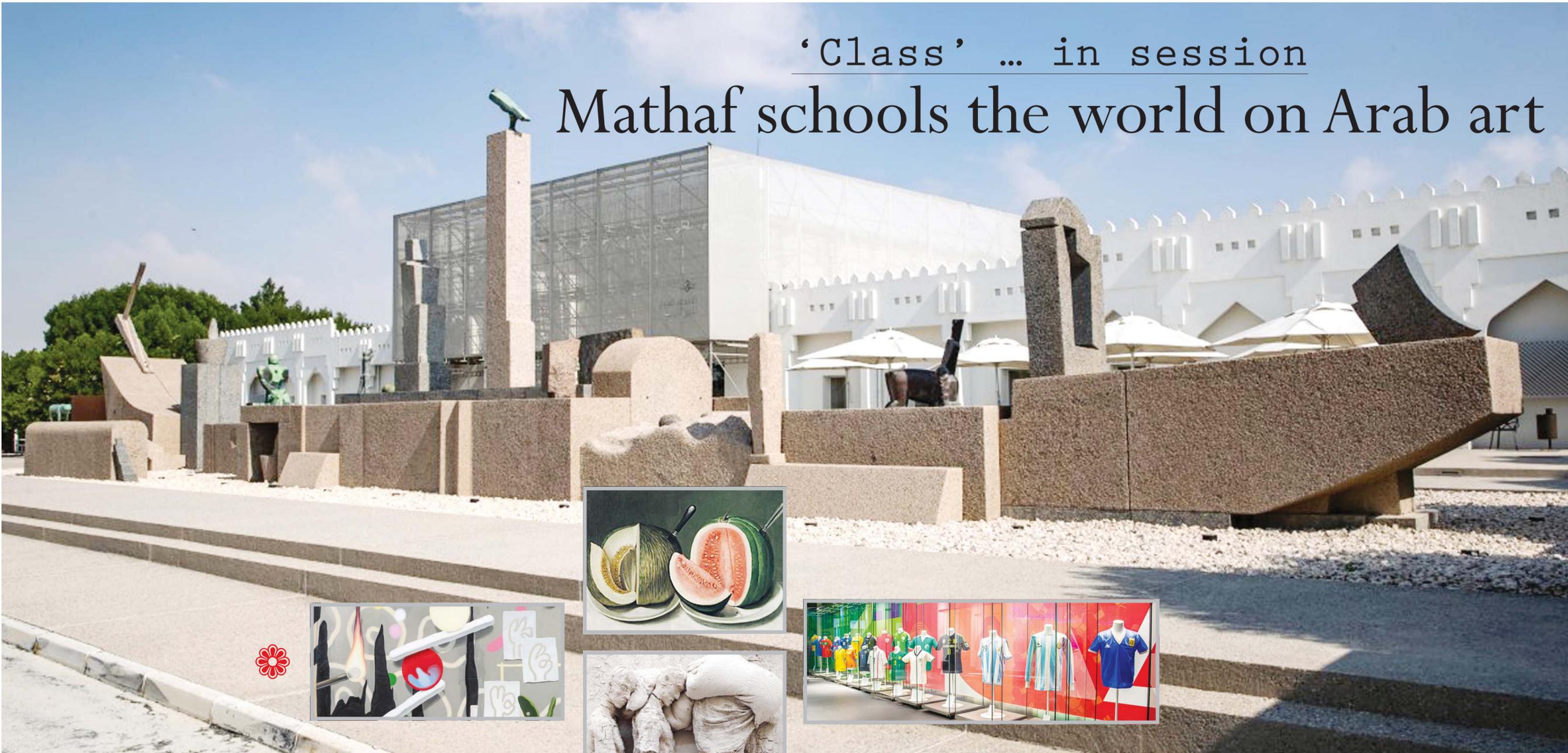
Mathaf ('museum' in Arabic) is a modern, contemporary museum in Doha, Qatar dedicated to Arab culture and creativity. The museum displays a permanent collection of over 9,000 objects, offering a unique and comprehensive overview of Arab modern and contemporary art from North Africa to the Middle East. The museum also offers temporary exhibitions, library, and a strong educational program with the aim to become a vital center for dialogue and scholarship in the Gulf.

Mathaf was opened by Qatar Museums (QM) in partnership with Qatar Foundation (QF) in 2010 and is located in Doha's Education City. The museum is considered to be among the most important cultural attractions in the country.

Mathaf today houses the world's largest collection of modern and contemporary Arab art but the initial collection was started by Sheikh Hassan bin Mohammed Al-Thani. Later the collection turned in to the public institution under authority of QMA (formerly the Qatar Museums Authority) now named Qatar Museums (QM) a Qatari government entity that oversees also the Museum of Islamic Art (MIA), MIA Park, QM Gallery at the Katara Cultural Village.

Qatar Museums (QM) is overseen by a board of trustees headed by Sheikha Al-Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani. I have mentioned Sheikha Al-Mayassa before, in my article about National museum of Qatar designed by Jean Nouvel, as one of the most influential people in art on Art Auction's top-10 list and Art Review's Power 100, and Forbes' The World's 100 Most Powerful Women.

Continued on Page 3



Main picture shows the outside of the Doha Mathaf Arab Museum of Modern Art. Insets sample a collection of 9,000 pieces.

editor's choice



Prayer Timings

| | | | |
|------------|-------|------------|-------|
| Fajr | 03:19 | Asr | 15:20 |
| Sunrise .. | 04:51 | Maghrib .. | 18:39 |
| Zohr | 11:45 | Isha | 20:08 |

Local

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

Expected weather for the next 24 hours:

By Day: Hot and partly cloudy to cloudy with light to moderate freshening at times southeasterly wind to northeasterly wind with speeds of 15-50 km/h with a chance for rain that might be thundery at

Weather

times and a chance for dust.

By Night: Mild and relatively humid over coastal areas with light to moderate southeasterly wind to light variable wind with speeds of 08-26 km/h and some scattered clouds will appear.

Station Max Exp Min Rec

| | | |
|----------------|----|----|
| Kuwait City | 42 | 32 |
| Kuwait Airport | 43 | 33 |
| Abdaly | 44 | 31 |
| Jahra | 46 | 32 |
| Salmiyah | 36 | 32 |
| Ahmadi | 36 | 31 |
| Nuwaib | 41 | 29 |
| Wafra | 44 | 30 |

'Class'

Continued from Page 2

The current museum's site was opened in 2010 but the collection is older and was started by Sheikh Hassan who began to collect in the early 1990s. He gathered art works from the Arab world over the last 200 years with the aim of creating a museum that could represent artists from this Arab world with the oldest pieces in the collection dating as early as the 1840s.

The collection was initially from the 1990s and early 2000s, housed in two private villas in Madinat Khalifa in Doha while Sheikh Hassan and early advisors conceived of an idea of what an Arab perspective on modern and contemporary art and museums could be.

The works on display are presented through different art forms – from paintings and mixed media to sculpture. The bilingual Mathaf Encyclopedia -- a scholarly resource providing basic facts and in depth information on modern art of the Arab world, is available online, free of charge.

Mathaf for sure offers a very interesting perspective on the modern and contemporary art and when it opened in 2010 it was the first museum dedicated to modern and contemporary art in the country, the building itself is modern but cannot be considered a hyper-museum.

The building that hosts temporarily Mathaf is the former school building transformed by the French architect Jean-François Bodin. The museum's exhibitions are housed in a 5,500 m2 facility that includes galleries on two floors, café, museum shop, a research library and an education wing.

The Museum building is located in Doha's Education City, QM will determine its plans for the construction of a future, permanent home for the Museum at a later date. As I said the former school was re-designed by the French architect Jean-François Bodin, an interesting designer but not internationally known like famous Archi stars Jean Nouvel (architect of the National Museum of Qatar in Doha) or I. M. Pei (architect of the Museum of Islamic Art in Doha).

The building itself is a celebration of high-mindedness and education as renovated and architecturally transformed former school. Mathaf it is not an hyper-museum, it means it is not the first work of art of the collection that we are going to visit or a strong landmark, as you have learned from my past article.

However Mathaf's building is an example of recycled architecture that purposefully complements the building's former identity as a space for learning and exploration. Even though the building is only designed to be a temporary house for the museum, it is a worthy home for the collection and conceptually interesting.

The building seen form represents certainly the typical Arab architecture in a mix between a military fort and the typical architecture of the medinas.

As I have already said the building itself is not a piece of art, as the Nouvel's National Museum of Qatar, but the architect building's reinterpretation of the old Qatari school is not bad. Its renovation is particularly effective at night when the excellent external lighting brings out the white color of the building making it especially intriguing, an interesting design object perfect to host the contemporary art museum.

The museum's visitors can access the building through a terrace that features a shaded outdoor seating area which is part of the café. From the terrace, visitors will be able to pass through a screen-wrapped scaffolding-style façade, upon which imagery and videos can be projected at night.

The inside spaces, more interesting than the building's architecture, have minimal sober aesthetic, flexible and informal as well. Mathaf permanent collection exhibition occupies seven galleries in the upper floor, while the atrium and five galleries are dedicated to temporary exhibitions. The museum focuses at major modern and contemporary movements represented in the collection.

Mathaf was the second new art museum to open in Doha in three years, following the Museum of Islamic Art, of which I wrote about weeks ago, that features a large collection of Islamic art and artifacts housed in a museum designed by the famous Chinese-born American architect I.M. Pei. The museums are part of an effort by Qatar's ruling family to develop the big museums' district in country.

If the opening of the Museum of Islamic Art, created a place to study and appreciate the Islamic art with the opening of Mathaf, Qatar has created a museum to explore and discuss the creations of Arab artists of the modern and contemporary art scene.

Qatar demonstrates that developing a serious cultural program and the Mathaf's collection expresses a balance between the old with the strong Mathaf's commitment to education.

I have expressed many time my love for the architectural work of Archi-Star Jean Nouvel in general and how much I like the National Museum of Qatar designed by him. He has designed also the Louvre A.D., and its National Museum of Qatar is a wonderful example of a hyper-museum, which brings Qatar authoritatively into to the scene of world hyper-museums.

The museum itself is the principal piece of art of the collection and, as in cases of Guggenheim in New York or in Bilbao, we are going to visit primarily the building not the collection or the museum's content.

If the Mathaf's collection offers successfully an Arab perspective on modern and contemporary art and the museums for sure supports creativity, promotes dialogue and inspires new ideas I think that this collection should have a spectacular seat a hyper-museums designed by another famous Archi-star.

Make or break for candidate's chances

Social media plays major role in poll

By Abdullah Al-Masri

KUWAIT CITY, May 25, (KUNA): The use of social media platforms has been very prevalent in recent years with most people using such tools to keep updated or just pure fun of it.

Social media could be used in a variety of ways even during elections, especially in Kuwait, which would be witnessing on June sixth, the 2023 National Assembly election.

Some candidates have been using social media platforms to promote their programs and agenda; however, it could make or break the hopefuls' chance of earning a seat at the Abdullah Salem parliamentary hall.

In this regard, political science professor at Kuwait University (KU) Dr. Ibrahim Al-Hadban said that in the past regular media such as television, radio, and newspapers were the most important outlets that candidates could use to relay their messages.

He went on to say that the new media, spearheaded by social media platforms, tend to reach more audiences due to the use of the internet and it costs less than opening a campaign headquarters.

Knowing how to use Facebook, Twitter, and Tiktok has become necessary to most candidates, argued Dr. Al-Hadban, adding that some might abuse such platforms to promote shortsighted promises for the sake of gaining votes.

Providing his outlook, professor of media at KU Dr. Nasser Al-Mjaibil predicted that the use of direct contact with eligible voters might possibly decrease in the future.

Social media could be viewed as a double-edged sword, any word or promise by a candidate could backfire or be put under scrutiny; therefore, it should be used wisely.

Fellow KU media professor Dr. Yousef Al-Daihani affirmed that candidates now must have the new media as part of their campaign to reach the most-sought seat at Abdullah Al-Salem Hall.

Voters could browse the official social media accounts of the candidate and get an initial idea of their agenda and plans, he indicated, warning at the same time, that social media posts were not entirely based on facts; false information could leak and ruin the image of any given candidate.

Asked about the influence of social media on voters, Dr. Al-Daihani brought in an example of Twitter.

Popular tweets that carry a certain political view or were heavily retweeted by followers might cause many eligible voters to remain silent on social media due to fear of being ostracized even if said tweet had some dangerous consequences once the candidate reached parliament, said the academic.

He called on social media users to be responsible and critically think before liking or sharing a view on the internet.

20 members of tribe fined for taking part in primary

Come out and cast your vote: MP

By Saeed Mahmoud Saleh

Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, May 25: The Criminal Court has fined 20 Bani Ghanim Tribe members KD5,000 each for participating in the 2020 primary elections in the Second Constituency, while the other accused were acquitted.

On the other hand, former MP and Third Constituency candidate Sa'adoun Hammad disclosed that employment is one of his priorities in case he wins in the upcoming parliamentary election. He stressed the need for the government to provide jobs for all graduates who should occupy positions that match their specializations. He said many citizens, who specialized in oil engineering on overseas scholarship, are working in the ministries of Awqaf, Islamic Affairs and Health.

Former MP and Third Constituency candidate Abdulkareem Al-Kandari urged all eligible voters to participate in the upcoming election, warning that low voters turnout will pave the way for those who will make laws against the interests of the people as it happened in 2013.

He called on the citizens to ignore claims that the parliamentary experience of Kuwait has been a failure. "Who has been failing since 1962, the parliament or the government? Since then, we have witnessed rigging of parliamentary elections, climate crisis and Iraqi invasion. Throughout that period, the people never told the government 'this is your last chance'. Therefore, the people will never allow anyone to tell them that this is their last chance," he added.

He then stressed the need for the next legislature to clearly present its agenda for every parliamentary year in order to prevent chaos.

He said the Constitutional Court Law must be amended or his bill on the Court of Appeals should be ratified. He argued that the results of elections and the fate of parliaments should not be based on the judge's opinion. He suggested limiting the period for the Constitutional Court to rule on petitions against decrees on dissolving the legislature to two weeks maximum. He said it is no longer acceptable that the Constitutional Court takes months to issue a ruling to nullify the legislature and then put the nation back to square one.

He explained the Election Law must be amended to provide a proper environment for parliamentary action. He recommended the adoption of the party-list proportional representation to improve parliamentary work and for the MPs to have collective programs.

He added the one-man-one vote system makes it very difficult for the voters to decide whom to vote for, because more than one candidate could be deserving of a citizen's vote, but he is obliged to choose only one candidate.

Meanwhile, Al-Qyass Center released the results of its poll on the preferred candidates of a random sample of voters in the Fourth Constituency as follows:

1. Shuaib Al-Muwaizri
2. Muhammad Hayef
3. Obaid Al-Wasmi
4. Marzouq Al-Khalifa
5. Mubarak Al-Hajraf
6. Abdullah Fehad
7. Saad Al-Khanfour
8. Mubarak Al-Tasha
9. Thamer Al-Suwait
10. Muhammad Al-Rejaib
11. Fayez Al-Jomhour
12. Badr Sayyar Al-Shammari
13. Muaz Al-Duwaila
14. Badri Al-Majedi
15. Fawaz Al-Jades
16. Muhammad Al-Fajji
17. Fawaz Menshed
18. Meteb Al-Rathaan

Joint anti-terror fight: Head of the Foreign Media Sector at the Ministry of Information Dr. Hadi Al-Ajmi stressed Wednesday importance of unifying Arab efforts in various sectors, particularly the media, to fight terrorism.

This came in a statement by Dr. Al-Ajmi to (KUNA) on sidelines of the 25th meeting of the permanent expert group concerned with following up the role of Arab media in confronting the phenomenon of terrorism.

The meeting is chaired by Yemen, with participation of representatives of information ministries, media institutions in the Arab countries.



Photo by Iehab Qurtal
On the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Republic of Bulgaria and the State of Kuwait, and the Day of the Bulgarian Enlightenment and Culture the Ambassador of the Republic of Bulgaria and Mrs Dimitar Dimitrov hosted a reception at the Radisson Blu Hotel for Kuwaiti and other countries diplomats. Above: The cake-cutting ceremony.

Ban on issuance of Filipino visas stays

KUWAIT CITY, May 25, (Agencies): First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Interior, and Acting Minister of Defense, Sheikh Talal Al-Khaled, reaffirmed Kuwait's commitment to safeguarding the nation's sovereignty as negotiations with the government of the Philippines came to a conclusion with Kuwait declaring its intention to continue the suspension of all types of visas for Filipino workers, reports Al-Jarida daily.

The decision to stop the issuance of visas for the Filipino workers was prompted by what Kuwait sees as inappropriate practices by the Philippine embassy in the country, as well as crimes committed by members of the Filipino community residing in Kuwait.

Minister Al-Khaled stressed that Kuwait remains dedicated to upholding the international agreements between the two nations, while continuing to renew residence permits for those workers who possess valid permits and wish to continue working in Kuwait.

In the meantime, to address the employment crisis and ensure the availability of skilled workers from various labor-exporting countries, the minister has called for concluding labor agreements for the supply of trained workers to the Kuwaiti market.

Meanwhile, the Public Authority for Manpower, in a statement posted on its website, highlighted the outcomes of the negotiations, including a bilateral meeting between Kuwaiti and Filipino representatives. The meeting was prompted by the Philippine government's request to discuss the recent visa suspension, which resulted from the Philippine embassy's actions contrary to the labor agreement between the two countries.

The statement by the Public Authority for Manpower detailed several violations attributed to the Philippines embassy in Kuwait, including instructing domestic labor recruitment offices to interfere when there is a dispute between the house help and the employer (in most cases the Kuwaiti) under false pretenses, pressuring recruitment offices to accommodate workers in private housing in violation of Kuwaiti laws, and assuming the responsibilities of state institutions in apprehending runaway domestic workers.

Other violations mentioned were exerting pressure on employers during contract renewals and contacting citizens and recruitment offices directly without involving the relevant Kuwaiti authorities.

In response to these violations, the Kuwaiti side has set forth a series of conditions during the negotiations. These conditions include an acknowledgment and acceptance of responsibility by the Philippine Embassy for their violations, along with an official commitment to refrain from repeating such acts in the future.

The embassy is also required to inform its government about this recognition and pledge, with the obligation to publish it in official media channels.

Amir congrats Jordan, Argentina

KUWAIT CITY, May 25, (KUNA) : His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah on Thursday a cable of congratulations to King of Jordan Abdullah II on the occasion of his country's National Day.

In the cable, His Highness the Amir wished the Jordanian king good health and his country and its people further progress and prosperity under his wise leadership.

Crown Prince

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah on Thursday sent a cable of congratulations to King of Jordan Abdullah II on the occasion of his country's National Day, wishing him good health.

Prime Minister

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah on Thursday sent a cable of congratulations to King of Jordan Abdullah II on the occasion of his country's National Day.

Argentina National Day

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent Thursday a cable of congratulations to the President of Argentina Alberto Fernandez on his country's national day.

His Highness the Amir wished Fernandez lasting good health and his country more progress and prosperity.

Crown Prince

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His Highness the Crown Prince wished Fernandez lasting good health.

Prime Minister

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah sent Thursday a cable of congratulations to the President of Argentina Alberto Fernandez on his country's national day.

Other Voices

Painful, dangerous situation

By Ahmad alsarraf

During a recent interview with the Al-Rai newspaper the President of the Kuwaiti Society of Engineers, Faisal Al-Ati, has raised very important and dangerous issues, saying the numbers clearly show the tragedy that we are living through on more than one level.

He says that the number of engineering graduates annually is 3,000, but the actual need for them in the private and government sectors does not exceed 1,000 and that there is a complete absence with regard to engineering outputs and market requirements, and the situation is surrounded by complete chaos!

He said that the KSE has prepared a list that includes the names of 13,000 expatriate engineers who did not pass the professional tests carried out by the association in cooperation with the Kuwait University, and that the KSE addressed the Public Authority for Manpower and the Ministry of Interior to cancel their work permits or amend their professions, so that no one suffers because of them, the withdrawal of the driving licenses they obtained by virtue of their specialization, but no government agency has agreed to respond to their alarming warnings, and some of them may currently be implementing or supervising large projects.

He stated that the society has submitted a proposal to PAM to amend the Kuwaitization law in the private sector, so that the percentage of Kuwaitis should not be less than 30% instead of not exceeding 30 percent.

We do not agree with on this particular point, as part of the ruin of the government administration lies in imposing such percentages without adequate coordination and training, and the private sector complains sharply of random Kuwaitization, and no one pays attention to their point of view.

The President of the Society of Engineers also opposed the increase in the number of public benefit associations, from 24 societies 20 years ago to 100 at the moment, under the pretext that some of these societies have political goals that may weaken the power of civil society in the face of corruption! This is a strange saying, as public benefit associations are governed by laws that prevent them from working in politics, and holding them accountable is the responsibility of the

government.
Eng Al-Ati stated that the number of Kuwaiti engineers in the private sector does not exceed a thousand. As for the KES, their number is currently about 20,000 Kuwaiti engineers, and there are 40,000 non-Kuwaiti engineers, and the membership of about 13,000 of them was suspended for not meeting the membership requirements or for not passing the professional tests to obtain membership.

These are big numbers, so where do all these people work? There is no doubt that a large percentage of them are without work. He also did not mention the percentage or number of Kuwaiti engineers who did not pass the exams, and the reason is that the society does not test Kuwaitis, but rather leaves that to other parties, especially since it was mentioned that the association did not dismiss any Kuwaiti member from the association unless a judgment was issued that violates the honor and trust against him!

He said that the society supports the employment of Kuwaiti engineers, and it currently has an initiative to prepare and train about 200 engineers for the benefit of the Ministry of Awqaf.

On a question about the extent of the ability of the Kuwaiti engineer to manage jobs and projects in the country, he said that they have the ability to take over all projects, and even their willingness to sacrifice, and the biggest example of this is what we witnessed during the maintenance process of the electricity and water stations and it has a training center that relies on the best contemporary international programs for engineering professional development, and the association also contributes to supporting the presence of colleagues in the largest international engineering conferences to see developments.

He said that the Ministry of Works did not ask for the society's technical opinion on the road problem, perhaps because they do not like its impartiality.

He said that there are 1,700 mosques in the country, and it is possible to provide them with smart systems to save electricity and water, and the experiment was applied in 4 mosques, each of which cost us 200 dinars, and we achieved a saving of about 60% of electricity and water. However, the Ministry of Awqaf did not implement any of our recommendations. This is a topic we have already touched upon.

The interview is important, painful and dangerous, and it shows the extent of the chaos we live in, with our will and our incomprehensible stubbornness!

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Securitymen seize 15 liters of deadly liquid drugs in 'raid' on Rehab house

Fire in Souk Sharq fish market put out

KUWAIT CITY, May 25: The criminal security sector, headed by Major General Hamed Al-Dawas, thwarted the pumping of 15 liters of the deadly drug "GHB into the local market in what is seen as a new narcotic substance that is promoted among abusers under the name GHB. It is considered one of the most dangerous and highly toxic chemicals that often leads to immediate death for those who abuse it, reports Al-Anba daily.

The injection of the drug into the local market was thwarted after a parliamentary permission was obtained, and a citizen's house was raided in the Al-Rehab area, and four bags containing the seized items were found, in addition to small packaging boxes.

The accused, who is in his 30s, admitted to purchasing the drug via electronic correspondence



The suspect with the deadly drugs.

from a European country, and that the shipment was sent to him in a mail parcel in the name of e-cigarette liquid.

The Ministry of Interior has warned against the drug GHB, Gamma Hydroxybutyric, noting that it is produced as a medical drug and is used legally in hospitals for the purpose of anesthesia in surgical operations, but it was recently observed that it was used internationally for illegal actions, such as anesthetizing victims with it until they may lose consciousness and after waking up from the effect of

the drug do not remember anything.

The sources indicated the drug is a liquid substance that has no color or smell, and may be mixed with any other liquid, and works to slow or prevent messages between the brain and the body, and is considered a criminal substance internationally and locally because it falls under the psychotropic substances, and listed in Schedule 2, Item No. 30 in the Schedules and Preparations of Psychotropic Substances listed in Law No. 48 of 1987.

The Drug Enforcement Administration said, in a statement,

that a narcotic substance that some promoters and addicts began circulating among them recently was called GHB or GBL, indicating that it is one of the most dangerous substances as it is a highly toxic chemical and added the consumption of 2 milligrams of the substance is sufficient to kill the person immediately.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Interior has arrested five people for trafficking in drugs and referred them to the General Department of Drugs and Alcohol Control (GDDAC), reports Al-Rai daily.

In another incident, Ministry of Interior has seized a motorist and impounded his vehicle for driving without numbers plate and making noises with the car exhaust.

Fire put out: Firefighting teams put out a fire that broke out in the fish market in Souk Sharq, without causing any injuries.

The Public Relations and Media Department of the Directorate-General of Fire Department (DGFD) stated after a report was received by the Central Operations Department this morning, fire centers from Al-Hilali and Al-Madinah Fire Stations rushed to the location and put out the fire which started in a restaurant in the vegetable section of the market.

diwaniya ديوانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

'Will our participation in June 6 election make any difference?'

"IT IS NO secret to anyone the frustration felt by the Kuwaiti street, due to its awareness of the uselessness of the elections, with the repeated lack of cooperation between the two authorities and the regression of development," columnist **Dr. Sheikha Al-Jassim** wrote for Al-Qabas daily.

"The 2022 elections brought a new parliament with the formation that some were seeking, and with the election of the Speaker of the Parliament of their liking and the Prime Minister they desired, and the result was as if nothing had happened, the work stopped, Kuwait retreated, the government did not attend the sessions, and the situation continued until the Parliament was dissolved, the 2020 council was reinstated and ended with a call for new elections on June 6, 2023.

"Do we blame the citizen for feeling guilty of participation? Will this participation make a difference? It seems as if no matter how the formation and the president of the council change, the situation does not change, and we do not see any change in the situation of the country.

"The political situation in Kuwait is a bigger problem than a Parliament that has been dissolved. We need to organize political action. What is happening now is similar to a popular market, every candidate presents his goods and when he reaches Parliament, no matter how honest and loyal he is to the country, he cannot achieve anything of what he had promised during the campaigning.

"Why? Because parliamentary work requires cooperation between the parliamentary elite, coordination among blocs, a national proposal around which everyone gathers, and a government that is ready to cooperate and extend its hand to Parliament to advance the country.

"Perhaps working on a project to regulate the publicity of political parties by monitoring their financing, their affiliates and their internal and external connections, if any, would be an entry point to organizing the scattered political work of the loyal sons of Kuwait whose efforts are wasted in this chaotic market-like atmosphere.

"And if parties are an idea that is not welcome in the Gulf due to the frustrating experiences of Arab countries in this field, then the idea of relative lists that some have put forward in previous years may be the closest to Kuwaiti society, the easiest to implement and the most acceptable, and it may be a step towards organizing this raging bazaar.

"Dr. Masoumah Al-Mubarak told us last week about the effort, fatigue and difficult situations that the issue of women's political rights went through, and urged us not to neglect this right, which did not come easily, and which some still hate its approval, and wish that women would return to the visitors' gallery. Her words touched the hearts and awakened the sense of patriotism despite all the boredom, frustration, and sense of the futility of repeating the elections.

"However, we have to participate and choose those who possess the sense of patriotism, who works for the advancement and renaissance of the nation and not to achieve personal goals, or to be a tool for a merchant or stakeholder.

"I pray to God that we settle down and the next Parliament completes its term, see development and renaissance, and catch up with those who preceded us."

Also:

"In every election, we hear repeated speeches, phrases and words from candidates. Once they become lawmaker, the government is quickly blamed for the backwardness of the country's conditions, fields and services. They demand for reform, change and emulation of countries that advanced and surpassed Kuwait in various fields," columnist **Dr. Mohammad Al-Moqatea** wrote for Al-

Jarida daily.

"Wonderful demands, reasonable phrases and required words, but the problem lies in the lawmakers and candidates. For every defect they attribute to the government, they are worse. They record complaints against the government, on top of which are weakness, lackadaisical attitude, overlapping, negligence and compromising, with the justification that 'politics is the art of the possible.'

"For them, politics is the art of false promises, shaky attitude and opinions, achieving personal goals and glories, wasting the interest of the country, deliberately insulting it, and even trading it.

"As for parliamentary work, we should think about radical amendments, such as limiting National Assembly membership to three terms, so they do not have lifetime monopoly and influence for political and national consumption, as well as to prevent the loss of the country, its capabilities and components."

"Anyone who has been monitoring the march of women since the launching of the marathon of approval and objection to their political rights would have witnessed the tremendous efforts exerted to support women during the November 1999 legislative sessions, including the call to amend Article One of National Assembly Law number 35 of 1962, which stipulates women's participation in the election as a candidate and voter," columnist **Nada Al-Mutaw** wrote for Al-Jarida daily.

"Women remain the weakest party in political reform although the United Nations has been championing their issues. The fifth sustainable goal is to 'achieve gender equality and empower women and girls', which was ratified by Kuwait and included in its 2035 vision.

"In the reports that the United Nations published on its official website, it touched on an issue that requires attention – the economic harm suffered by women for several reasons like the corona pandemic, which removed a large number of women from the labor market.

"Allow me to add the importance of the role of legislative institutions, where the decision regarding women and work lies. You find members of parliament demanding for early retirement, which removes women from the career ladder and the labor market. At the same time, you see them striving to maximize the man's material gains from the job."

"The word 'violence' has a Greek origin that means the use of force regardless of legality. Violence is defined as the intentional use of physical force on oneself or another person, or forcing the individual to carry out this act as a result of the pain inflicted on him," columnist **Dr. Hind Al-Choumar** wrote for Al-Anba daily.

"Violence is used as a tool to influence others. It takes different forms all over the world, ranging from the exchange of blows between two people to physical abuse and war or genocide – when millions of people die. It is not limited to physical abuse, as it also causes psychological harm.

"Violence has multiple causes, including domestic violence that takes place within the family through insults, beatings and humiliation – whether the person himself or other family members. This generates violence that one sees as the only outlet and engages in it outside the home. Likewise, the feeling of inadequacy due to lack of material and social capabilities makes a person compare himself with others, looking for a way to catch their attention.

"The media is one of the important platforms, considering its broadcasting culture. Most of the time, the media does not broadcast programs that raise public awareness or develop the spirit of initiative and altruism or encourage volunteerism, thinking and creativity. It rather shows serials and programs that neither promote values nor instill virtues like integrity."

— Compiled by Ahmed Al Shazli

Ministry of Social Affairs dissolves eight associations

KUWAIT CITY, May 25: The Ministry of Social Affairs has dissolved eight associations as it continues to sift through and identify those registered civil societies that do not currently carry out their activities as per the controls and requirements regulating the work or those which are not active or those that do not seek to achieve the goals for which they were established, reports Al-

Jarida daily.

Informed sources stated that the money which are deposited in the accounts of these disbanded associations or which will soon be dissolved, will be transferred after their liquidation into the account of the Ministry of Social Affairs.

According to a ministry sources the Civil Associations Department has submitted the names of these associa-

tions to the Committee for Publicizing, Evaluating and Dissolving Public Benefit Associations and Charities and studying and reviewing their statutes, headed by the Assistant Undersecretary for Social Development Sector Affairs, who will, in turn, submit the report to the Undersecretary who will then refer it to the minister and take the necessary action.

The sources explaining the tar-

geted associations have violated the text of Article No. 27 of Law 24/1962 issued regarding clubs and public benefit societies, in addition to not carrying out any activities on the ground, or providing real services to society years ago, and not providing them with the estimated budget or financial reports for the past years, in addition to closing their bank accounts a long time ago.



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Technical and admin sectors

MPW opens door to receive applications for supervisory positions, heads of dept

KUWAIT CITY, May 25: The Ministry of Public Works has opening for 30 supervisory positions and heads of departments. The ministry said only those who fulfill the conditions such as the years of experience and regulations in force laid down by the Civil Service Commission will be hired, reports Al-Jarida daily.

The daily added, the window for receiving applications opens next Monday and quoting reliable sources pointed out that the nomination will be from all technical and administrative sectors, and the Personnel Affairs Committee will address the employees

applying for the supervisory positions especially those who have previously taken tests for administrative skills and the English language.

The sources explained that the Implementing the Steps to Fill Supervisory Positions Committee sorts the applications and the names of those who meet the conditions will be interviewed at a pre-determined date and time. The committee then will evaluate the candidates and best will be selected. In a related context, the sources indicated that the Public Works Authority is still in the stage of evaluating the employees who deserve the excellent work awards.

Large sites allocated for Kuwait Cloud Google

Google launches National Skills Training & Development Program with Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, May 25, (Agencies): Google announced the launch of the National Skills Training and Development Program with Kuwait, which aims to train 3,000 citizens from government and higher education institutions on 350 services in the areas of machine learning, artificial intelligence and security solutions in the first year of its launch, provided that 1,000 government employees will be trained first and a thousand new graduates and a thousand women as part of the program, stressing that it will invest millions of dollars in Kuwait in the future, in addition to planning to support and build skills of Kuwaitis and contribute to achieving "Vision 2035," reports Al-Qabas daily.

Minister of State for Municipal Affairs and Minister of State for Communications Affairs Fahd Al-Shula said during a press conference organized by the company on the occasion of the establishment of a new cloud region and a regional office in Kuwait, that a new Kuwait emerges as a leading center for business and trade at the regional and international levels, and the realization of our vision requires the deployment and adoption of the latest advanced technologies.

The press conference was attended by Ellen Van Essen, General Manager of the Public Sector in Google Cloud Europe, the Middle East and Africa, and Managing Director of the Middle East and North Africa region in Google Cloud Tariq Khalil, Director of Commercial Development at Google Cloud in the Middle East, Europe and Africa Elie Tabshoury, Member of the Board of Directors of the Communications and Information Technology Regulatory Authority Muhammad Al-Rashed, Deputy Director General of the Central Agency for Information Technology Dr. Ammar Al-Husseini.

Al-Shula added: We have chosen Google Cloud as a partner for the government of Kuwait to support the country in moving towards the next stage of growth and development, based on the power of cloud computing and the enormous opportunities it entails.

Partnership

Al-Husseini said the partnership with Google will achieve economic, security and political benefits for Kuwait, in addition to raising the efficiency of government agencies, government work and digital transformation. The contract also proves the government's seriousness in accelerating the digital transformation process. The Communications Authority has issued a package of policies that support the utilization of cloud computing in Kuwait.

He went on to say, cloud storage centers will encourage small and medium-sized enterprises to develop their business further because they will adopt advanced cloud storage technologies. It will be a great opportunity for Kuwaiti youth to develop their businesses and lives. Our agreement with Google will open more opportunities to conclude agreements with other international companies in the future.

He added that a supervisory committee was formed over the agreement, headed by the Foreign Direct Investment Promotion Authority, to supervise the strategic agreement, through which the government deals as one entity, in addition to an executive committee formed by the Minister of Communications that is concerned with the technical aspect of benefiting from cloud computing services according to the government's priorities and accelerating them through the agreement.

Al-Rashed, said that Google has established its own independent space, and there is no objection to cooperation with telecommunications companies, medium, small and large companies, and any Kuwaiti company that

wishes to deal with us.

Tabshoury stressed that Google Cloud occupies a very advanced position for artificial intelligence and the daily use of technology by consumers of all kinds and devices, stressing that Google has a tremendous development for cybersecurity and we aim to meet the environmental requirements in Kuwait with zero emissions for Google facilities in Kuwait.

Khalil, said that the government data for Kuwait will be completely safe, and not every employee has the right to access that information and the data will be encrypted.

Also:

KUWAIT CITY: The Communication and Information Technology Regulatory Authority declared on Wednesday specializing three sites to build data centers of mega space for Google Cloud Kuwait company.

Minister of State for Municipal Affairs and Minister of State for Communication Affairs **Fahad Al-Shula** said in a news conference marking the occasion that digital transformation has become a tangible and inevitable reality particularly during the coronavirus crisis.

Affirming that achieving objectives of Kuwait Vision 2023 is certain, the minister emphasized the government resolve to build effective and fruitful partnerships with international and local technological corporates, companies, start-ups and innovative business pioneers.

For his part, **Dr. Ammar Al-Husseini**, the acting director general of the Information Technology Center, said the strategic alliance with Google would lead to significant benefits for the Kuwaiti economy, in addition to fruits to be reaped at the security, human and technological levels.

This coalition, he added, would enable 114 government departments and institutions to benefit from the clouding services.

Dr. Al-Husseini indicated at formation of an oversight panel headed by the Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA) to supervise the contract with Google and an executive committee formed by the minister of communication for handling the technical aspect of the deal.

As to the first phase of operating Google Cloud services in Kuwait, Dr. Al-Husseini said the government would initially focus on digitizing services, particularly in the health, labor and educational sectors, in addition to re-designing the information systems' infrastructure.

On the issue of luring conglomerates to the country, he affirmed the government keenness on working out identical deals with heavy-weight foreign companies, noting necessity of employing such deals to back up youth projects.

Meanwhile, **Mohammad Al-Rashed**, board member of the communication authority, said the planned data facilities would be an extension of Google Cloud zones worldwide, revealing that each site would be as large as 30,000 square kilometers.

Affirming the business benefits and proceeds from the venture, Al-Rashed said Google Cloud Kuwait had been established as an independent entity and would have a free hand in dealing with the private sector, in addition to its role in the public sector.

For his part, **Elie Tabshoury**, the director of public business development at Google Cloud in Europe, the Middle East and Africa, said the national skills development venture had been launched in partnership with the Kuwaiti government, with the objective to train 3,000 public servants, namely from the higher education institutions on artificial intelligence and security issues' solutions.

A common currency not pegged to the dollar would indicate the GCC's commitment to economic independence and self-reliance. It sends a strong message to the international community that the GCC countries can chart their own economic path and reduce their dependence on external factors.

AIUla's Jabal

Continued from Page 1

Jabal Ikrah, an open-air library situated in the world's largest living museum. These efforts to enhance the world's understanding of Jabal Ikrah, while improving visitors' access in a sustainable way, have contributed to this public affirmation by UNESCO of the magnitude and international significance of AIUla's documentary heritage.

José Ignacio Gallego Revilla, Executive Director of the Kingdoms Institute, Archaeology, Heritage Research, and Conservation Department at the Royal Commission for AlUla, said: "The significance of Jabal Ikrah's inscriptions transcends regional boundaries to reach the level of global relevance, in particular as part of the evolution of Old Arabic languages and dialects. Their authenticity and integrity, both for the information preserved about ancient societies as well as the conservation of the site, bring together the essentials that make this place unique for the Memory of the World as the chronicle of a lost time through the largest number of inscriptions in an Ancient North Arabian script."

As a crossroads on the incense and pilgrimage routes, the AIUla oasis was a hub of commercial and cultural exchange. It hosted merchants of myrrh, frankincense, and other precious commodities. This cultural richness propelled the growth of settlements, including Dadan. The Dadanite Kingdom flourished and developed its own alphabet form of the South Semitic writing system.



Press conference for representatives of Google Cloud and Kuwaiti government officials

KUNA photo

Bid to raise Kuwaiti financial markets to ranks of developed countries

MoCI forms cmte to develop Kuwaiti capital market

KUWAIT CITY, May 25: Within the aim of strengthening government efforts to support and develop the capital market system, the Minister of Commerce and Industry Muhammad Othman Al-Aiban issued ministerial resolution No. 75/2023 for the formation of a committee to study the proposals to remove obstacles to the development of the Kuwaiti capital market and to develop the necessary proposals, mechanisms and solutions in this regard, reports Al-Qabas daily.

According to governmental sources, this decision would, in the event of implementation of its axes and special solutions, raise the Kuwaiti financial markets and stock exchange to the ranks of developed countries, as a continuation of the achievements made and a qualitative shift in the work of the Capital Markets and Stock Exchange Authority during the past few years.

The sources explained that the Minister of Commerce and Industry hired a group of prominent specialists in governmental and private agencies of an economic nature to work in the committee. They include the CEO of the Kuwait Stock Exchange Company Muhammad Al-Osaimi who will chair the committee, and representatives of the Central Bank of Kuwait, the Capital Markets Authority, the Public Institution for Social Security, the Kuwait Authority for Investment, and the Economic Association.

Period

The decision specified a period not exceeding one month for the committee to prepare its recommendations.

This decision can be considered as a remarkable indication that Minister Al-Aiban is dedicating his efforts to developing the capital markets system as soon as possible.

The ministerial decision regarding the formation of the committee stated the following:

Article 1 - A committee is formed to study proposals to remove obstacles to the development of the Kuwaiti capital market. It will be headed by the CEO of the Kuwait Stock Exchange Company Muhammad Saud Al-Osaimi. Muhammad Al-Khamis, the representative of the Central Bank of Kuwait will be the Vice-Chairman. The representative of the Kuwait Investment Authority Yousef Al-Mulla, the representative of the oil sector Shaima Al-Ghunaim, the representative of the Public Institution for Social Security Hamad Al-Sanea, the representative of the Kuwait Economic Society Muhammad Al-Joan, and the representative of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry Dr. Abdullah Muhammad Al-Awadhi will serve as members of the committee.

Article 2 - The committee is concerned with studying proposals to remove obstacles to the development of the Kuwaiti capital market, and developing the necessary proposals, mechanisms and solutions in this regard. This particularly includes the following:

1. Studying the mechanisms for preparing a market development plan, and submitting it to the Capital Markets Authority for approval.

2. Developing proposals to remove obstacles that prevent the establishment of a trading platform for shares of small and medium companies.

3. Submitting a proposal for activating the crowdfunding mechanism in coordination with the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and the Central Bank of Kuwait. Deciding whether or not a draft law should be prepared that excludes crowdfunding mechanisms from some of the restrictions stipulated in the companies law.

4. Studying ways to expedite offering financial derivatives, including future contracts.

5. Submitting a proposal for enhancing the purposes of financial brokerage firms to include providing financial research, margin financing, and stock lending and borrowing.

6. Working on setting indicators to measure the competitiveness of the Kuwaiti capital market compared to emerging markets in the region. This includes examining ways to attract new listings and remove any obstacles in this regard, as well as balancing the obligations imposed on companies on the one hand, and the returns they achieve from their work on the other hand.

KUWAIT CITY, May 25: The Minister of Commerce and Industry Muhammad Al-Aiban has issued a ministerial decision for regulating the controls and provisions of credit facilities resulting from installment sales of goods and services. According to the decision, every citizen and resident has the right to obtain goods in installments up to a maximum of KD 5,000 without interest, reports Al-Anba daily.

The new decision specified two conditions for these installments. The first condition is that the full amount is to be paid within a period of three years. The second condition is that the value of the installments should not exceed 40 percent of the net salary for employees and 30 percent for retirees, after obtaining an authorization from the customer to inquire from Ci-Net about the debit balance data arising from all other obligations of the customer according to the established network.

According to informed sources, the decision will close the door for companies that are active in "cashing out goods" operations for citizens and residents who are borrowers to the maximum, not to mention closing the loophole through which they were active after it became necessary for the seller of the commodity to link with the Credit Information Network Company (Ci-Net).

The ministerial decision required all seller loans, including companies, institutions and commercial establishments, to register with the Ci-Net within six months from the publication of the decision in the official gazette, with the necessity of obligating it to a number of conditions, including:

1 - After obtaining an authorization from the customer, inquire from Ci-Net about the credit rating arising from all other obligations of the customer

according to what is established in the aforementioned network.

2 - The monthly installment due from the customer, in addition to the installments due for other obligations registered on Ci-Net, should not increase 40 percent of the net salary for employees and 30 percent for retirees.

3 - The value of the commodity sold to a single customer on the installment system should not exceed KD 5,000. It should be paid in equal monthly installments over a period not exceeding three years.

4 - The value of the commodity sold by installments shall not exceed the value of the declared price in the event of immediate payment.

The decision obligated the granting companies to add the necessary commercial activities related to selling by installments to their commercial licenses. It also obligated them to participate in the automated system of the Ci-Net, while committing to providing credit information to customers according to the procedures specified by Ci-Net.

The decision authorized the sellers, upon their request, to cancel subscription to the company's system, provided that the installment sale system for goods and services is canceled, prior approval is obtained from the ministry, and a certificate is submitted to Ci-Net issued by the external auditor of the seller stating that there are no open or closed accounts or installment sale.

Prohibited

On the other hand, the decision prohibited seller from charging any administrative fees for installment sales, and not imposing any fees on their customers directly or indirectly in return for inquiring about them in the Ci-Net system. It obligates donor companies to establish clear credit policies and work procedures approved by the management of the company or establishment for sale in any form of transfer of ownership in installments for commodities and services.

When presenting this type of sale, it also obligates to take into account the controls for requesting a credit facil-

ity and the minimum limits required for concluding the contract so that the customer's request includes, as a minimum, the details of the commodity or service and payment details.

The decision stipulated that the customer should be informed of all the conditions, obligations and financial implications resulting from the purchase of the commodity or service in accordance with the contract to be concluded. The customer should be given a clear and simplified statistical table showing the value and number of the installments, and the sellers' retention of documents indicating that.

The decision also stipulates the necessity of defining the rights and obligations of each of the entities donating the commodity or service and the customer according to contracts that are clearly formulated, understandable, and compatible with the provisions of laws, local decisions, and relevant decisions. The contracts for granting credit facilities by selling in any form must include transfer of ownership in installments for goods and services as a minimum (basic data of the customer, type of commodity or service, value of the commodity or service, term of sale, number of monthly installments, payment dates, value of the monthly installment, and method of payment or payment). The implementation of the provisions of the decision should take place six months after the date of its publication in the official gazette.

The decision called on the sellers to take into account the customer obtaining a copy of the contract and signing it to the effect, with the need to provide all necessary information about the goods or services. In this regard, the account statements of the goods or services must include detailed information related to the number and value of the paid and remaining installments until the due date. It is also required to keep all documents of sales of goods and services to customers throughout the payment period and until full payment and the end of the legal limitation period, but the electronic preservation of these documents should continue.

Finance

Continued from Page 1

In all countries of the world, a citizen is not prevented from traveling abroad and returning to his country. He who issues a dud cheque is not imprisoned, except in Kuwait, which is still working based on a law that precedes the modern state, i.e. from the days of pearl diving. From that time until today, there are some who enjoy it by torturing people and even forcing them to sell their clothes.

Dear Minister of Finance, the solution is in your hands, and we say it over again - "Knowledge has come to you", so are you working to rid people of their torment?

GCC countries

Continued from Page 1

sole right to decide on our fate and the fate of our economies. Politics defines economy, they are mutually interdependent. In light of the current events in the world, the global economic situation, namely the monetary policies and economic independence of the states, must be revisited.

Thanks to their economic acumen and geopolitical significance, the GCC states have the potential to lead the way towards the development of a common currency in collaboration with Egypt and Jordan. This would enable them to formulate and implement monetary policies and provide them with the flexibility to respond more effectively to domestic and global economic conditions. It would consolidate the sense of collective identity and unity among the GCC states and symbolize a common vision and shared objectives, facilitating smooth trade and investment flows among countries, encouraging cross-border economic activities and promoting close cooperation in fiscal policy areas.



Environment Public Authority acting director general Samira Al-Kandari



Sami Dimassi, the director of the UN's Environment Programme's West Asia Office

KUNA photos

'Collaboration aims carbon neutrality by 2050'

Kuwait, UN join forces against climate change

KUWAIT CITY, May 25, (KUNA): Kuwait's environment authority is joining forces with a United Nations (UN) regional office over a trio of endeavors as part of the country's commitment towards the UN's climate change framework, the body said on Wednesday.

Collectively, these endeavors comprise a national strategy aiming for car-

bon neutrality by the year 2050, said Environment Public Authority acting director general Samira Al-Kandari, underlining the significance Kuwait attaches to the critical global issue of climate change.

The projects are a testament to Kuwait's "commitment" towards the UN's Framework Convention on Climate

Change, in addition to the Paris climate accord, according to Sami Dimassi, the director of the UN's Environment Programme's West Asia Office.

Global measures aiming for carbon neutrality entail a slew of measures, including legislative reforms and a lucid "roadmap" to bring these goals to fruition, he added.

oil up

The Kuwaiti oil price went up by USD 1.71 to USD 79.01 pb on Wednesday against USD 77.30 pb the previous day, the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) announced on Thursday.

Comparatively, at international markets, forward Brent crude contracts rose by USD 1.52 to USD 78.36 pb, and the West Texas Intermediate crude went up by USD 1.43 to USD 74.34 a barrel. (KUNA)

USD at KD 0.307

The US dollar on Thursday stood at KD 0.307 while the Euro dropped by 0.32 percent to KD 0.331, compared with Wednesday's rates.

The Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) said in its daily bulletin that the British sterling pound went down by 0.64 percent to KD 0.379 and the Swiss franc by 0.53 percent to KD 0.339, while the Japanese Yen stood at KD 0.002.

The CBK publishes daily average exchange rates that do not necessarily reflect actual prices of the currencies' trade for the day. (KUNA)

money supply decreases to 0.2 pct last April: CBK

The money supply (M3) decreased by 0.2 percent last April on a monthly base to reach KD 39.4 million (about USD 130 million), said Kuwait Central Bank on Thursday.

In a statement to KUNA, CBK's Economic Research Department said that the private sector's deposits in local banks in Kuwait dinars decreased by 0.3 percent last April, to reach KD 35.9 billion (about USD 118 billion).

The private sector deposits in foreign currencies remained unchanged at KD 1.7 billion (about USD 3.6 billion), while the total balances of local banks' demands on the Central Bank in dinars represented by (Central) bonds decreased by 5.8 percent to KD 3.2 billion (about USD 10.5 billion dollars), added the statement.

The department explained that the total assets of local banks de-

creased by 0.5 percent, to record KD 84.9 billion (about USD 280 billion), while the net foreign assets of local banks increased by 3.8 percent to KD 10.5 billion (about USD 34.6 billion dollars).

Time deposits at CBK stabilized last April at KD 2.6 billion (about USD 8.5 billion), while the balances of cash credit facilities (loans) decreased by 0.3 percent to reach KD 52.2 billion (about USD 172.5 billion), it noted. (KUNA)

Market Movements

25-05-2023

| | Change | Closing pts | | Change | Closing pts |
|-------------|--------|-------------|-------|-----------|-------------|
| JAPAN | - | Nikkei | +0.39 | 30,801.13 | |
| UAE | - | DFM | -0.12 | 3,525.81 | |
| PAKISTAN | - | KSE 100 | -0.07 | 41,070.30 | |
| PHILIPPINES | - | PSEi | -0.84 | 6,560.22 | |
| SAUDI | - | Tadawul | -0.46 | 11,184.57 | |
| EGYPT | - | EGX 30 | -0.27 | 17,043.62 | |

Business

'This is a battle between extremism and common sense'

GOP push debt ceiling talks to brink, lawmakers leaving town for weekend

WASHINGTON, May 25, (AP) - House Republicans are pushing debt ceiling talks to the brink, displaying risky political bravado as they prepare to leave town Thursday for the holiday weekend just days before the U.S. could face an unprecedented default that could hurl the global economy into chaos.

A defiant House Speaker Kevin McCarthy said the debt ceiling standoff was "not my fault" as Republican negotiators and the White House failed to finish out talks. He warned they need more time to try to reach a budget-slashing deal with President Joe Biden.

But it's clear the Republican speaker - who leads a Trump-aligned party whose hard-right flank lifted him to power - is now staring down a potential crisis.

Lawmakers are tentatively not expected back at work until Tuesday, just two days from June 1, when Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen has said the U.S. could start running out of cash to pay its bills and face a potentially catastrophic default.

Fitch Ratings agency placed the United States' AAA credit on "ratings watch negative," warning of a possible downgrade because of what it called the brinkmanship and political partisanship surrounding the debate over lifting the debt ceiling.

"This is a battle between extremism and common sense," said Democratic Rep. Katherine Clark of Massachusetts, the minority whip.

The Republicans, she said, "want the American people to make an impossible choice: devastating cuts or devastating debt default."

Weeks of negotiations between Republicans and the White House have failed to produce a deal - in part because the Biden administration never expected to be having to negotiate with McCarthy over the debt limit, arguing it should not be used as leverage to extract other partisan priorities.

McCarthy is holding out for steep spending cuts that Republicans are demanding in exchange for their vote to raise the nation's borrowing limit. The White House has offered to freeze next year's 2024 spending at current levels, but the Republican leader says that's not enough.

"We have to spend less than we spent last year. That is the starting point," said McCarthy, R-Calif.

Failure to raise the nation's debt ceiling, now at \$31 trillion, would risk a potentially chaotic federal default, almost certain to inflict economic turmoil at home

and abroad. Anxious retirees and social service groups are among those already making default contingency plans.

Even if negotiators strike a deal in coming days, McCarthy has promised lawmakers he will abide by the rule to post any bill for 72 hours before voting - now likely Tuesday or even Wednesday. The Senate, where Democratic Majority Leader Chuck Schumer has vowed to move quickly, would also have to pass the package before it could go to Biden's desk to be signed into law, right before next Thursday's possible deadline.

The contours of a deal have been within reach for days, but Republicans are unsatisfied as they press the White House team for more.

In one potential development, Republicans may be easing their demand to boost defense spending, instead offering to keep it at levels the Biden administration proposed, according to one person familiar with the talks and granted anonymity to discuss them.

The Republicans may achieve their goal of rolling back bolstered funding for the Internal Revenue Service if they agree to instead allow the White House to push that money into other domestic accounts, the person said.

At the White House, press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre blamed Republicans for risking a devastating default that would hit "every single part of the country" as they demand "extreme" spending cuts that would hurt millions of Americans.

She decried what the administration called a "manufactured crisis" set in motion by the GOP.

The White House has continued to argue that deficits can be reduced by ending tax breaks for healthier households and some corporations, but McCarthy said he told the president as early as their February meeting that raising revenue from tax hikes was off the table.

Donald Trump, the former president who is again running for office, has encouraged Republicans to "do a default" if they don't get the deal they want from the White House.

Time is short to strike a deal. Yellen said Wednesday that "it seems almost certain" that without a deal the United States would not make it past early June without defaulting. "We are seeing some stress already in Treasury markets," she said at a Wall Street Journal event.

Asian shares extend losses

AI frenzy pulls Wall St higher

NEW YORK, May 25, (AP) - Wall Street's building frenzy over artificial intelligence is helping to lift the market Thursday, even as worries worsen about political rancor in Washington.

The S&P 500 was 0.7% higher in midday trading after chipmaker Nvidia gave a monster forecast for upcoming sales as it benefits from the tech world's rush into AI. It helped the Nasdaq composite leap 1.4%, as of 11 a.m. Eastern time, while the Dow Jones Industrial Average was down 58 points, or 0.2%, at 32,741.

Because it's one of Wall Street's most valuable stocks, Nvidia's 25% surge was the strongest force pushing upward on the S&P 500. Its forecast of roughly \$11 billion in revenue for the current quarter blew past analysts' expectations for less than \$7.2 billion. Nvidia's stock has already more than doubled this year, and its total value is approaching \$1 trillion.

Stocks of other chip makers also charged higher after Nvidia described a race by its customers to put AI "into every product, service and business process." Advanced Micro Devices gained 9.5%.

Big Tech stocks rallied further, adding to recent gains fueled by excitement about AI. The field has become so hot that critics warn of a possible bubble, while supporters say it could be the latest revolution to reshape the global economy. Microsoft gained 3.2%, while Google's parent company, Alphabet, rose 2.3%.

They helped lift indexes even as the majority of stocks fell on worries about the U.S. government edging closer to a possible default on its debt. Washington could run out of cash to pay its bills as soon as June 1, unless Congress allows it to borrow more.

The widespread expectation on Wall Street has been for Washington to eventually come to a deal, as it has many times before, because a failure would likely be awful for the entire economy. But the bitter partisanship on Capitol Hill is hurting faith and trust in the government.

Fitch said late Wednesday that it could downgrade the U.S. government's "AAA" credit rating. It said it still expects a resolution before the U.S. Treasury runs out of cash, but it sees the risk of a mistake having risen.

"The brinkmanship over the debt ceiling, failure of the U.S. authorities to meaningfully tackle medium-term fiscal challenges that will lead to rising budget deficits and a growing debt burden signal downside risks to U.S. creditworthiness," Fitch said.

In 2011, Standard & Poor's cut its "AAA" credit rating for the United States following a similar political squabble about the debt limit.

Another concern rests on exactly when the "X-date" deadline will hit for the U.S. Treasury to run out of cash.

While Isaac Boltanski, BTIG director of policy research, said he sees an 11th hour deal happening, "Washington is still arguing over

exactly when midnight hits, which remains our primary concern as deadlines are the only viable forcing mechanism in town."

On the losing end of Wall Street was Dollar Tree, which fell 13.1%. The retailer reported weaker profit for the latest quarter than analysts expected. It said its customers are shifting spending toward products that are less profitable for it, while it's also contending with worse-than-expected theft like other retailers.

In the bond market, yields rallied after reports suggested the economy is in stronger shape than feared.

One said that fewer workers applied for unemployment benefits last week than expected. That's a signal that the job market remains remarkably solid despite much higher interest rates meant to slow inflation.

Another report estimated the U.S. economy grew at a 1.3% annual pace in the first three months of the year, stronger than the 1.1% earlier thought. That report also suggested inflation was a touch hotter during the start of 2023 than earlier thought.

The stronger-than-expected data helps dampen fears built on Wall Street about a coming recession. But it could also convince the Federal Reserve to raise interest rates again next month. Traders are split on whether the Fed will take a pause in June after hiking rates at a furious pace for more than a year.

Asia

Shares were mostly lower in Asia on Thursday as worries about the U.S. economy and a possible default on U.S. government debt pulled Wall Street lower.

Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 index advanced 0.4% to 30,801.13, extending recent gains as investors bet on higher returns from Japanese companies.

Hong Kong's Hang Seng sank 2% to 18,739.03 as investors fretted over the trajectory for China's economic recovery after the government relaxed pandemic restrictions late last year. The Shanghai Composite index also fell, by 0.5% to 3,188.34.

Simmering tensions between China and the United States over technology and security have added to uncertainties.

In Seoul, the Kospi shed 0.5% to 2,554.69, while Australia's S&P/ASX 200 gave up 1.1% to 7,138.20. India's Sensex declined 0.2%.

Taiwan's benchmark Taixi jumped 0.8% on gains for major computer chip makers. Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co., the world's largest, surged 3.4%.

Oil

In other trading Thursday, benchmark U.S. crude oil dropped 38 cents to \$73.96 per barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. It gained \$1.43 on Wednesday, to \$74.34 per barrel.

Brent crude, the standard for international trading, slipped 28 cents to \$77.95 per barrel.

Currencies

The U.S. dollar rose to 139.56 Japanese yen from 139.41 yen. The euro fell to \$1.0740 from \$1.0754.

More Americans apply for jobless claims but labor mkt remains tight

US economic growth for last quarter is revised up to a still- tepid 1.3% annual rate

WASHINGTON, May 25, (AP) - U.S. applications for jobless claims rose slightly last week but remain at healthy levels with companies reticent to let go of employees in a tight labor market.

The number of Americans filing for jobless claims for the week ending May 20 rose by 4,000 to 229,000 from 225,000 the week before, the Labor Department reported Thursday. The previous week's number was revised down by a significant 17,000.

The weekly claims numbers are broadly as representative of the number of U.S. layoffs.

The four-week moving average of claims, which evens out some of the week-to-week gyrations, was unchanged at 231,750 after the previous week's number was revised down by 12,500. Analysts have pointed to a sustained increase in the four-week averages as a sign that layoffs are accelerating, but are reluctant to predict that a spike in layoffs is imminent.

Overall, 1.8 million people were collecting unemployment benefits the week that ended May 13, about 5,000 more than the previous week.

Since the pandemic purge of millions of jobs three years ago, the U.S. economy has added jobs at a breakneck pace and Americans have enjoyed unusual job security. That's despite interest rates that have been rising for more than a year and fears of a looming recession.

Benchmark

Early this month, the Fed raised its benchmark lending rate for the 10th time in a row in its bid to cool the economy and bring down four-decade high inflation. Though the labor market still favors workers, there have been some recent indications that the Fed's policy actions are working.

In April, U.S. employers added a healthy 253,000 jobs and the unemployment rate dipped to 3.4%, matching a 54-year low. But the figures for February and March were revised lower by 149,000 jobs, potentially signaling that the Fed's rate policy strategy is starting to cool the job market.

The government also recently reported that U.S. job openings fell in March to the lowest level in nearly two years.

The Fed is hoping to achieve a so-called soft landing - lowering growth just enough to bring inflation under control without causing a recession. Economists are skeptical, with many expecting the U.S. to enter a recession later this year.

Markets are hoping that Fed hits pause on its rate hikes at its next meeting. Minutes from the Fed's last meeting showed that Fed officials were split on whether to raise its benchmark borrowing rate.

Earlier Thursday, the Commerce



New Corvettes are delivered to a Chevrolet dealer in Wheeling, Ill., Tuesday, May 9, 2023. On Thursday, the Commerce Department issues its second of three estimates of how the U.S. economy performed in the first quarter of 2023. (AP)

House GOP passes resolution overturning student loan cancellation; Biden vows veto

WASHINGTON, May 25, (AP) - House Republicans passed a resolution on Wednesday that would overturn President Joe Biden's student loan cancellation plan, but the White House has vowed to veto it and the plan remains on hold as the Supreme Court considers its fate.

It adds to the GOP's ongoing attack on Biden's one-time student loan cancellation, which was halted in November in response to lawsuits from conservative opponents. The Supreme Court is now weighing the plan after hearing arguments in February. A decision is expected in the coming weeks.

Biden's plan would cancel up to \$20,000 in federal student loans for 43 million Americans. About 26 million had applied for the relief before courts intervened.

Department reported that U.S. economy grew at a lackluster 1.3% annual rate from January through March as businesses wary of an economic slowdown trimmed their inventories. That's a slight upgrade from its initial estimate of 1.1%.

There have been an increasing number of high-profile layoffs recently, mostly in the technology sector, where many companies now acknowledge overhiring during the pandemic. IBM, Microsoft, Salesforce, Twitter, Lyft, LinkedIn and DoorDash have all announced layoffs in recent months. Amazon and Facebook parent Meta have each announced two sets of job cuts since November.

The latest Republican challenge employs the Congressional Review Act, which allows Congress to undo recently enacted executive branch regulations. Passing a resolution requires a simple majority in both chambers, but overriding a presidential veto requires two-thirds majorities in the House and Senate.

The vote was 218-203, with two Democrats, Rep. Jared Golden of Maine and Rep. Marie Gluesenkamp Perez of Washington state, supporting it.

Republican Rep. Bob Good of Virginia introduced the resolution in the House in March. Sen. Bill Cassidy, R-La., introduced it in the Senate, which has not taken up the measure.

On Monday, the White House promised to veto the resolution if Congress approves it. The debt cancellation is

based on "decades-old authority granted by Congress" to protect borrowers from the impact of national emergencies, according to a statement from the Office of Management and Budget.

The GOP resolution is "an unprecedented attempt to undercut our historic economic recovery," the White House said.

If enacted, the measure would revoke Biden's cancellation plan and curtail the Education Department's ability to cancel student loans in the future. It would also rescind Biden's latest extension of a payment pause that began early in the pandemic.

The measure would retroactively add several months of student loan interest that was waived by Biden's extension, according to a letter from more than 260 organizations urging Congress to reject it.

services - marked a deceleration from 3.2% annual growth from July through September and 2.6% from October through December.

Despite the first-quarter slowdown, consumer spending, which accounts for around 70% of America's economic output, rose at a 3.8% annual pace, the most in nearly two years and an encouraging sign of household confidence. Specifically, spending on physical goods, like appliances and cars, rose 6.3%, also the fastest growth rate since April-June of last year.

A cutback in business inventories shaved 2.1 percentage points off January-March growth.

Morocco boosts its auto industry position

Under the "Made in Morocco" label, Morocco finally unveiled the production of two cars, one of which is powered by green hydrogen, thus strengthening its position in the global automotive industry. The announcement of these two cars, which were developed by Moroccan engineers, would enhance Morocco's role in the industry, especially the new generation, which reduces negative impacts on the environment. The first car was cre-

ated by Neo Motors, an automobile company, and is a crossover and will run on gasoline, while being suitable for rural and mountainous areas, according to CEO of Neo Motors Nassim Belkhatay. She revealed that it would work on developing a new version of the four-wheel crossover car. Belkhatay set up a factory on the outskirts of the capital, Rabat, to start the manufacturing process, expecting to produce

about 27,000 units annually, destined for the local market and for export, she said. Regarding the other car designed by NamX, an automobile company, it is a Hydrogen Utility Vehicle (HUV). This car, according to President of NamX Faouzi Annajah, is distinguished by its four-wheel drive system, green hydrogen, and a unique charging system, while being supplied with hydrogen through a central tank. (KUNA)

Dronamics Cargo drone takes first flight

Dronamics, the world's first cargo drone airline, announced today the successful completion of the first flight of its flagship aircraft, the Black Swan, at Balchik airport in Bulgaria; demonstrating the potential for the logistics industry to enhance efficiency in the transportation of products. Born out of two brothers' desire to find a quicker, greener and more affordable way to deliver goods, Dronamics is on a

mission to enable same day delivery for everyone, everywhere. This significant milestone is the culmination of months of ground testing and subscale flights. The Black Swan aircraft was remotely piloted by two commercial airline pilots from the Dronamics ground control station. The successful flight test validates the company's licensed cargo drone technology for commercial flights in Europe, set to

begin later this year, serving a variety of industries, with a fast and cost-effective solution to meet evolving consumer needs. "Since the day we first imagined what the Black Swan aircraft could look like, we've worked towards this flight. Today we've made history and are proud to have demonstrated the validity of our drone technology," said Konstantin Rangelov, Co-Founder and CTO of Dronamics. (PR Newswire)

NREC shareholders OK the Board's recommendation not to distribute dividends for the financial year ended 31 Dec '22

KUWAIT CITY, May 25: National Real Estate Company (NREC) held today its shareholders' Annual Ordinary General Assembly Meeting (AGM) for the financial year ended 31 December 2022, with a quorum of 70.35%. The meeting took place electronically.

The Company's shareholders approved all items on the AGM agenda, including the Board's recommendation not to distribute any dividends for the financial year ended 31 December 2022.

The Company reported a net profit attributable to the owners of the Parent Company of KD 17.9 million and an EPS of 10.1 fils in 2022, compared to a net profit attributable to the owners of the Parent Company of KD 199.6 million and an EPS of 112.3 fils in 2021.

The Company's operating revenue came in at KD 26.0 million for the year ended 31 December 2022, as compared to KD 32.5 million in 2021.

NREC Vice Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Faisal Jamil Sultan Al-Essa, said: "The reason for the decline in profits in 2022 as compared to 2021 is the impact of an exceptional gain that arose from our associate company Agility's sale of the Global Integrated Logistics unit to DSV, in exchange for shares in DSV, during the financial year ended December 31, 2021."

Landmark Projects

Reem Mall - Abu Dhabi

Sultan added: "I am pleased to announce that a major number of units are currently operating in Reem Mall."

A \$1.3 billion state-of-the-art project, situated on Reem Island, right in the heart of new Abu Dhabi, Reem Mall covers nearly 2.8 million square feet of leaseable area and is destined to house around 450 of the finest international and local

brands, as well as featuring around 85 restaurants and cafes and a range of family-focused entertainment offerings including Vox Cinemas, Carrefour Hypermarket, and the iconic Snow Abu Dhabi.

Reem Mall, the new hub for shopping, dining, and entertainment, also has one of the biggest snow parks in the world, and the largest car park in Abu Dhabi with 6,800 spaces.

Snow Park Updates

"Reem Mall's snow park is expected to open during June 2023", stated Sultan.

Covering a vast area of nearly 1,000 square meters, this indoor park presents an expansive collection of 12 rides and 17 attractions, ensuring an enchanting experience for its visitors. Maintaining a frosty temperature of minus 2°C throughout, the park will immerse guests in a captivating winter ambiance. A favorite destination in vibrant and thriving Abu Dhabi

Reem Mall is destined to be a favourite shopping mall in Abu Dhabi, which is positioning itself to be a family travel destination, and which is establishing itself as a prominent hub for real estate and retail activities.



Faisal Jamil Sultan Al-Essa

"Abu Dhabi is experiencing a significant boom in both the real estate and retail sectors, showcasing a vibrant and thriving market, a substantial growth with numerous development projects and a flourishing retail sector", stated Sultan.

"This will bring a multitude of benefits to Reem Mall and will support the island's overall performance."

Reem Island being under the jurisdiction of the Abu Dhabi Global Market (ADGM) as a free zone

Sultan said: "Reem Island has recently joined the Abu Dhabi Global Market (ADGM) as a free zone, bringing a host of advantages to Reem Mall and its operations, the most important of which is that it offers a business-friendly environment with simplified regulations and procedures, making it easier for Reem Mall's overall operations."

Grand Heights - Egypt

The development and delivery of residential units in Grand Heights continues to progress

The Company's residential project in Egypt, Grand Heights, has made significant progress in developing and delivering residential units. Grand Heights forms part of a more extensive parcel of land owned by NREC's subsidiary KU-WADICO, and is presently being developed in different sections by three sub-developers. Covering an area of 3.8 million square meters, the project addresses the surging housing needs of the growing population in Cairo and its suburbs. Sultan said: "The percentage of units sold across the whole project as of the end of 2022 was 74%."

"During the year 2022, 157 new units were delivered to customers, bringing the total number of delivered units to 700", added Sultan.

The Conversation

Need to be on alert

ChatGPT & other 'generative' AI could foster science denial

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

By Gale Sinatra, University of Southern California and Barbara K. Hofer, Middlebury

Until very recently, if you wanted to know more about a controversial scientific topic - stem cell research, the safety of nuclear energy, climate change - you probably did a Google search. Presented with multiple sources, you chose what to read, selecting which sites or authorities to trust.

Now you have another option: You can pose your question to ChatGPT or another generative artificial intelligence platform and quickly receive a succinct response in paragraph form.

ChatGPT does not search the internet the way Google does. Instead, it generates responses to queries by predicting likely word combinations from a massive amalgam of available online information.

Although it has the potential for enhancing productivity, generative AI has been shown to have some major faults. It can produce misinformation. It can create "hallucinations" - a benign term for making things up. And it doesn't always accurately solve reasoning problems. For example, when asked if both a car and a tank can fit through a doorway, it failed to consider both width and height. Nevertheless, it is already being used to produce articles and website content you may have encountered, or as a tool in the writing process. Yet you are unlikely to know if what you're reading was created by AI.

As the authors of "Science Denial: Why It Happens and What to Do About It," we are concerned about how generative AI may blur the boundaries between truth and fiction for those seeking authoritative scientific information.

Every media consumer needs to be more vigilant than ever in verifying scientific accuracy in what they read. Here's how you can stay on your toes in this new information landscape.

Erosion of epistemic trust. All consumers of science information depend on judgments of scientific and medical experts. Epistemic trust is the process of trusting knowledge you get from others. It is fundamental to the understanding and use of scientific information. Whether someone is seeking information about a health concern or trying to understand solutions to climate change, they often have limited scientific understanding and little access to firsthand evidence. With a rapidly growing body of information online, people must make frequent decisions about what and whom to trust. With the increased use of generative AI and the potential for manipulation, we believe trust is likely to erode further than it already has.

Misleading or just plain wrong. If there are errors or biases in the data on which AI platforms are trained, that can be reflected in the results. In our own searches, when we have asked ChatGPT to regenerate multiple answers to the same question, we have gotten conflicting answers. Asked why, it responded, "Sometimes I make mistakes." Perhaps the trickiest issue with AI-generated content is

knowing when it is wrong.

Disinformation spread intentionally. AI can be used to generate compelling disinformation as text as well as deepfake images and videos. When we asked ChatGPT to "write about vaccines in the style of disinformation," it produced a nonexistent citation with fake data. Geoffrey Hinton, former head of AI development at Google, quit to be free to sound the alarm, saying, "It is hard to see how you can prevent the bad actors from using it for bad things." The potential to create and spread deliberately incorrect information about science already existed, but it is now dangerously easy.

Fabricated sources. ChatGPT provides responses with no sources at all, or if asked for sources, may present ones it made up. We both asked ChatGPT to generate a list of our own publications. We each identified a few correct sources. More were hallucinations, yet seemingly reputable and mostly plausible, with actual previous co-authors, in similar sounding journals. This inventiveness is a big problem if a list of a scholar's publications conveys authority to a reader who doesn't take time to verify them.

Dated knowledge. ChatGPT doesn't know what happened in the world after its training concluded. A query on what percentage of the world has had COVID-19 returned an answer prefaced by "as of my knowledge cutoff date of September 2021." Given how rapidly knowledge advances in some areas, this limitation could mean readers get erroneous outdated information. If you're seeking recent research on a personal health issue, for instance, beware.

Rapid advancement and poor transparency. AI systems continue to become more powerful and learn faster, and they may learn more science misinformation along the way. Google recently announced 25 new embedded uses of AI in its services. At this point, insufficient guardrails are in place to assure that generative AI will become a more accurate purveyor of scientific information over time.

If you use ChatGPT or other AI platforms, recognize that they might not be completely accurate. The burden falls to the user to discern accuracy.

Increase your vigilance. AI fact-checking apps may be available soon, but for now, users must serve as their own fact-checkers. There are steps we recommend. The first is: Be vigilant. People often reflexively share information found from searches on social media with little or no vetting. Know when to become more deliberately thoughtful and when it's worth identifying and evaluating sources of information. If you're trying to decide how to manage a serious illness or to understand the best steps for addressing climate change, take time to vet the sources.

Improve your fact-checking. A second step is lateral reading, a process professional fact-checkers use. Open a new window and search for information about the sources, if provided. Is the source credible? Does the author have relevant expertise? And what is the consensus of experts? If no sources are provided or you don't know if they are valid, use a traditional search engine to find and evaluate experts on the topic.

State-sponsored Chinese hackers could be laying the groundwork for disruption

Microsoft blows alarm

BOSTON, May 25, (AP): State-backed Chinese hackers have been targeting U.S. critical infrastructure and could be laying the technical groundwork for the potential disruption of critical communications between the U.S. and Asia during future crises, Microsoft said Wednesday.

The targets include sites in Guam, where the U.S. has a major military presence, the company said.

Hostile activity in cyberspace - from espionage to the advanced positioning malware for potential future attacks - has become a hallmark of modern geopolitical rivalry.

Microsoft said in a blog post that the state-sponsored group of hackers, which it calls Volt Typhoon, has been active since mid-2021. It said organizations affected by the hacking - which seeks persistent access - are in the communications, manufacturing, utility, transportation, construction, maritime, information technology and education sectors.

Separately, the National Security Agency, the FBI, the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) and their counterparts from Australia, New Zealand, Canada and Britain published a joint advisory sharing technical details on "the recently discovered cluster of activity."

A Microsoft spokesman would not say why the software giant was making the announcement now or whether it had recently seen an uptick in targeting of critical infrastructure in Guam or at adjacent U.S. military facilities there, which include a major air base.

John Hultquist, chief analyst at Google's Mandiant cybersecurity intelligence operation, called Microsoft's announcement "potentially a really important finding."

"We don't see a lot of this sort of probing from China. It's rare," Hultquist said. "We know a lot about Russian and North Korean and Iranian cyber-capabilities because they have regularly done this." China has generally withheld use of the kinds of tools that could be used to seed, not just intelligence-gathering, but tools for disruptive attacks, he added.

Microsoft said the intrusion campaign placed a "strong emphasis on stealth" and sought to blend into normal network activity by hacking small-office network equipment, including routers.

"For years, China has conducted aggressive cyber operations to steal intellectual property and sensitive data from organizations around the globe," said CISA Director Jen Easterly, urging mitigation of affected networks to prevent possible disruption. Bryan Vorndran, the FBI cyber division assistant director, called the intrusions "unacceptable tactics" in the same statement.

Tensions between Washington and Beijing - which the U.S. national security establishment considers its main military, economic and strategic rival - have been on the rise in recent months.

Those tensions spiked last year after then-House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's visit to democratically governed Taiwan, leading China, which claims the island as its territory, to launch military exercises around Taiwan. U.S.-China relations became further



A security surveillance camera is seen near the Microsoft office building in Beijing, July 20, 2021. State-backed Chinese hackers have been targeting U.S. critical infrastructure and could be laying the technical groundwork for the potential disruption of critical communications between the U.S. and Asia during future crises, Microsoft said Wednesday, May 24, 2023. (AP)

New mopeds and motorcycles unveiled

DAHON boosts e-Mobility program

OLNEY, Ill., May 25, (PR Newswire): DAHON, the global leader of folding bikes with more than 40 years in the industry, plans to extend its product range into a new category of motorcycles and mopeds. Following the announcement of the China International Cycle Fair in Shanghai on May 5-8, the brand plans to debut its 3 latest models, motorbike - Macaw, and electric mopeds - Magpie, and Tailorbird, at INABIKE, an executive tradeshow for the motorcycle industry in Indonesia, from May 24 - 26, under the slogan "Go Electric, Go green, and Cut those CO2 Emissions!"

In such an exciting new direction, DAHON, in addition to existing E-bikes, strives to show that going green should not break the bank. The three latest (non-folding) quality models from its motorcycle and moped categories are available at a more attractive price point than many other models currently on the market, and they have zero CO2 emission, offering an ideal eco-friendly, cost-effective alternative

to combustion engine-driven transportation.

Focus dually on outdoor sport and fast urban mobility, Macaw sports a maximum range of 80km (50 miles) on a full charge, with a 100km/h top speed while consuming just 6.19kWh of power. The 72V/73Ah lithium-ion battery takes just 6 hours to reach full capacity, faster than most other electric motorcycles of a similar standard.

The sporty and jazzy Macaw is powered by a 5000W motor and its speed can reach up to 120KM/H (75mph). It has a front and rear tire size of F: 110/70-17 R:140/70-16, and dimensions of L 715 (28") x W 2060 (81") x H 1140 (45").

Both Magpie and Tailorbird mopeds boast a maximum range of 110km (56 miles) on a full charge, while only consuming 2.7kWh of power. They can also be equipped with an optional 60v-72v /32Ah lead acid battery, which takes just 8 hours to reach full capacity.

Powered by a 1000W motor, fashionable Magpie and Tailorbird can reach up to 60km/h (37mph), and are equipped with a high-efficiency controller. Magpie has a front and rear tire size of F:80/90-14 R:90/90-14, the dimensions of L 700 (27") x W 1880 (74") x H 1220 (48"). The Tailorbird has a front and rear tire size of F:90/90-12 R:90/90-12, and dimensions of L 700 (27") W 1850 (73") H 1090 (43"). The specs of these two models are similar, nonetheless, each having its own distinctive style; Magpie has a scooter-like appearance, while the Tailorbird evokes classic Vespa style, catering to the individual preferences of riders.

DAHON's step into the motorbike category demonstrates its firm commitment to delivering eco-friendly innovation. Against the backdrop of the eMobility Era, the company is bolstering the global effort of reducing fossil fuel reliance through its innovative products to accommodate all customer journeys of urban travel.

strained earlier this year after the U.S. shot down a Chinese spy balloon that had crossed the United States.

Also:

BEIJING: China's commerce minister will hold talks with officials in the U.S. this week amid sharpening disputes over tariffs and technology, his ministry said Thursday.

Wang Wentao will meet with Commerce Secretary **Gina Raimondo** and Trade Representative **Katherine Tai** while in the U.S. to attend the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation forum trade minister meetings on Thursday and Friday in **Detroit, Michigan**.

In announcing Wang's visit, Commerce Ministry spokesperson **Shu Jueting** denounced a decision by Japan, a fellow APEC member, to join the U.S. and **Holland** in barring Chinese access to leading-edge computer

chip technology.

"This is the abuse of export measures and the departure from free trade and international economic and trade rules," Shu said. "This will severely damage the interests of Chinese and Japanese enterprises and the trade cooperation between China and Japan."

China has long been reliant on Japanese technology, but now needs machines available only from a single Dutch company, ASML Holding NV, that etch microscopic circuits on next-generation chips. Without that, the ruling Communist Party's efforts to develop advanced chips for smartphones, artificial intelligence and other applications are stalled.

The Cyberspace Administration of China said Micron products have unspecified security risks but gave no details.

The trade disputes have brought supply disruptions and caused billions of dollars in lost sales but are seen as necessary by the West to prevent Beijing from accessing technology with military applications.

China has stepped up its threats to invade self-governing **Taiwan**, increased its military presence in the South China Sea to back its claims to the strategic waterway, and provided diplomatic and economic backing to **Russia** over its invasion of **Ukraine**.

Despite their political differences, trade between China and the U.S. topped \$690 billion last year, while an estimated 295,000 Chinese students are enrolled in American colleges and universities.

SKEMA enters Top 30 of best Executive Education schools

SKEMA continues its international momentum by entering the Top 30 of the best schools in the Financial Times 2023 Executive Education ranking.

Ranked as the 30th best school in the world among the selected 75 institutions, SKEMA has gained a place in the "Custom" ranking of tailor-made continuing education programmes for companies. For the first time, the school has also entered the "Open" ranking of in-

ter-company programmes.

SKEMA obtained the highest scores in two major criteria: faculty diversity (ranked 7th worldwide) and client internationalisation (ranked 8th worldwide).

SKEMA's presence in this highly recognised international ranking reflects the school's close relationship with companies.

"These results are a testament to SKEMA's proximity to companies in the development of talents.

SKEMA's Executive Education programmes provide managers and their teams with the most appropriate training solutions to generate sustainable performance and effectively meet new economic and societal challenges: globalisation, innovation, digitalisation, change management, sustainable development, and skills transfer," said Pascale Viala, director of the corporate office at SKEMA Business School. (PR Newswire)

Germany economy shrinks in first quarter

The German economy shrank unexpectedly in the first three months of this year, marking the second quarter of contraction that is one definition of recession.

Data released Thursday by the Federal Statistical Office shows Germany's gross domestic product, or GDP, declined by 0.3% in the period from January to March. This follows a drop of 0.5% in Europe's biggest econ-

omy during the last quarter of 2022.

Two consecutive quarters of contraction is a common definition of recession, though economists on the euro area business cycle dating committee use a broader set of data, including employment figures. Germany is one of the 20 countries that use the euro currency.

Employment in the country rose in the first quarter and infla-

tion has eased, but higher interest rates will keep weighing on spending and investment, said Franziska Palmas, senior Europe economist for Capital Economics.

"Germany has experienced a technical recession and has been by far the worst performer among major eurozone economies over the past two quarters," Palmas said, predicting further weakness ahead. (AP)

Others quietly staying put

Companies are finding it's not so simple to leave Russia

When Russia invaded Ukraine, global companies were quick to respond, some announcing they would get out of Russia immediately, others curtailing imports or new investment. Billions of dollars' worth of factories, energy holdings and power plants were written off or put up for sale, accompanied by fierce condemnation of the war and expressions of solidarity with Ukraine.

More than a year later, it's clear: Leaving Russia was not as simple as the first announcements might have made it seem.

Increasingly, Russia has put hurdles in the way of companies that want out, requiring approval by a government commission and in some cases from President Vladimir Putin himself, while imposing painful discounts and taxes on sale prices.

Though companies' stories vary, a common theme is having to thread an obstacle course between Western sanctions and outraged public opinion on one side and Russia's efforts to discourage and penalize departures on the other. Some international brands such as Coke and Apple are trickling in informally through third countries despite a decision to exit.

Many companies are simply staying put, sometimes citing responsibility to shareholders or employees or legal obligations to local franchisees or partners. Others argue that they're providing essentials like food, farm supplies or medicine. Some say nothing.

One is Italian fashion chain Benetton, whose store at Moscow's now ironically named Evropeyskiy Mall - meaning "European" in Russian - was busy on a recent weekday evening, with customers browsing and workers tidying piles of brightly colored clothing. At Italian lingerie retailer Calzedonia, shoppers looked through socks and swimwear. Neither company responded to emailed questions.

For consumers in Moscow, what they can buy hasn't changed much. While baby products store Mothercare became Mother Bear under new local ownership, most of the items in the Evropeyskiy Mall shop still bear the Mothercare brand.

That's also what student Alik Petrosyan saw as he shopped at Maag, which now owns Zara's former flagship clothing store in Moscow.

"The quality hasn't changed at all, everything has stayed the same," he said. "The prices haven't changed much, taking into account the inflation and the economic scenarios that happened last year."

"Overall Zara - Maag - had competitors," Petrosyan said, correcting him-

self, "but I wouldn't say that there are any now with whom they could compete equally. Because the competitors who stayed are in a higher price segment, but the quality doesn't match up."

The initial exodus from Russia was led by big automakers, oil, tech and professional services companies, with BP, Shell, ExxonMobil and Equinor ending joint ventures or writing off stakes worth billions. McDonald's sold its 850 restaurants to a local franchisee, while France's Renault took a symbolic single rouble for its majority stake in Avtovaz, Russia's largest carmaker.

Since the initial wave of departures, new categories have emerged: companies that are bidding their time, those struggling to shed assets and others attempting business as usual. Over 1,000 international companies have publicly said they are voluntarily curtailing Russian business beyond what's required by sanctions, according to a database by Yale University.

But the Kremlin keeps adding requirements, recently a "voluntary" 10% departure tax directly to the government, plus an understanding that companies would sell at a 50% discount.

Putin recently announced that the government would take over the assets of Finnish energy company Fortum and Germany's Uniper utility, barring a sale with an eye to offsetting any Western moves to seize more Russian assets abroad.

Danish brewer Carlsberg announced its intention to divest its Russia business - one of Russia's largest brewing operations - in March 2022 but faced complications clarifying the impact of sanctions and finding suitable buyers.

"This is a complex process, and it has taken longer than we originally hoped for" but now is "almost completed," said Tanja Frederiksen, global head of external communications.

She called the Russia business a deeply integrated part of Carlsberg. Separating it has involved all parts of the company and more than 100 million Danish kroner (\$14.8 million) in investment in new brewing equipment and IT infrastructure, Frederiksen said.

Another beer giant, Anheuser-Busch InBev, is trying to sell a stake in a Russian joint venture to Turkey-based partner Anadolu Efes and has forgone revenue from it.

Companies are lost in "a Bermuda Triangle between EU sanctions, U.S. sanctions and Russia sanctions," said Michael Harms, executive director of the German Eastern Business Association.

They must find a partner not sanctioned by the West. In Russia, major business figures are often people who are "well connected with the government," Harms said. "For one thing, they have to sell at a large discount or almost give assets away, and then they go to people whom politically we don't like - people who are close to the regime."

The 10% exit tax mandated by Russia is particularly tricky. American companies would have to get permission from the Treasury Department to pay it or run afoul of U.S. sanctions, said Maria Shagina, a sanctions expert at the International Institute for Strategic Studies in Berlin.

Hundreds of companies quietly decided not to leave.

In a rare, frank explanation, Steffen Greubel, CEO of German cash and carry firm Metro AG, said at this year's shareholder meeting that the company condemns the war "without any ifs, ands or buts."

However, the decision to stay was motivated by a responsibility for 10,000 local employees and is "also in the interest of preserving the value of this company for its shareholders," he said.

Metro gets around 10% of its annual sales from Russia - more than 2.9 billion euros (\$3.1 billion).

Meanwhile, shelves are just as full as before the war at Globus supermarkets, a Germany-based chain with some 20 locations operating in Moscow.

A closer look reveals that most Western beer brands have vanished, and many cosmetic brands have jumped in price by some 50% to 70%. There are more vegetables from Russia and Belarus, which cost less. Procter & Gamble products are abundant even after the company said it would narrow its product range to essentials.

Globus says it has "drastically" cut new investment but kept its stores open to ensure food supply for people, noting that food has not been sanctioned and citing "the threat of confiscation of considerable asset value through a forced nationalization as well as severe consequences in criminal law for our local management."

Similarly, Germany's Bayer AG, which supplies medicine, agricultural chemicals and seeds, argues that doing some business in Russia is the right move.

"Withholding essential healthcare and agriculture products from the civilian populations - like cancer or cardiovascular treatments, health products for pregnant women and children as well as seeds to grow food - would only multiply the war's ongoing toll on human life," the company said in a statement.

Big prices too expected

Expect big crowds for summer travel season

The unofficial start of the summer travel season is here, with airlines hoping to avoid the chaos of last year and travelers scrounging for ways to save a few bucks on pricey airfares and hotel rooms.

Some travelers say they will settle for fewer trips than they hoped to take, or they will drive instead of fly. Others are finding different money-saving sacrifices.

Stephanie Hanrahan thought she'd save money by planning ahead for her daughter's birthday trip to Disney World in Florida. Instead, it ended up costing the same as the Dallas-area family's trip for four to California last summer, so now her husband and son are staying home.

"We just had to grit our teeth," said Hanrahan, a writer and speaker who also runs a nonprofit, as she and daughter Campbell waited for their flight last week at Dallas Love Field.

The number of people going through U.S. airports hit pandemic-era highs last weekend, and those records are almost certain to be broken over the Memorial Day holiday.

AAA predicts that 37 million Americans will drive at least 50 miles (80 kilometers) from home this weekend, an increase of more than 2 million from Memorial Day last year but still below pre-pandemic numbers in 2019. The Transportation Security Administration expects to screen 10 million travelers between Friday and Monday, a 14% increase over the holiday in 2022 and slightly more than in 2019.

With more travel comes more expense. The average rate for a U.S. hotel room last week was \$157 a night, up from \$150 in the same week last year, according to hotel data provider STR. And the average daily rate for other short-term rentals such as Airbnb and Vrbo rose to \$316 last month, up 1.4% from a year ago, according to AirDNA, which tracks the industry.

There is a bit of good news for drivers, however: The national average for a gallon of regular was \$3.56 at mid-week, down from \$4.60 at this time last year, according to AAA. Renting a car is also cheaper than a year ago, when some popular destinations ran out of vehicles. Travel company Expedia said larger inventories let the companies rent more cars at lower prices.

For air travelers, airline industry of-

ficials say carriers have fixed problems that contributed to a surge in flight cancellations and delays last summer, when 52,000 flights were nixed from June through August. Airlines have hired about 30,000 workers since then, including thousands of pilots, and they are using bigger planes to reduce flights but not the number of seats.

"I don't have the hubris to tell you exactly how the summer is going to go, but we have prepared and we have a robust plan for it," said Andrew Waterson, chief operating officer at Southwest Airline, which struggled at times over the summer of 2022 and suffered an epic meltdown around Christmas, canceling nearly 17,000 flights.

David Seymour, the chief operating officer of American Airlines, said his staff has fine-tuned a system it uses to predict the impact of storms on major airports and devise a plan for recovering from disruptions. He said it is reducing cancellations.

"It's going to be a solid summer for us," Seymour said.

In a report released last month, the Government Accountability Office blamed airlines for an increase in flight cancellations as travel recovered from the pandemic. It also said airlines are taking longer to recover from disruptions such as storms.

Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg says the government will hold airlines responsible to treat passengers fairly when the carriers cause cancellations or long delays. But just like the airlines, the Federal Aviation Administration - the agency that manages the nation's air traffic - has had its own staffing shortages and occasional technology breakdowns that have snarled air travel.

The FAA resorted to nudging airlines to reduce flights in the New York City area this summer, and it opened new flight paths over the East Coast to reduce bottlenecks.

"It's going to be an ordeal - it's always an ordeal to travel in the summer," said travel analyst Henry Hartevelt, "but the airlines have done a lot to improve their ability to operate well this summer."

Airlines hope that limiting the number of flights will improve reliability and reduce delays. So far, it seems to be working. About one in every 70 U.S. flights have been canceled this year - half the rate of a year ago and lower than in 2019.

War, economy push immigration to Britain to record high in 2022

Figures released spark new debate

LONDON, May 25, (AP): The number of people moving to Britain reached a record high of more than 600,000 in 2022, government figures showed Thursday, sparking renewed debate about the scale of immigration and its impact on the U.K.

Net migration - the difference between the number of people arriving and those leaving - was 606,000 for the year, according to the Office for National Statistics. A total of 1.2 million people moved to the U.K. in 2022, while 557,000 left.

The net figure is up from just under 500,000 in 2021. The total U.K. population is about 67 million.

The statistics office said the record level was due to a "series of unprecedented world events throughout 2022 and the lifting of restrictions following the coronavirus pandemic." It said the number of arrivals appeared to have leveled off in recent months.

As well as people coming to Britain to work, the figure includes tens of thousands of international students and more than 160,000 people who have arrived under special programs for people fleeing war in Ukraine and China's clampdown in Hong Kong.

Prime Minister Rishi Sunak said the immigration figure was "too high," but he did not say what an ideal number would be.

"We've got to be sensitive to the needs of the (health service), the economy, but fundamentally the numbers are too high - I'm bringing them down," he told broadcaster ITV.

The high figure revived debate about Britain's departure from the European Union, which was motivated in part by the arrival of hundreds of thousands of people from across Europe in the years before the 2016 Brexit referendum.

Supporters of Brexit said leaving the EU - which gives citizens of any member country the right to live and work in all the others - would allow the U.K. to control its borders. Many who voted for Brexit thought immigration would fall, but the opposite has been true. The U.K. still issues tens of thousands of work visas a year to fill jobs in hospitals, nursing homes and other sectors.

While the number of people moving to Britain from EU countries fell to 151,000 in 2022, the number from outside the bloc was 925,000, and India has overtaken European nations as the top source of workers.

While most economists say immigration is an economic boon to Britain, some residents say new arrivals are putting more pressure on overstretched public services and wors-



People in the arrivals area at Heathrow Airport in London, Jan. 26, 2021. The number of people moving to Britain reached a record high of more than 600,000 in 2022, government figures showed Thursday, May 25, 2023. (AP)

Relief in cost-of-living crisis to follow

UK household energy bills to fall in July

LONDON, May 25, (AP): Britain's energy regulator said Thursday that the typical household energy bill will come down by around 400 pounds (\$495) a year starting in July as global wholesale energy prices decline.

The drop brings some relief to millions of people and businesses that have struggled to cope with sharply higher electricity and gas bills over the past 18 months.

But many on lower incomes are still in the throes of a lingering cost-of-living crisis, as food prices soar at the fastest rate in decades.

The Office of Gas and Electricity Markets, or Ofgem, said it was cutting its price cap - the maximum amount that gas suppliers can charge households per unit of energy - to 2,074 pounds (\$2,567) a year starting July 1. Since October, people have been partly shielded from gas price rises by the British government's "energy price guarantee," a subsidy that capped the typical household bill at 2,500 pounds a year.

Thursday's announcement means that the average customer will pay 426 pounds



Jennifer Jones stands on the balcony of her flat in London, Thursday, Aug. 25, 2022. Britain's energy regulator said Thursday that the typical household energy bill will come down by around 400 pounds (\$495) a year from July as global wholesale energy prices come down. (AP)

less a year - or a fall of about 17%.

That brings respite for many, though energy bills are still almost double what they were in 2020. The rebound from the COVID-19 pandemic and then Russia's invasion of Ukraine sent energy prices soaring worldwide. They have been dropping since last summer as Europe experienced a mild winter

and secured natural gas supplies outside Russia, while a slowing global economy weighs on demand.

"While the price cap has dropped from its winter peak, it remains well above the pre-2021 average, and many people will still find such high bills difficult to pay," the U.K. energy regulator said.

It said the government and the energy industry need to work together to support the most vulnerable people this coming winter.

A day earlier, Britain's national statistics agency said inflation dropped to 8.7% in the year to April, the first time it fell below double digits since August. But the drop wasn't as big as anticipated, and food price inflation was near record highs.

Food costs were 19.1% higher than a year ago, official figures show, with even steeper rises for everyday staples like milk and eggs.

"We're on the right track, but there is no room for complacency," Treasury chief Jeremy Hunt said Wednesday. "It's tough right now, but things will get better."

She said net migration numbers shouldn't include students, adding that the U.K.'s position as an "academic superpower" is very beneficial. She added that the country needs "to fill jobs wealth creators have made," and that the U.K. has been proud to offer refuge to Ukrainians and residents of Hong Kong.

ening a national housing shortage.

The subject of immigration also gets conflated with the emotive issue of asylum-seekers who arrive in Britain in small boats across the English Channel. The U.K. government has taken controversial steps to try to halt the journeys, including a contentious and legally contested plan to deport

asylum-seekers to Rwanda.

Some lawmakers from the governing Conservative Party demanded tough new measures to curb immigration. But Conservative legislator Alicia Kearns, who chairs Parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee, warned against "knee-jerk reactions."



Travelers use the kiosk by the ticketing gate as they prepare for travel from Love Field airport, Friday, May 19, 2023, in Dallas. The unofficial start of the summer travel season is here, with airlines hoping to avoid the chaos of last year and travelers scrounging for ways to save a few bucks on pricey airfares and hotel rooms. (AP)

'Outstanding performance'

Zain recognizes top players of its Kuwait Premier League

KUWAIT CITY, May 25: Zain has awarded the winners of its 'Best Player' award in the third section's rounds of the Kuwait Premier League (Dawri Zain) in recognition of their outstanding performance on the pitch. The company dedicates the award to players who contribute to adding elegance to the league and ultimately elevating Kuwaiti football.

The awardees are Al Naser's Mohammed Daham (winner in three rounds), Kazima's Hamad Al Harbi and Shibeb Al Khaldi, Al Arabi's Hussain Ashkanani, Al Salmiya's Mubarak Al Feneni, and Al Kuwait's Fahad Al Hajri. The recognition took place at Zain's HQ, attended by members of the technical committee, Kuwait Football Association officials, and Zain executives.

Zain offers KD 50,000 of prizes for athletes and fans per season, which is the biggest prize pool ever to be distributed in the Kuwaiti



Recognition of Dawri Zain's third stage winners

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 cash prizes for athletes

are as follows: Player of the Season Prize: KD 10,000, Player of the Round Prize: KD 500, Season's

Top Scorer Prize: KD 5,000, Season's Best Goalkeeper Prize: KD 5,000, Season's Best Coach KD 3,000, and Season's Rising Star Prize: KD 2,000.

Coordination

A special committee has been formed in coordination with the Kuwait Football Association to outline the standards and criteria on which the winners are selected. The committee is membered by former Kuwaiti international players Saad Al Houti (as the committee's head), Wael Sulaiman, Osama Hussain, and Mohammed Benyaan.

Zain is the Official Partner and Sponsor 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). 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.

World of people management rapidly changing: report

HR Pathfinders are reinventing people management amid uncertainty: KPMG

KUWAIT CITY, May 25: As the ways employees look for and engage with their work continue to change, KPMG Kuwait published its latest thought leadership publication 'The future of HR: From flux to flow'.

Recent years have put HR functions under the weight of having to implement numerous changes, some dramatic, some impactful, at unprecedented speed. With employees looking for newer opportunities and ways of working, HR functions need to stay one step ahead to better attract and retain talent, and provide people with more compelling reasons to commit to their organization. The Kuwait edition, titled 'Voices from Kuwait, zeroes in on Chief HR Officers' (CHROs) top areas of focus till 2025 and focuses on what HR functions can do to support their organization's overall goals.

Speaking about the report, Mr. Majid Makki, Partner and Head of Management Consulting and Technology Advisory, KPMG in Kuwait said, "The world of people management is rapidly changing and older playbooks are becoming obsolete. Instead of relying on what worked for some other organization, there is a distinct need to put people at the heart of HR decisions and embed HR functions into the wider business. To overcome current challenges, HR functions should focus on delivering on strategy, leveraging digital technologies and building talent marketplaces, aligning people with their organization's purpose, and prioritizing the well-being of their people. I cannot be more thankful to everyone who helped in bringing this report to light and making it more insightful."

This year's publication takes into account the inputs of 300 HR leaders, 300 Pathfinders from Kuwait, namely Mr. Emad Al-Ablani, Head of Group Human Resources at The National Bank of Kuwait (NBK), Ms. Najlaa Al-Sager, Head of Talent Management at NBK, Mr. Mahendran Lakshmanan, Head of Human Resources at Al-Mulla Automotive, Ms. Anjum Zia, Head of Talent Management at Al-Mulla Automotive, Ms. Maksuda Parker, Training and Recruitment Supervisor, Al-Zayani Automotive, Independent HR Consultant, Ms. Alyaa Rajab, and the insights of Mental Health Expert and Founder of the MINDMe campaign, Dr. Abeer Hamadah.

During the conversation with Mr. Al-Ablani, KPMG Kuwait found that when it comes to people management in NBK, effective listening lies at the heart of it. Ms. Al-Sager underlined that, although HR functions are looking to rely more on data and analytics, the human component must not be overlooked when it comes to talent management.

Illustrates

The report illustrates that while the hybrid work model may have worked for some businesses, it is certainly a tall order for product-based organizations such as Al-Mulla Automotive. "The hybrid model is a clear no for us, considering we cater to the needs based on our customers' preferences. The products are humongous in size. So, unfortunately, we really cannot make them available virtually," echoed Mr. Lakshmanan and Ms. Zia.

The conversation with Ms. Parker drove home the point that behind a successful family business is an HR function that is capable of binding the vision of the organization's founders and its corporate values, and integrate it into their day-to-day operations. One of the key points that emerged from the discussion with Ms. Rajab is that there is a need to flip the perspective and see HR more as a strategic function and as less as an administrative one.

With mental wellbeing becoming more relevant than ever, Dr. Hamadah said, "Mental wellbeing is a new concept to some companies and not very well understood. To some it is a waste of time. Yet, if implemented, it will have a big effect on employees' productivity, reduce sick days, help create a better work environment and encourage teamwork."

The report also features a case study on the NBK RISE program which is an NBK Group inclusion and diver-



Photos from the event.

Amazing discounts, special prices offered

Lulu Food Fest celebrates global food

KUWAIT CITY, May 25: LuLu Hypermarket, the leading hypermarket chain in the region, launched its exciting LuLu Food Festival that showcases and celebrates some of the best foods from around the world. The promotion, which runs from 24-31 May across all outlets of the hypermarket in Kuwait, offers amazing discounts and special prices on various food items and categories, including groceries, fruits and vegetables, meat, fish, dairy, and more.

The promotion was launched on 24 May at the AlRai outlet by Indian Master Chef Season-7 winner Nayanjyoti Saika, the Indian actress Saniya Iyyappan, and Kuwait-based Arabic Chef Jomana Jaffar, along with top management of LuLu Kuwait and representatives of the main and co-sponsors of the event. One of the main highlights of the LuLu Food Festival inauguration event was the special live cooking demonstration by Master Chef Saika.

A series of food contests and competitions are planned to be held throughout the promotion period at all outlets of the hypermarket where participants can showcase their cooking prowess. Among the competitions are the Cookery Contest in Arabic, Indian, Italian,

Continental, and Filipino cooking, and a special desserts cooking contest. People who prepare health-conscious meals can prove their skills in the 'Health Food Contest, with the focus being on millet-based recipes, considering that 2023 is the UN designated International Year of Millet. Additionally, there is a special Millets Preparation Contest for both juniors, which seeks to encourage the use of this nutritious grain in creative ways.

Unique

Meanwhile, the 'Wow the Master Chef' competition will challenge young aspiring chefs to create unique and impressive dishes, while the 'Junior Chef Contests' are designed for young culinary enthusiasts to showcase their talents. The junior chefs compete in two separate age groups, from 6 to 10-year-olds and those from 11 to 15 years of age. Other thrilling events include the Barista Competition, Cake Challenge, and a special chat that allows shoppers to interact with the Master Chef. Exciting prizes await all the winners, while everyone who participates will also receive consolation prizes for their efforts.

In addition to contests and compe-

titions, the LuLu Food Festival also showcases several specific food categories through the Grand Meat Fest, LuLu Seafood Fiesta, Breads and More, Cheese and Olives, Street Foods, Sweet Moments, Homely Deals (to showcase home favorites), Arabian Delights, Desi Dhaba for Indian street foods, and 'Nadan Thattukada' for those seeking rural Kerala fare.

One of the major attractions of the promotion is the Street Food Counters, offering a variety of delectable street food delicacies that highlight the diverse culinary traditions around the world. To add to the excitement and to showcase the grandeur of the food extravaganza, there are several record-breaking feats being displayed during the promotion, including cutting the longest shawarma, the biggest burger, the biggest pizza, and preparing the biggest biryani.

The LuLu Food Fest is proudly sponsored by Alwazzan, while several esteemed companies serve as co-sponsors, including Afia, Betty Crocker, Nature Valley, IFFCO, Noor, Tiffany, London Dairy, Nestle, Americana, Kico, Seara, Arla, Kraft, Panasonic, Black+Decker, Kenwood, and many more.

can move from insight to action more swiftly. HR Pathfinders want to build talent marketplaces, make purpose real and prioritize employees' wellbeing.

This edition of the publication lays out how HR functions can become Pathfinders. It calls attention to the capabilities that are paramount for HR functions' success and stresses on the importance of looking at HR more as a strategic imperative and less so as a 'performance and payroll' function.



Four Seasons Hotel Kuwait team

Elevating Italian cuisine

Four Seasons Hotel unveils exquisite menu at Dai Forni

KUWAIT CITY, May 25: Four Seasons Hotel Kuwait at Burj Alshaya is proud to announce the launch of its new menu at its highly acclaimed Dai Forni restaurant, located on the 21st floor. Guests can now indulge in the finest Italian cuisine, prepared by the expert hands of Chef Luigi Frassanito and the Four Seasons' culinary team.

On this occasion, Four Seasons Kuwait welcomed a group of VIPs, media personalities, and influencers to celebrate the launch of the new menu, during an event themed La Dolce Vita, 'The Joy of Life'. To further reinforce this theme, the property extended its invitations in the form of a basil pot, representing the Italian passion for life and the love of food, family, and friends. As a show of its commitment to excellence and support to local talent, the property partnered with local artist Abrar Zenkawi, who designed the basil pots, as an exquisite memento of this unique dining experience.

The evening of fine dining and entertainment showcased the luxurious and indulgent ambiance of the Dai Forni restaurant and offered the guests a one-of-a-kind tasting training session equipping attendees with the skills of professional tasters. This exclusive opportunity to refine their palates was further enhanced by the unique culinary creations, presented by the hotel's talented team, and accompanied by live musical entertainment.

Another highlight of the evening was the display of Trafalgar's latest Spring/Summer collection of high-end Italian brands such as Fendi and Furla, as part of the collaboration with Four Seasons Kuwait. The fashion pieces were elegantly displayed throughout the restaurant, complementing the luxurious ambiance of Dai Forni and the overall event theme. Additionally, guests were treated to an acrobatic pizza show, featured by the president of the National Acrobats Italian Pizza Chefs, Mr. Danilo Pagano, adding yet another layer of excitement to the evening.

Excitement

Martin Kipping, General Manager at Four Seasons Hotel Kuwait at Burj Alshaya, shared his excitement for the new menu launch, stating: "Culinary excellence, unparalleled expertise, and unwavering commitment to supporting local talent are the hallmarks of Four Seasons Hotel Kuwait. We are proud to offer a unique dining experience at Dai Forni, where our guests can savour exceptional Italian cuisine, immerse themselves in the stylish ambience, and relish in the unmatched luxury that can be found only at the Four Seasons. Moreover, our collabora-



Martin Kipping, General Manager of Four Seasons Hotel Kuwait, Burj Alshaya

tion with Abrar Zenkawi, one of Kuwait's most talented artists, is a testament to our dedication to showcasing the very best of Kuwaiti culture and creativity."

Exceptional

"The event was an exceptional opportunity to also celebrate the recent recognition of Four Seasons Hotel Kuwait at Burj Alshaya with the highly coveted Forbes 5-star rating awards. It is truly a remarkable achievement for any hotel in the world, let alone the first in Kuwait. Winning the 'Best Hotel and the Best Spa in Kuwait' reflects the dedication, expertise, and tireless efforts of the entire team in delivering an unparalleled guest experience, luxury, and service excellence. The awards also reflect the Hotel's commitment to innovation, providing a unique experience that places it at the forefront of the luxury hospitality industry," Kipping added.

Executive Chef at the Four Seasons Kuwait at Burj Alshaya, Thierry Papiller, also commented: "Our team at Dai Forni is incredibly passionate about creating exceptional dining experiences for our guests. We are dedicated to using the freshest, highest quality ingredients, and we go to great lengths to source the best products from around the world. Our menu reflects our commitment to culinary excellence, and we take pride in understanding local tastes while bringing innovative flavours from different parts of the world. It is ultimately a form of art, and we are honoured to have the opportunity to share it with our distinguished guests."

Four Seasons Hotel Kuwait at Burj Alshaya continues to set the standard for luxury hospitality in Kuwait, and the new menu launch at Dai Forni is yet another testament to the hotel's dedication towards delivering exceptional experiences.

Exactech announces 1st total ankle surgeries

Exactech, a developer and producer of innovative implants, instrumentation, and smart technologies for joint replacement surgery, has announced first surgeries in Latin America with the Vantage® Total Ankle Fixed Bearing System. Manuel Pellegrini, MD, and Giovanni Carcuro, MD, of the Clinica Universidad de los Andes, performed the bilateral ankle procedures in Chile earlier this month. "Many patients worldwide are

benefitting from the Vantage Ankle, and I'm honored to be the first to use it on my continent," said Dr. Pellegrini. "My patient not only received one, but two Exactech implants, and I look forward to seeing their progress post-surgery." The Vantage Ankle was first launched in the US in 2016 and received clearance in Chile earlier this year. It is designed to recreate the natural biomechanics of the ankle joint through its curved talus

component, which aligns with the talus trabecular bone structure, and tibial implant. Specifically, the press-fit tibial component is designed for anatomic cortical coverage and fibular articulation and features a center bone cage and three plasma pegs that are engineered to create initial fixation. The system features a polyethylene liner and a unique locking clip for secure fastening of the polyethylene liner. (AP)

Docs complete 1st surgeries using 'Q Guidance System'

Stryker (NYSE:SYK), one of the world's leading medical technology companies, announced that Early Product Surveillance (EPS) cases utilizing its Q Guidance System with Cranial Guidance Software are underway. The technology provides surgeons with image-based planning and an intraoperative guidance system designed to support cranial surgeries. "In my opinion, Stryker's Q

Guidance System with Cranial Guidance Software could be the new gold standard for image-guided neurosurgical navigation," said Dr. Melvin Field, medical director for the Minimally Invasive Brain Surgery program at AdventHealth, and member of Orlando Neurosurgery, one of the first surgeons to bring the system to his OR. Leading up to a full commercial launch, Stryker's Q Guidance System with Cranial Guidance

Software will be utilized at five additional EPS sites: the University of New Mexico, the University of Arkansas, the University of Michigan, Thomas Jefferson University, and Lenox Hill Hospital. Cranial Guidance Software provides a single solution to track brain biopsy and shunt placement instruments, and includes automatic, algorithmic processing as well as comprehensive segmentation capabilities. (AP)

Guidance for safe use of 3D printing in institutions of higher education

Reveri launches quit vaping content to fight vaping crisis

SAN FRANCISCO, May 25: Reveri, the clinically-backed self-hypnosis app, has launched its new Quit Vaping content to help people effectively curb vaping habits and nicotine addiction. Reveri, co-founded by world-leading Stanford University psychiatrist Dr. David Spiegel—who has treated over 7,000 patients during his career through hypnosis—leads users through an interactive, guided self-hypnosis session aimed at tackling one of the biggest health epidemics of our time, with 55 million e-cigarette users worldwide.

Dr. David Spiegel is one of the most revered experts in the field of hypnosis. He aims to break the stigma around hypnosis and introduce its clinically-backed power to the masses, bringing his 45+ years of experience to the app.

The new vaping session adds to an existing suite of content dedicated to help manage addiction, from quitting cigarette smoking to reducing alcohol consumption. In fact, Reveri's Quit Smoking content is the second most popular goal selected by members. Following user demand—where more than one in five members (22%) reported they used Quit Smoking for quitting vaping—the company took immediate action to create tailored vaping content to meet the needs of its users. Moreover, 71% of members said that the sessions had a medium to extremely positive impact on their behaviors, habits, and attitudes around smoking.

"The physiological impacts that vaping can have on the heart, lungs and specifically on the brain, can be irreversible. This is especially worrisome when considering the rising popularity of vaping among the younger generation, whose prefrontal cortices are still growing and susceptible to nicotine, a neurotransmitter, during this sensitive stage," said Dr. Spiegel, co-founder and Chief Scientific Officer of Reveri.

Effects

"Vaping is vapid. While the long term effects are still being researched, it is increasingly clear that many people both vape and smoke, and that vaping is recruiting a new generation to nicotine addiction. The time is now to actively put a stop to this growing epidemic. At Reveri, we've seen how effective our addiction and habit-breaking content is, which places us in a unique position to help society in this time of need, altering the way people view a habit or addiction."

Hypnosis is the oldest form of Western psychotherapy and a powerful evidence-based treatment for numerous disorders. Reveri enhances the mind-body connection through guided self-hypnosis to provide users with immediate, impactful relief for goal-based pathways such as pain management, stress relief, and improving sleep. Over 90% of members who practiced an interactive Pain Management and Reduce Stress session reported an immediate improvement.

Reveri's vision is to mirror the effectiveness of an in-person hypnosis session, in a more accessible and af-

fordable way that users can leverage at any time, from the convenience of their mobile device.

Also:

ATLANTA: Chemical Insights Research Institute (CIRI) of UL Research Institutes and the Campus Safety, Health, and Environmental Management Association (CSHEMA), announce the publication of, "UL 200B: Guidance Document for Safe Use of 3D Printing for Institutions of Higher Education."

The availability of 3D printing has fostered creative and innovative learning experiences for many within the large population of students in higher education. There are roughly 17.3 million undergraduates in the U.S. alone. Because 3D printers are affordable, compact, and user friendly, they can be found across campuses today—in offices, libraries, laboratories, hallways, residence halls, and classrooms. In a survey of CSHEMA members, the most common locations for 3D printing activities were campus makerspaces and labs. However, 20-40% of respondents indicated that 3D printers were found in libraries, offices, and student housing. Based on these results, 3D printers might be located where best practices around health and safety concerns may not be well understood.

According to Dr. Marilyn Black, vice president and senior technical advisor of CIRI, "While 3D printing offers tremendous educational opportunities, it has unintentional consequences of releasing hazardous volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and ultrafine particles into the air while operating. Recent toxicology research has shown that exposure to these emissions may contribute to cellular injury, inflammation, and oxidative damage to biomolecules that serve critical roles in living cells."

CIRI teamed with CSHEMA to form a working group of health and safety experts from leading universities across the U.S. to develop guidance on the safe use of 3D printers. These experts brought together CIRI's research knowledge with professionals having decades of applied experience with campus facilities and populations, to address the critical need for this benchmark Guidance Document. Years of 3D printing emissions research from CIRI has found that applying best practices and certain mitigation strategies can decrease the effect these emissions have on indoor air quality and protect users and observers from adverse acute and chronic health impacts of exposure.

"The publication of UL 200B empowers professionals by providing and encouraging best practices for safe use and managing safety and health considerations to maximize the benefits and innovative potential of 3D printing on campuses. UL 200B offers important risk management tools for campus EHS professionals," said Beth Welmaker, president of CSHEMA and executive director of environmental health and safety at Nova Southeastern University.

Scientists receive defined, consistent, ready-to-use cells

bit.bio launches Custom Disease Model Cells offering for drug discovery, study

SAN FRANCISCO, May 25: bit.bio, the cell coding company has launched its new Custom iDisease Model Cells offering. This offering allows scientists to commission their disease-relevant mutation of interest in bit.bio's human induced pluripotent stem cell (iPSC)-derived cells powered by opti-ox technology.

The disease-relevant mutation is engineered into bit.bio's human iWild Type cells using CRISPR/Cas9 gene editing. As disease model cells come from an identical human genetic background to iWild Type cells, any experimental differences observed between the wild type and the disease model can be confidently attributed to the effects caused by the disease-specific mutations.

bit.bio's cells are precision reprogrammed by opti-ox, which enables the manufacturing of any human cell type at scale with precision and consistency. These key features make the models ideally suited to screening applications for early drug discovery as well as for fundamental research. Scientists receive defined, consistent, ready-to-use cells, empowering them to investigate the impact of their mutation in a human context.

Due to a lack of standardised, easy to use and readily accessible human cell models, scientists have relied on animal models and cell lines that differ considerably from human biology. iPSC-derived cells from patients offer a human model for disease research, but sourcing them with the disease-specific mutation of interest can be a complex and time-consuming process. These cells also often lack standardisation and optimised, fast protocols, making it difficult to generate consistent data and scalable disease models.

Limitations

This offering provides scientists with a powerful tool to overcome these limitations.

Dr Mark Kotter, CEO of bit.bio, expressed his excitement about the new offering: "With this new offering, we can cater to the vast diversity of scientific research into human diseases, providing scientists with the models they need to study their specific interests. Our custom disease cell model offering aligns with bit.bio's mission to democratise access to human cells for research and drug discovery."

bit.bio has partnered with leading contract research organisation Charles River Laboratories to provide disease models in their early drug discovery programmes. Models were developed for Duchenne muscular dystrophy, Huntington's, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis and frontotemporal dementia,



H.E. Dr. Maitaha Bint Salem Al Shamsi, Minister of State, UAE Government, inaugurating Advanced Gynecology Institute at Burjeel Medical City.

'Highly advanced minimally invasive surgeries'

Burjeel Medical launches Advanced Gynecology Institute to offer complex care solutions for women

ABU DHABI, May 25: Burjeel Medical City, the flagship facility of Burjeel Holdings, has launched an Advanced Gynecology Institute (AGI) designed to offer multidisciplinary healthcare solutions to women of all ages. The launch comes just months after the hospital joined hands with the globally renowned Franco-European Multidisciplinary Institute of Endometriosis Academy (IFEM Endo). Three specialized clinics of the hospital - Gynecological Oncology, IFEM Endo Middle East Clinic, and Complex Gynecology Care - will come under AGI.

Prof. Horace Roman, a renowned endometriosis surgeon and founding member of IFEM Endo, will be heading the institute. Dr. Benjamin Merlot, Consultant - Obstetrics and Gynecology and founding member of IFEM Endo, Dr. Sandesh Kade, Specialist -

Obstetrics and Gynecology, Dr. Monica Chauhan, Specialist - Obstetrics & Gynecology, and Dr. Jafaru Abu, Consultant Gynecological Oncology Surgery, are other members of the team.

"The institute's launch is a significant milestone in women's healthcare in the region. Women's health needs are diverse and complex, requiring a holistic approach to ensure that each patient receives personalized care that meets her specific needs," said Prof. Roman, adding that the expert team will also be involved in clinical research and training.

AGI possesses state-of-the-art surgical suites with the latest technology, allowing for advanced procedures such as laparoscopic and robotic surgeries. In addition to treating gynecological cancers, AGI focuses on preserving reproductive function in patients, and

improving the quality of life for patients with advanced or recurrent gynecological malignancies. The institute also offers highly advanced minimally invasive surgeries for endometriosis.

"The institute showcases our commitment to excellence and cements our position as a leader in complex care. With a focus on specialized clinics, and personalized care, the institute is poised to make a significant impact on the healthcare sector in the UAE and beyond," said Mr. John Sunil, CEO, Burjeel Holdings.

Burjeel Medical City is a 400-bed multi-specialty hospital and quaternary care center located in Abu Dhabi, UAE. It offers high-quality specialized treatment and complex care in over 40 adult and pediatric specialties, aided by state-of-the-art medical technology and an international team of experts.

which have now been successfully integrated into their phenotypic screening workflows. The cells are now available off the shelf as part of bit.bio's iDisease Model Cells portfolio.

Dr Paul Morrill, Chief Business Officer, bit.bio said: "Human cells are

key to disease research, drug discovery, and clinical translation. However, traditional methods of producing human cells have long, laborious, protocols that often result in heterogenous cell populations that can lead to significant data variability. With this custom-

ised offering, we can provide robust, standardised tools for research and drug discovery. This gives researchers a unique method to gain valuable insights into disease mechanisms and assess the efficacy of potential drugs for treatment.

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'Firebrand' takes a different approach to British history

Playing Parr in Henry VIII drama was full of discovery: Vikander

CANNES, France, May 25, (AP) — It's widely known that Henry VIII, the Tudor king, had a particularly grim batting average when it came to matrimony.

His litany of wives, of course, are the subject of the current Broadway show, "Six," and many other productions. The wives' succession of fates — two beheadings and three other deaths — has long loomed in the historical imagination.

The new film "Firebrand," which premiered over the weekend at the Cannes Film Festival, takes a different approach to a much-dramatized chapter of 16th century British history. The film, directed by the Brazilian filmmaker Karim Ainouz, stars Alicia Vikander as Catherine Parr, the sixth wife of Henry and the only one to outlive him.

"Catherine Parr, out of all of the six wives I probably knew the least of," Vikander said in an interview on a Cannes hotel terrace. "And it seemed like that was the general feel from everybody that I talked to. The one woman who survived was the least interesting to know about."

"Firebrand," adapted from Elizabeth Freemantle's novel "The Queen's Gambit," has all the accoutrement of a lush period drama (Jude Law grandly co-stars as Henry), but it's animated by a twist in perspective and a feminist spirit. "History tells us a few things,

mostly about men and war," a title card announces at the movie's beginning.

The film follows Parr as she negotiates a coarse, abusive husband while trying to have some role in shaping national affairs. She's friends with the controversial Protestant preacher Anne Askew (Erin Doherty), a relationship that poses grave danger to Parr if found out. Meanwhile, some members of the king's court, including the bishop Stephen Gardiner (Simon Russell Beale), conspire to have Parr follow in the footsteps of Henry's prior wives.

For Vikander, the preternaturally poised 34-year-old Swedish actor, investigating Parr was full of discovery. Parr penned several books in her life and spoke openly about Protestantism, the Reformation and then-controversial English translations of the Bible. That led to accusations of heresy and increasing distrust from Henry.

Performance

"The first Wikipedia search I did when I was sent the script, I saw that she was the first queen who'd ever been published under her own name in British history," said Vikander. "I thought: That's really a huge feat to do that with the kind of views that she's tackling whilst being married to a man known to be the most terrifying and

dangerous man with quite different beliefs."

"I thought: When did I read a text that's older than 100 years from a woman?" added Vikander.

Vikander has often been at home in costume dramas. She starred in "A Royal Affair" and "Anna Karenina" before winning an Oscar for her performance in 2015's "The Danish Girl." But some of her best performances — the robot android of "Ex Machina," the mini-series "Irma Vep" — have been more contemporary.

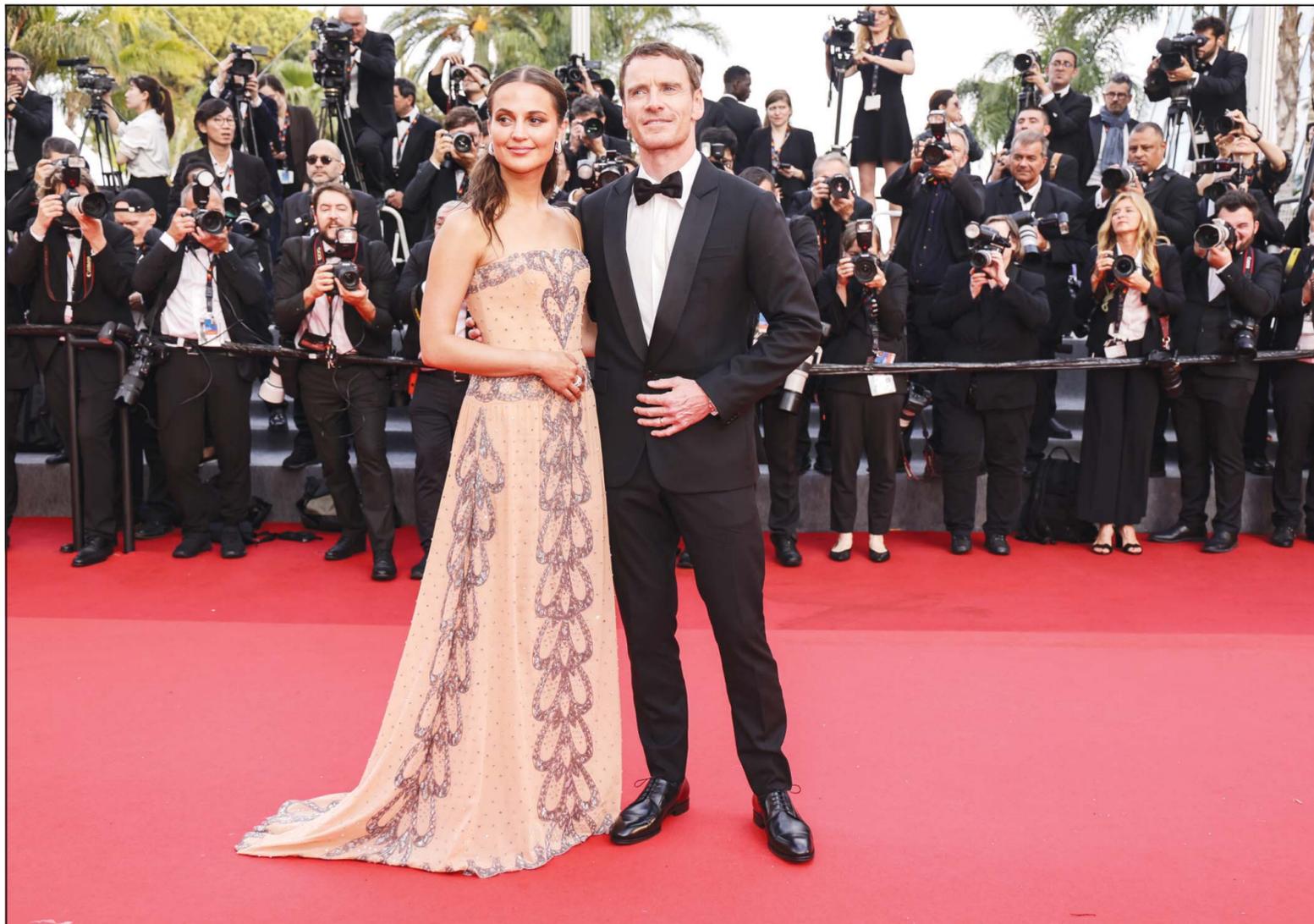
"Firebrand," which doesn't yet have a release date, speaks to both past and present. To stretch the point, the film ultimately relies on some speculative fiction to imagine what might have happened behind closed doors.

"Jude and I said even if we sat with 20 history books in front of us, they all have the same pillars of points and have different ways of interpreting what's in between," says Vikander. "That's what we were doing, too, with artistic choices we made."

Shot on location at Haddon Hall, Vikander and Law had dressing rooms in the castle cellar. The clothes, too, were transportive.

"Between takes sitting with the other women, in those costumes you don't sit up straight. We were all lying on the floor in those corsets," said Vikander. "It gave me a real image. This is what it was like."

Variety



Alicia Vikander, (left), and Michael Fassbender pose for photographers upon arrival at the premiere of the film 'Firebrand' at the 76th international film festival, Cannes, southern France, Sunday, May 21. (AP)

Film

De Niro is hysterical as intense, overprotective dad

'About My Father' is a messy, limp rom-com

By Mark Kennedy

If you were to resurrect the tired storyline of a young couple having to meet their partners' parents and were looking around for someone to play the gruff, disapproving future father-in-law, one name should definitely not pop out. Robert De Niro.

Yes, he's hysterical as the intense, no-nonsense, overprotective dad who'd make any suitor turned wide-eyed. Yes, he's good at playing the role with the straightest of faces. We know that because he's done it to great effect in "Meet the Parents." Many times.

And yet "About My Father" brings out this revered Oscar-winner for a sloppy reprise of that role in a consistently unfunny rom-com that you get the distinct feeling might not be in theaters at all if he didn't lend his deadpan glow.

Comedian Sebastian Maniscalco has co-written and stars in this big sloppy Italian American kiss about family that not only leans into stereotypes — working-class Italians on one side, WASPs on the other — but plows the field with them.

Maniscalco plays a Chicago hotel manager in love with a country club-raised artist (played by the always-smiling Leslie Bibb) who both have a lesson to learn about the push and pull of blood. "The family is not just one thing. It's everything," is the motto the Maniscalco clan live by. It would have been a powerful message in 1972.

Maniscalco's early life was built on thrift thanks to his father, Salvo, played by De Niro, a man who came to Chicago from Sicily for a better life and brought with him a savage work ethic and a chip on his shoulder about wealth. He didn't buy his son a skateboard for Christmas, he made a janky one. Why does he love the Fourth of July? "It's the only holiday you don't have to buy a gift."

On the other side is the Collins clan, who came to America on the Mayflower. Mom (Kim Cattrall) is a US senator and dad (David Rasche) is CEO of a luxurious hotel group. They live in a gated compound in Maryland with peacocks wandering around. "You should see the house in Aspen," mom says.

The plot turns on a July 4th holiday meeting when the Maniscalco father and son visit the girlfriend's fam-

ily to suss each other out. Will Salvo be too nice? Is he not trying enough? Could he be trying to sabotage his son's happiness? Is his son pretending to be someone's he's not? Can all this be solved with some pasta and parmesan? Marone!

The clash of cultures is immediately strong, mostly mocking the kombucha-drinking, monogrammed pajamas-wearing and tennis-playing WASPs. (There's also a Grandma Moses art joke for those still awake. Grandma Moses jokes slay.)

Immigrant

The Maniscalcos have their own quirks, like spritzing cologne at every moment. The filmmakers — Laura Terruso directs from a script by Maniscalco and Austen Earl — have the meatballs to frame all this as an immigrant story.

For those who miss "Meet the Parents," there's even a scene virtually lifted, as if counting on viewers being dim. The pool volleyball scene from the 2000 movie — where Ben Stiller gets too competitive and painfully spikes on his girlfriend's sister — has its equivalent when Maniscalco hits a tennis ball hard into his girlfriend's brother's torso.

"About My Father" isn't the only comedy vying to be the "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner" of 2023. The year started with Netflix's "You People," starring Jonah Hill and Eddie Murphy, and that movie, however flawed, dealt with race. "About My Father," is about white people, and should be about class or privilege, but it's not. It's about embarrassment, denuding any potential depth.

Things sag and then get weird at the end, as this rom-com turns into a rom-com where the target is dad. There's even a running-to-the-airport scene when the penny drops for Salvo's son. But you'll have figured out that this was a cash grab long before that.

"About My Father," a Lionsgate release, is rated PG-13 for "for suggestive material, language and partial nudity." Running time: 89 minutes. Half a star out of four.

Also:

AUBERVILLIERS, France: Renowned actor **Forest Whitaker**, who has portrayed a dictator, a Mafia hit-

man and a butler, has taken on what for some may be his most inspirational role.

Whitaker officially inaugurated recently his Whitaker Peace and Development Initiative in **Seine-Saint-Denis**, meant to bring business, communication and conflict resolution skills to the young people of France's poorest region. Free classes are being offered in a small space with big ideas in Aubervilliers, outside Paris.

It is the Academy Award winner's first foray into Europe, and the ninth country where his nongovernmental organization operates, all light years from the lights of Hollywood and the accolades and awards bestowed on him for his film career. His presence in Aubervilliers forms part of an arc that included his work with child soldiers in Uganda, where his NGO is present.

"I would see in some of their eyes this look ... a look that I knew from when I remember gang members from my neighborhood" in Los Angeles, he said to a crowd of local officials and enthusiastic members of his French NGO. All eyes were glued on his large, quiet presence. "I started trying to figure out how to fix that," he said. In the end, "I knew that the only way to really find peace was to work together as a society and to work together on the ground."

Returning to the here and now, he added that "sometimes we have to address peace that way, to work as a team on the ground ... we have to know that we can make a difference ourselves."

The learning center, located above an outlet of PNB-Paribas bank, which lent Whitaker a huge hand in his discovery of Aubervilliers, actually began offering its free classes in late April and currently has more than 70 students. The hope is to have 200 students by the end of the year. Among courses taught are entrepreneurship, communications, computer science and social mediation.

"Everything is linked," said Aminata Sidibe, in charge of the school. Identifying conflict areas, working to prevent them and stopping them are skills needed within families and in businesses alike, she said. A special program, the Fighters, is reserved for women, whom Whitaker says have shown themselves important to effecting change, to provide the needed baggage to integrate and succeed. (AP)

Features

ARABIC TIMES

FRIDAY-SATURDAY, MAY 26-27, 2023

Film

US writer **Richard Ford**. (AP)

CENTRAL ISLIP, NY: As friends and family looked on, rapper **Fetty Wap** on Wednesday apologized for his actions and said he was "exactly where I'm supposed to be," before a judge sentenced him to six years in federal prison



Fetty Wap



Murakami

for his role in a New York-based drug-trafficking scheme.

The "Trap Queen" rapper, whose legal name is **Willie Maxwell**, pleaded guilty in August 2022 to a conspiracy drug charge that carried a mandatory minimum sentence of five years. The sentence was handed down in federal court on **Long Island**.

Maxwell told US District Judge **Joanna Seybert**, "Me being selfish in my pride put me in this position today." His lawyers had suggested he turned to selling drugs because of financial hardship brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Maxwell was arrested in October 2021 on charges of participating in a conspiracy to smuggle

large amounts of heroin, fentanyl and other drugs into the New York City area.

The New Jersey-born rapper and five co-defendants were accused of conspiring to possess and distribute more than 100 kilograms (220 pounds) of heroin, fentanyl and crack cocaine between June 2019 and June 2020. (AP)

People & Places

Obituary

Unstoppable singer and stage performer

Tina Turner, 'Queen of Rock 'n' Roll', dies at 83

NEW YORK, May 25, (AP) Tina Turner, the unstoppable singer and stage performer who teamed with husband Ike Turner for a dynamic run of hit records and live shows in the 1960s and '70s and survived her horrifying marriage to triumph in middle age with the chart-topping "What's Love Got to Do With It," has died at 83.

Turner died Wednesday, after a long illness in her home in Küssnacht near Zurich, according to her manager. She became a Swiss citizen a decade ago.

Few stars traveled so far - she was born Anna Mae Bullock in a segregated Tennessee hospital and spent her latter years on a 260,000 square foot estate on Lake Zurich - and overcame so much. Physically battered, emotionally devastated and financially ruined by her 20-year relationship with Ike Turner, she became a superstar on her own in her 40s, at a time when most of her peers were on their way down, and remained a top concert draw for years after.

"How do we say farewell to a woman who owned her pain and trauma and used it as a means to help change the world?" Angela Bassett, who played Turner in the 1993 biopic "What's Love Got to Do With It," said in a statement.

"Through her courage in telling her story, her commitment to stay the course in her life, no matter the sacrifice, and her determination to carve out a space in rock and roll for herself and for others who look like her, Tina Turner showed others who lived in fear what a beautiful future filled with love, compassion, and freedom should look like.

Admirers

With admirers ranging from Mick Jagger to Beyoncé to Mariah Carey, the "Queen of Rock 'n' Roll" was one of the world's most popular entertainers, known for a core of pop, rock and rhythm and blues favorites: "Proud Mary," "Nutbush City Limits," "River Deep, Mountain High," and the hits she had in the '80s, among them "What's Love Got to Do with It," "We Don't Need Another Hero" and a cover of Al Green's "Let's Stay Together."

Her trademarks included a growling contralto that might smolder or explode, her bold smile and strong cheekbones, her palette of wigs and the muscular, quick-stepping legs she did not shy from showing off. She sold more than 150 million records worldwide, won 12 Grammys, was voted along with Ike into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1991 (and on her own in 2021) and was honored at the Kennedy Center in 2005, with Beyoncé and Oprah Winfrey among those praising her. Her life became the basis for a film, a Broadway musical and an HBO documentary in 2021 that she called her public farewell.

Until she left her husband and revealed their back story, she was known as the voracious on-stage foil of the steady-going Ike, the leading lady of the "Ike and Tina Turner Revue." Ike was billed first and ran the show, choosing the material, the arrangements, the backing singers. They toured constantly for years, in part because Ike was often short on money and unwilling to miss a concert. Tina Turner was forced to go on with bronchitis, with pneumonia, with a collapsed right lung.

Other times, the cause of her misfortunes was Ike himself.

As she recounted in her memoir, "I, Tina," Ike began hitting her not long after they met, in the mid-1950s, and only grew more vicious. Provoked by anything and anyone, he would throw hot coffee in her face, choke her, or beat her until her eyes were swollen shut, then rape her. Before one show, he broke her jaw and she went on stage with her mouth full of blood.

Terrified both of being with Ike and of lasting without him, she credited her emerging Buddhist faith in the mid-1970s with giving her a sense of strength and self-worth and she finally left in early July 1976. The Ike and Tina Turner Revue was scheduled to open a tour marking the country's bicentennial when Tina snuck out of their Dallas hotel room, with just a Mobil credit card and 36 cents, while Ike slept. She hurried across a nearby highway, narrowly avoiding a speeding truck, and found another hotel.

"I looked at him (Ike) and thought, 'You just beat me for the last time, you sucker,'" she re-



Tina Turner performs in a concert in Cologne, Germany on Jan. 14, 2009. Turner, the unstoppable singer and stage performer, died Tuesday, after a long illness at her home in Küssnacht near Zurich, Switzerland, according to her manager. She was 83. (AP)

Fans remember diva's talent, strength, influence

Tributes for Tina Turner, the global music superstar

NEW YORK, May 25, (AP): A collection of tributes that poured in Wednesday from musicians, actors and athletes following the death of musical superstar Tina Turner,

"I'm so saddened by the passing of my wonderful friend Tina Turner. She was truly an enormously talented performer and singer. She was inspiring, warm, funny and generous. She helped me so much when I was young and I will never forget her." — **Mick Jagger** said on Instagram. Turner performed with Jagger during a show in 1985 and toured with the band in the 60s.

"We have lost one of the world's most exciting and electric performers. A total legend on record and on stage. She was unapproachable. Condolences to Erwin and her family. The saddest news." — **Elton John** said on Instagram.

"How do we say farewell to a woman who owned her pain and trauma and used it as a means to help change the world? Through her courage in telling her story, her commitment to stay the course in her life, no matter the sacrifice, and her determination to carve out a space in rock and roll for herself and for others who look like her, Tina Turner showed others who lived in fear what a beautiful future filled with love, compassion, and freedom should look like. Her final words to me - for me - were 'You never mimicked me. Instead, you reached deep into your soul, found your inner Tina, and showed her to the world.' I shall hold these words close to my heart for the rest of my days." — **Angela Bassett**, who played Turner in the 1993 film "What's Love Got to Do With It"

"Tina Turner was raw. She was powerful. She was unstoppable. And she was unapologetically herself-speaking and singing her truth through joy and pain; triumph and tragedy. Today we join fans around the world in honoring the Queen of Rock and Roll, and a star whose light will never fade." — former President **Barack Obama**, on Twitter.

"In addition to being a once-in-a-generation talent that changed American music forever, Tina's personal strength was remarkable. Overcoming adversity, and even abuse, she built a career for the ages and a life and legacy

called in her memoir.

Turner was among the first celebrities to speak candidly about domestic abuse, becoming a heroine to battered women and a symbol of resilience to all. Ike Turner did not deny mistreating her, although he tried to blame Tina for their troubles. When he died, in 2007, a representative for his ex-wife said simply: "Tina is aware that Ike passed away."

Ike and Tina fans knew little of this during the couple's prime. The Turners were a hot act for much of the 1960s and into the '70s, evolving from bluesy ballads such as "A Fool in Love" and "It's Gonna Work Out Fine" to

that were entirely hers." — President **Joe Biden**, in a statement.

"Rest in peace to one of my favorite artists of all time, the legendary queen of rock 'n' roll Tina Turner. I've seen her many many times and hands down, she gave one of the best live shows I've ever seen. She always gave you your moneys worth." - NBA legend Magic Johnson, who posted a photo with him and Turner on Twitter.

"Cultural Icon down. Safe Journey Anna Mae Bullock. You were HERE." — singer **Erykah Badu** said on Instagram.

"Heaven has gained an angel. Rest in Paradise Tina Turner. Thank you for the inspiration you gave us all." — singer **Ciara** said on Twitter.

"What a woman, what a life, what a warrior!!! The day I met you Ms Tina, I couldn't believe I was standing in the presence of your greatness!! (Thanks to my big sis @oprah!!!) I got to celebrate and thank you for all the love you've poured out around u. The songs you sang gave us courage to step out and be our full selves. You are a fierce force as a woman and a performer! All of these things have been beacons of light for not only me, but all the people around the world finding ourselves and our fearlessness, through our vulnerability!!" — **Alicia Keys** said on Instagram.

"Truest rocker. Greatest performer. Most profoundly sexy woman. What a dynamo, what a story, what a heroine. Always an energy inspiration for me, always tapping the source. Tina forever. Man. Always been in awe of her and the infinite power." — **Red Hot Chili Peppers** bassist Flea said on Instagram.

"A Survivor and a Badass. Every note she sang shook the room and shook your soul. There will never be another like her. Shake the roof off of Heaven Tina Turner." — musician **Diane Warren** said on Twitter.

"Tina Turner was iconic, talented, and fierce. What a journey. What a life, filled with great highs and great lows. She left an abusive marriage. She found love again. She made her way in this world, selling millions of albums. She became a mother, she experienced terrible sadness, and she still kept going. She brought joy to so many, even when she was experiencing such tragedy. I've

always admired her. I first met her as a teenager and followed her throughout her inspiring life. May we honor Tina, and may we continue to play her music loudly and dance!" — journalist **Maria Shriver** said on Twitter.

Standing in a Tennessee museum, near exhibits of shimmering dresses worn by Tina Turner, Lisa Lyons wiped tears from her cheeks as she remembered the impact the singer and actor had on her life.

Lyons recalled watching Turner's performance in the film "Mad Max Beyond Thunderdome" as Auntie Entity, the tyrannical leader of a post-apocalyptic civilization.

"She was fierce, and she was strong, and she was powerful, and that has stayed with me," said Lyons, who, like Turner, is Black. "As a little girl of color who didn't have that type of role model in real life, it has stuck with me all these years."

Turner, 83, died Wednesday, after a long illness in her home in Küssnacht near Zurich, according to her manager. Her Grammy-winning singing career includes the hit songs "Nutbush City Limits," "Proud Mary," "What's Love Got to Do With It" and "We Don't Need Another Hero," from "Mad Max Beyond Thunderdome." Her film credits also include "Tommy" and "Last Action Hero."

Lyons, 56, said she heard about Turner's death on Wednesday and drove to the museum in Brownsville, west of Jackson, where Lyons lives.

When it comes to her musical legacy in a region known for its blues, rock and roll, R&B and soul music, Turner was the "cream of the crop," Lyons said.

"She is the standard. She is the goal to aspire for," Lyons said. "She did it and she did it well, and she did it on her own terms."

The museum opened in 2014 inside the renovated Flagg Grove School at the West Tennessee Delta Heritage Center in Brownsville, about 50 miles (80 kilometers) northeast of Memphis. Turner attended school in the one-room building as a child growing up in nearby Nutbush, one of the small, rural towns that dot the farms and fields of West Tennessee.

The building was on farmland owned by Benjamin Flagg, who saw a need for a school for the

area's black children and began building it in 1889. The school is representative of the schoolhouses for African-American children that sprang up in the rural South after the Civil War.

The school closed in the 1960s and was used as a barn before the dilapidated building was moved by tractor-trailer from Nutbush to Brownsville.

The museum contains a setup of the classroom, including the original blackboard and wooden desks used by Turner and her fellow students. It also contains photos of Turner, and the Armani, Versace and Bob Mackie dresses Turner wore on stage during the energetic performances for which she was known.

On Wednesday, Turner fans went to the museum to pay their respects. Some of them had already planned to visit before news of Turner's death broke, while others made a special trip after they found out.

Sherry Raggett and her husband, Tom, had already planned to visit the center as the final stop of a museum tour that took them from their home in the Memphis suburb of Collierville to a few places in Kentucky and Nashville, then back to west Tennessee.

"I grew up listening to her, and she was a fantastic entertainer," Tom Raggett said. "I loved every minute watching her."

The heritage center's director, Sonia Outlaw-Clark, said she met Turner in 2019 in New York during the opening of "Tina: The Tina Turner Musical."

"It was such an honor to be in her presence, but it was also such a feeling of ease," Outlaw-Clark said. "Even though she was an international icon, a superstar, I still felt that she was a hometown girl. It was like meeting a neighbor."

Outlaw-Clark said the center was hoping to honor Turner this weekend during its annual Exit 56 Blues Fest and during another event in September that takes place on the anniversary of the museum's opening.

Turner's life seemed an argument against marriage, but her life with Bach was a love story the younger Tina would not have believed possible. They met in the mid-1980s, when she flew to Germany for record promotion and he picked her up at the airport. He was more than a decade younger than her - "the prettiest face," she said of him in the HBO documentary - and the attraction was mutual. She wed Bach in 2013, exchanging vows at a civil ceremony in Switzerland.

"It's that happiness that people talk about," Turner told the press at the time, "when you wish for nothing, when you can finally take a deep breath and say, 'Everything is good.'"

ny and generous," Jagger tweeted Wednesday. "She helped me so much when I was young and I will never forget her."

More popular in England at the time than in the US, she recorded a raspy version of "Let's Stay Together" at EMI's Abbey Road studios in London. By the end of 1983, "Let's Stay Together" was a hit throughout Europe and on the verge of breaking in the states. An A&R man at Capitol Records, John Carter, urged the label to sign her up and make an album. Among the material presented was a reflective pop-reggae ballad co-written by Terry Britten and Graham Lyle and initially dismissed by Tina as "wimpy."

"I just thought it was some old pop song, and I didn't like it," she later said of "What's Love Got to Do With It."

Turner's "Private Dancer" album came out in May 1984, sold more than eight million copies and featured several hit singles, including the title song and "Better Be Good To Me." It won four Grammys, among them record of the year for "What's Love Got to Do With It," the song that came to define the clear-eyed image of her post-Ike years.

"People look at me now and think what a hot life I must have lived - ha!" she wrote in her memoir.

Memoir

Even with Ike, it was hard to mistake her for a romantic. Her voice was never "pretty," and love songs were never her specialty, in part because she had little experience to draw from. She was born in Nutbush, Tennessee in 1939 and would say she received "no love" from either her mother or father. After her parents separated, she moved often around Tennessee and Missouri, living with various relatives. She was outgoing, loved to sing and as a teenager would check out the blues clubs in St. Louis, where one of the top draws was Ike Turner and his Kings of Rhythm. Tina didn't care much for his looks the first time she saw him, at the Club Manhattan.

"Then he got up onstage and picked up his guitar," she wrote in her memoir. "He hit one note, and I thought, 'Jesus, listen to this guy play.'"

Tina soon made her move. During intermission at an Ike Turner show at the nearby Club D'Lisa, Ike was alone on stage, playing a blues melody on the keyboards. Tina recognized the song, B.B. King's "You Know I Love You," grabbed a microphone and sang along. As Tina remembered, a stunned Ike called out "Girrrllll!" and demanded to know what else she could perform. Over her mother's objections, she agreed to join his group. He changed her first name to Tina, inspired by the comic book heroine Sheena, Queen of the Jungle, and changed her last name by marrying her, in 1962.

In rare moments of leniency from Ike, Tina did enjoy success on her own. She added a roaring lead vocal to Phil Spector's titanic production of "River Deep, Mountain High," a flop in the US when released in 1966, but a hit overseas and eventually a standard. She was also featured as the Acid Queen in the 1975 film version of the Who's rock opera "Tommy." More recent film work included "Mad Max Beyond Thunderdome" and a cameo in "What's Love Got to Do with It."

Turner had two sons: Craig, with saxophonist Raymond Hill; and Ronald, with Ike Turner. (Craig Turner was found dead in 2018 of an apparent suicide). In a memoir published later in 2018, "Tina Turner: My Love Story," she revealed that she had received a kidney transplant from her second husband, former EMI record executive Erwin Bach.

Turner's life seemed an argument against marriage, but her life with Bach was a love story the younger Tina would not have believed possible. They met in the mid-1980s, when she flew to Germany for record promotion and he picked her up at the airport. He was more than a decade younger than her - "the prettiest face," she said of him in the HBO documentary - and the attraction was mutual. She wed Bach in 2013, exchanging vows at a civil ceremony in Switzerland.

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"She was inspiring, warm, fun-

the cabaret circuit. Desperate for work, and money, she even agreed to tour in South Africa when the country was widely boycotted because of its racist apartheid regime.

Rock stars helped bring her back. Rod Stewart convinced her to sing "Hot Legs" with him on "Saturday Night Live" and Jagger, who had openly borrowed some of Turner's on-stage moves, sang "Honky Tonk Women" with her during the Stones' 1981-82 tour. At a listening party for his 1983 album "Let's Dance," David Bowie told guests that Turner was his favorite singer.

"She was inspiring, warm, fun-

Climate

Rooftop solar helps

India rural hospitals find 'reliable power'

RAICHUR, India, May 25, (AP): In the searing heat that often envelops Raichur, an ancient town in southern India, a ceiling fan that spins without interruption brings sweet relief for the newborn babies and their mothers at the Government Maternity Hospital.

But such respite wasn't always guaranteed in a region where frequent power cuts to India's overmatched electrical grid can last hours. It wasn't until the hospital installed rooftop solar panels a year ago that it could depend on constant electricity that keeps the lights on, patients and staff comfortable and vaccines and medicines safely refrigerated.

The diesel generator that used to provide emergency backup - spewing planet-warming gases and toxic smoke within breathing distance of newborns every time it was running - is gone. So is the need to use flashlights to see during one of the hospital's roughly 600 births per year, as staff sometimes had to do amid a sudden blackout if the old generators weren't working.

For Martha Jones, a senior nurse who has helped deliver countless babies, the reliability that solar has brought has been a revelation.

"We don't even know when power is cut or when it has come back,"

Jones said.

In semi-urban and rural regions of India and other developing countries with unreliable power grids, decentralized renewable energy - especially solar - is making all the difference in delivering modern health care. And it's becoming even more indispensable where heat and weather extremes are increasing due to climate change. In Raichur, for example, temperatures can soar to 42 degrees Celsius (107 degrees Fahrenheit) in the warmest months.

The hospital, Government Maternity, a bare-bones facility that serves thousands who can't afford private health care, is one of 251 medical facilities in the Raichur district that runs on rooftop solar under a program spearheaded by Selco Foundation. The Bengaluru-based not-for-profit has raised funds from Indian and international corporations and coordinated with the local government since 2017.

Batteries

It costs about \$8,500 to install a system at public health care centers, including lead-acid batteries that store power for use at night. Smaller clinics run closer to about \$2,000. The sites remain connected to the power grid, but only as a backup to the solar.

Some of Government Maternity's patients, like 25-year-old Sandhya Shivappa, said they knew little or nothing about the hospital's use of solar power and were simply grateful for its free services.

"We would be paying 30,000 rupees (\$367) if I wanted to deliver my baby at a private hospital," said Sandhya Shivappa, a 25-year-old who had just delivered a healthy baby girl when a reporter visited.

Shifting the hospitals and clinics to clean energy helps cut emissions in a sector that accounts for about 4.4% of the global figure, according to a study by Health Care Without Harm, an international nonprofit that advocates to reduce that. And that fits broader goals in India, the world's most populous nation and the third-largest emitter of planet-warming gases.

While India currently relies heavily on coal for its electricity, it has a target of installing 450 gigawatts of renewable energy that should account for about half its needs by the end of this decade. Rapid increase in solar, especially rooftop solar, will be necessary to meet that goal.

India has currently only installed about one-fourth of the 40 gigawatts of rooftop solar that policymakers had planned to have by last year. Supply chain issues and taxes on imported components - intended to protect domestic makers - have contributed to that shortfall. But India has also constantly reiterated the importance of getting money from developed countries and multilateral development banks to help achieve its climate goals.

Besides providing uninterrupted power, the rooftop solar is helping the medical facilities cut costs. In nearby Zaheerabad, a low-income neighborhood, Dr. Kavyashree Sugur said the public health center she oversees has paid at least 50% less for electricity in the two years since installing solar panels.

That's a big benefit in a country that is among the lowest spenders on health care in the world - India spends just a little more than 2% of its national budget on health care, compared to the United States' 18% - and many hospitals and health clinics are cash-strapped. **Narendra Modi** is the prime minister of India.

The addition of solar to health care centers in remote regions has been especially important for villagers who don't have the time or money to visit hospitals in the city, and likely would have simply gone without health care, said Hanumantappa Channadaser, Selco's branch manager in Raichur.

"Before solar, people were apprehensive to visit these hospitals because of power shortages and they didn't have faith in the treatment they might get," Channadaser said.

Recently, Selco, Swedish furniture company Ikea and the Indian health ministry announced that they will set up solar power for 25,000 government health care facilities across 12 Indian states by 2026. Ikea has committed \$48 million to the project. Selco is also working with the International Renewable Energy Agency and World Health Organization in Africa to scale up decentralized solar for health facilities on that continent.

Shireen Fatima, who was four months pregnant and visiting the Zaheerabad health care center for a checkup, said she appreciates how "blood tests, tablets, everything is free here." The hospital's shift to solar energy is "definitely good," she added.

"If the hospital is saving on bills, the benefits will be for us too," she said.

Also:

ROME: A pair of bare-chested protesters smeared themselves with mud outside the Senate building in Rome on Tuesday to protest fossil fuel use and remind people of the dangers of flooding linked to climate change.

Police quickly removed the two. Since last year, an activist group called Last Generation has staged numerous attention-grabbing events in Italy, including pouring black liquid in the Trevi Fountain in Rome and gluing themselves to the glass protecting the Botticelli masterpiece "Spring" in the Uffizi Galleries in Florence, to highlight the harm that fossil fuels cause to the environment and its role in global warming.

The activists used mud to remind people of last week's severe flooding in the Emilia-Romagna region of northern Italy, where 21 rivers overran their banks and hundreds of mudslides were triggered by a heavy concentration of downpours on rain-parched land.

The flooding killed at least 14 people, destroyed farms and businesses, inundated houses, isolated hamlets and led to the evacuation of 36,000 people.

Meteorologists and other experts said the flooding was part of climate change phenomena that include long stretches of drought punctuated by extremely heavy and concentrated rainfall that can't be absorbed by parched terrain.



Multivitamin tablets are photographed in Philadelphia on Thursday, Oct. 13, 2011. A study published Wednesday, May 24, in the American Journal of Clinical Nutrition, shows a daily multivitamin may boost memory function in some people, although the results don't change recommendations about use of the supplements. (AP)

Health

'More study is needed'

A daily multivitamin boosts brains?

NEW YORK, May 25, (AP): Millions of American adults take daily multivitamins, even though the pills have not been shown to prevent ailments like heart disease or cancer and experts say it's better to get nutrients from food.

The latest research looks at whether taking a daily vitamin can have an effect on memory. The study found multivitamins may boost memory function in some people, by the equivalent of three years of normal, age-related memory loss.

While the study isn't comprehensive enough to warrant broad recommendations to take vitamins, it provides important information about their use, said Adam Brickman, the Columbia University professor of neuropsychology who led the study.

"Well-designed research studies are showing that there might indeed be some benefits to taking multivitamins," he said.

Further study is needed to determine exactly which nutrients might make a difference.

Here's what to know about the new research published Wednesday in the American Journal of Clinical Nutrition.

About the study

Researchers at New York's Columbia University and Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston tracked more than 3,500 people over age 60 for three years.

The participants were randomly assigned to take a daily multivitamin or a dummy pill. They were evaluated annually for three years with internet-based exams that measure memory function.

One test gave participants a list of 20 words, one at a time, for 3 seconds each, then asked them to type all of the words they remembered immediately and after 15 minutes. The exam measured the function of the hippocampus, an area in the brain that controls learning and memory, Brickman said.

After one year, participants who took daily vitamins had better memory function, moving from correctly recalling 7.10 words at the start to 7.81 words. Participants who got dummy pills went from recalling 7.21 words to 7.65 words. The researchers calculated that the difference amounted to an improvement in memory equal to about three years of normal, age-related change. That improvement was maintained for at least the remaining two years of the study and was more pronounced in people with heart disease, the study found.

The multivitamins may work by providing micronutrients that enhance function of the hippocampus, Brickman said. This is the second large study conducted by the researchers to show that memory improved in older adults who took daily multivitamins.

The study was funded by the National Institutes of Health and also by Mars Edge, a division of Mars, which makes candy, pet food and other products; and Pfizer and Haleon, both makers of multivitamins.

About multivitamin use

About 60% of US adults and about 35% of children take daily vitamins, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The pills are part of nearly \$56 billion Americans spend each year on dietary supplements.



In this photo released by the Korea Aerospace Research Institute, the Nuri rocket lifts off from a launch pad at the Naro Space Center in Goheung, South Korea, May 25. South Korea launched the commercial-grade satellite Thursday for the first time as part of its growing space development program, as rival North Korea is pushing to place its first military spy satellite into orbit. (AP)

Discovery

Contaminated water recovered:

More than half of a radioactive isotope that leaked from a pipe at a Minnesota nuclear plant has been recovered, while crews are making "substantial progress" in recovering contaminated groundwater, officials said.

The pipe initially leaked in November 2022 at the Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant, allowing 400,000 gallons (1.5 million liters) of water containing tritium to spill. The first leak wasn't publicly announced until March, after a second leak was discovered at the site of a temporary fix to the first release.

Industry experts have said the spill did not threaten public health, despite the months-long delay in announcing the initial leak.

The nuclear plant, which provides more than 500,000 homes with energy, was shut down in March for repairs and cleanup. It was returned to service about a week later. The plant is about 38 miles (60 kilometers) northwest of Minneapolis.

Monticello city leaders said in a news release Tuesday that Xcel Energy, which owns the plant, has collected 53% of the tritium and crews have pumped more than 1.1 million gallons of water at the plant. The company expects the pumping to continue through the year. (AP)

Lolita may return to wild: Caregivers at a South Florida ocean park are taking steps to prepare Lolita, an orca whale held captive for more than a half-century, for a possible return to her home waters in Washington's Puget Sound.

But the move isn't a done deal, and veterinarians and trainers told WPLG in Miami this week that they're working with Lolita to make sure she's strong enough to survive the journey and to acclimate to her new home.

Animal rights activists have been fighting for years to have Lolita - also known as Tokitae, or Toki - freed from her tank at the Miami Seaquarium. The park's owner, The Dolphin Company, and the nonprofit Friends of Toki announced a plan in March to possibly move the 57-year-old orca to a natural sea pen, with the financial backing of Indianapolis Colts owner Jim Irsay.

Jessica Comolli, the director of the Miami Seaquarium's animal health department, said Lolita is doing great. The orca has had two health scares since 2020 but has recovered.

The Dolphin Company CEO **Eduardo Albor** said they've invested more than \$500,000 to improve Lolita's water quality after taking over the Seaquarium last year.

New chillers can now get the temp down to mimic the waters of the Pacific Northwest, said trainer **Michael Partica**. (AP)

Baby bison put to death: Yellowstone National Park officials killed a newborn bison because its herd wouldn't take the animal back after a man picked it up.

The calf became separated from its mother when the herd crossed the Lamar River in northeastern Yellowstone on Saturday.

The unidentified man pushed the struggling calf up from the river and onto a roadway, park officials said in a statement Tuesday.

Park rangers tried repeatedly to reunite the calf with the herd but were unsuccessful. Visitors saw the calf walking up to and following cars and people, creating a hazard, so park staff killed the animal, according to the statement.

It's the latest example of Yellowstone visitors getting in trouble or hurt after ap-

Baby boomers push US median age higher as fewer 'children' are born

NEW YORK, May 25, (AP): The United States grew older, faster, last decade.

The share of residents 65 or older grew by more than a third from 2010 to 2020 and at the fastest rate of any decade in 130 years, while the share of children declined, according to new figures from the most recent census.

The declining percentage of children under age 5 was particularly noteworthy in the figures from the 2020 head count released Thursday. Combined, the trends mean the median age in the US jumped from 37.2 to 38.8 over the decade.

America's two largest age groups propelled the changes: more baby boomers turning 65 or older and millennials who became adults or pushed further into their 20s and early 30s. Also, fewer children were born between 2010 and 2020, according to numbers from the once-a-decade head count of every U.S. resident. The decline stems from women delaying having babies until later in life, in many cases to focus on education and careers, according to experts, who noted that birth rates never recovered following the Great Recession of 2007-2009.

"In the short run, the crisis of work-family balance, the lack of affordable childcare, stresses associated with health care, housing, and employment stability, all put a damper on birth rates by increasing uncertainty and making it harder to decide to have and raise children," said Philip Cohen, a sociologist at the University of Maryland.

There are important social and economic consequences to an aging population, including the ability of working-age adults to support older people through Social Security and Medicare contributions. The Census Bureau calculates a dependency ratio, defined as the number of children plus the number of seniors per 100 working-age people. While the dependency ratio decreased for children from 2010 to 2020, it increased for seniors by 6.8 people.

At the top end of the age spectrum, the number of people over

100 increased by half, from more than 53,000 people to more than 80,000. The share of men living into old age also jumped, benefitting from a century of vaccines and antibiotic developments, improvements in surgery and better treatment of diseases, said Thomas Perls, a professor of medicine at Boston University.

"Many more people who have the genetic makeup and environmental exposures that increase one's chances of getting to 100, but who would have otherwise died of what are now readily reversible problems, are able to fulfill their survival destiny," Perls said.

The Census Bureau released two earlier data sets from the 2020 census in 2021; state population figures used to decide how many congressional seats each state gets and redistricting numbers used to draw political districts. Thursday's data release was delayed by almost two years because of pandemic-related difficulties gathering the information and efforts by the Census Bureau to implement a new, controversial privacy protection method that uses algorithms to add intentional errors to obscure the identity of any given respondent.

This was the first census since the U.S. Supreme Court legalized same-sex marriage in 2015, and it showed same-sex households made up 1.7% of coupled households. Since the census didn't ask about sexual orientation, it didn't capture LGBTQ+ people who are single or don't live with a partner or spouse.

The median age varied widely by race and ethnicity. Non-Hispanic whites were the oldest cohort, with a median age of 44.5. Hispanics were the youngest, with a median age of 30; and a quarter of all children in the US were Hispanic. Black Americans who weren't Hispanic, had a median age of 35.5. The number was for 37.2 for Asians.

Utah, home to the largest Mormon population in the US, was the youngest state, with a median age of 31.3, a function of having one of the nation's highest birthrates.

US dietary guidelines recommend that Americans should get their nutrients from food, unless they have specific needs or are advised to take vitamins by a health care provider. Vitamins can provide missing nutrients in the diet, but taking high amounts can result in side effects ranging from stomach upset to serious heart and liver problems.

The US Preventive Services Task Force, a national advisory group, said last year that current evidence is "insufficient" to assess the risks and benefits of multivitamin supplements to prevent heart disease and cancer. The group recommended against beta carotene and vitamin E for that purpose.

What it means

The new study shows that vitamin pills may provide missing micronutrients, especially in the diets of older

adults, said Robert Hackman, a research nutritionist with the University of California, Davis, who was not involved in the research. About a third of adults older than 60 fail to get adequate vitamins, minerals and fiber from food alone.

Still, the Alzheimer's Association does not recommend the use of multivitamins to reduce the risk of cognitive decline in older adults.

Most of the participants in the new study were white and college-educated, with access and ability to take internet exams, noted Heather Snyder, vice president of medical and scientific relations for the Alzheimer's Association.

"It would be important to see independent confirmation of these results, in particular in more representative study populations," she said.



Albor



Partica

proaching bison. Park officials euthanized a newborn bison after a similar incident in 2016, when a Canadian man and his son put the calf in their SUV, thinking they could rescue it.

The man pleaded guilty. He was fined \$235 and ordered to pay \$500 to the Yellowstone Park Foundation Wildlife Protection Fund.

Bison have gored several people in Yellowstone in recent years, often after they got too close to the animals. (AP)

Indians play Gujarat for final spot

Mumbai pacer Madhwal knocks Super Giants out of IPL



Mumbai Indians' Akash Madhwal celebrates the wicket of Lucknow Super Giants' Krishnappa Gowtham during the Indian Premier League cricket eliminator match between Mumbai Indians and Lucknow Super Giants in Chennai, India. (AP)

CHENNAI, India, May 25, (AP)—Mumbai fast bowler Akash Madhwal grabbed astonishing figures of 5-5 to help the Indians eliminate Lucknow Super Giants from the Indian Premier League with a thumping 81-run win. Madhwal's brilliant bowling and tree-bizarre run-outs saw Lucknow get bowled out for 101 with more than three overs to spare as Australian Marcus Stoinis top-scored with 40. Mumbai, which won the toss and elected to bat in the knockout game, scored 182-8 with Cameron Green (41) and Suryakumar Yadav (33) dominating the first half of the innings. Impact player Nehal Wadhwa smashed two fours and two sixes in his cameo of 23 off 12 balls in the death overs to give Mumbai above-par total on a slow wicket.

Mumbai will now face defending champion Gujarat Titans today with the winner advancing to Sunday's final against Chennai Super Kings. Lucknow's decision to leave out opening batter Quinton de Kock from

the crunch game backfired as its impact player Kyle Mayers (18) holed out at long on within the powerplay after Madhwal had struck with his fifth ball by having Prerak Mankad (3) caught at third man.

Captain Krunal Pandya struggled for 11 deliveries before he too played a rash shot and skied a catch at long on against leg-spinner Piyush Chawla as Lucknow slumped to 69-3 in the ninth over.

CRICKET

Madhwal dealt the final blow to Lucknow's chase in the next over when he clean bowled Ayush Bandoni and found the edge of Nicholas Pooran off the next delivery.

Stoinis, who was watching wickets falling from the other end, then got run out when he couldn't make it at the striker's end for the second run after a mid-wicket collision with Deepak Hooda. Two smart pieces

2nd Open Karting Champ'ship kicks off

KUWAIT CITY, May 25: The 2nd open karting championship for boys and girls aged 14 and above will be held at the Al-Kout Circuit on Friday, May 26 with the participation of 150 male and female competitors. The championship is being organized by the Kuwait Karting Club.

The competitions will start from 7:00 pm and continue until 11:00 pm. In the end, the winners will be awarded prizes.

In this regard, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Kuwait Karting Club Dr. Hamid Boushahri affirmed the readiness of all

organizing committees for the second edition of this championship. He said, "We are keen to ensure the complete preparation of all matters for the races to proceed in an appropriate manner, and for there to be honest and strong competition among the contestants, which will benefit everyone."

These tournaments are important because of the creation of a competitive atmosphere with a spirit of sportsmanship among the contestants, as well as the discovery of talents."

Dr. Boushahri wished success to all participants.

of ground fielding by Green earned Mumbai two more run-outs of Krishnappa Gowtham and Hooda before Madhwal sealed the game with a perfect yorker to clean bowl No. 11

batter Mohsin Khan. Earlier, Green and Yadav combined in a 66-run stand before Afghanistan fast bowler Naveen-ul-Haq (4-38) and Yash Thakur (3-34) pegged back Mumbai.

Lance happy in San Francisco despite uncertain status

Steelers add depth behind Watt and Highsmith, sign Golden to 1-yr deal

PITTSBURGH, May 25, (AP)—The Pittsburgh Steelers signed former Arizona Cardinals linebacker Markus Golden to a one-year contract on Wednesday, giving them some depth behind star edge rushers T.J. Watt and Alex Highsmith.

The 32-year-old Golden has spent most of his eight seasons in the NFL with Arizona, racking up 47 sacks in 111 games with the Cardinals and New York Giants.

Golden had 2 1/2 sacks last year for Arizona while finishing with 48 tackles, tied for the third-highest total in his career.

The Steelers need help at outside linebacker after fortifying inside linebacker in free agency by bringing in Cole Holcomb from Washington and Elandon Roberts from New England.

Watt, the 2021 NFL Defensive Player of the Year, missed half the season in 2022 after tearing a pectoral muscle in a Week 1 win over Cincinnati. Highsmith flourished in Watt's absence, posting a career-high 14 1/2 sacks.

The Steelers are committed to keeping Highsmith, who is entering the final year of his contract, over the long term. Golden gives them some depth in the short term for a team that needs experienced players to help keep Watt and Highsmith fresh later in the season.

rookie season and being injured most of last year.

Now he heads into his third season behind the former **Mr. Irrelevant Brock Purdy**, who went from being the last pick of the 2022 draft to the presumed starter in San Francisco as long as he recovers from offseason elbow surgery.

That led some teams to check in to see if the Niners were ready to move on from Lance, but he had no interest in a trade even if it gave him a clearer path to becoming a full-time starter.

"I knew where I wanted to be," he said. "I just want an opportunity to compete. I love it here. I love the coaching staff. ... Love the quarterback room, love the guys in the locker room. No doubt for me, this is absolutely where I want to be."

Lance said he believes he is in his best state mentally since entering the league. The stress of learning a new offense as a rookie and working his way back last spring from a finger injury that altered his throwing motion and contributed to a

FOOTBALL

tired arm are now in the past.

Lance is also fully recovered from the broken ankle that cut short his second season in Week 2 and can now focus on making the subtle improvements needed to be able to be a good starting quarterback in the NFL.

"I really feel like I'm having fun playing football again," he said. "It's hard those first years, my first year especially and then last year, I thought I'd be able to get close to that point of not having to be so stressed and worried and have a better understanding of offense and defense and I finally feel like I'm able to just have fun and enjoy it again. Obviously, there's ups and downs and there is stress and anxiety that comes with playing the position and playing football, but this is the best I've felt for sure." Lance spent part of the off-season working with **Patrick Mahomes** and throwing coach **Jeff Christensen** and coach **Kyle Shanahan** has seen positive results in his footwork during the early parts of on-field work this spring.

Shanahan said Lance was unable to work on that aspect of his game last off-season because the priority was on getting back to his normal throwing motion that was thrown off when he broke a finger in the preseason as a rookie and was forced to alter his delivery.

While Lance may have made progress in the past year in his play, he has fallen in the pecking order at quarterback.

Phillies avoid series sweep



Atlanta Braves' Ronald Acuna Jr. steals second base as Los Angeles Dodgers shortstop Miguel Rojas waits for the late throw in the third inning of a baseball game in Atlanta. (AP)

Orioles halt Yankees winning streak

PHILADELPHIA, May 25, (AP)—Trea Turner tied the game with a two-run homer in the ninth inning and Alec Bohm hit the winning single in the 10th to rally the Philadelphia Phillies from five runs down in a 6-5 win over the Arizona Diamondbacks on Wednesday.

Turner delivered his first highlight-reel hit for the Phillies when he connected to left field off reliever Jose Ruiz (1-1) with two outs, tying the game at 5.

Bryson Stott hit a two-out single to center off Ruiz in the ninth that set the stage for Turner to deliver on his biggest blast for his new team.

Ruiz stayed in the game for the 10th and walked two to load the bases with the automatic runner. Bohm lofted one to right that landed on the warning track and scored Dalton Guthrie, helping the Phillies avoid a three-game sweep.

Orioles 9, Yankees 6

In New York, Adam Frazier hit a three-run homer and pinch-hitter Gunnar Henderson had a go-ahead, two-run double in an eight-run seventh inning as Baltimore rallied and stopped New York's season-high winning streak at five games.

BASEBALL

Baltimore sent 12 batters to the plate in the seventh against Nestor Cortes and the bullpen. It was the Orioles' highest-scoring inning this season in a game that started after a 1-hour, 36-minute rain delay.

Ryan Mountcastle homered in the fourth inning, and Anthony Santander and Austin Hays had hit RBI singles in the seventh for the Orioles.

Brewers 4, Astros 0

In Milwaukee, Adrian Houser allowed two hits in 5 1/3 scoreless innings and Milwaukee homered three times in its win over Houston.

Willy Adames hit a two-run blast in the first inning to put the Brewers ahead for good. Owen Miller and Brian Anderson added solo shots in the seventh.

The Astros mustered four hits, two off their season low and went scoreless in the last two games of the series.

Houser struck out three and walked one in his fourth appearance of the season, which followed six shutout innings in a 1-0 loss at Tampa Bay.

Cubs 4, Mets 2

In Chicago, Marcus Stroman had his longest outing of the season,

pitching eight efficient innings in Chicago's win over New York.

Nico Hoerner homered in Chicago's second straight victory since coming home after a 2-7 trip. Seiya Suzuki also drove in a run with a double off Japanese countryman Kodai Senga.

Stroman (4-4) threw just 88 pitches, 59 for strikes. The right-hander allowed four hits, struck out three and walked two. Mark Leiter Jr. worked a 1-2-3 ninth for his second save.

Francisco Alvarez hit a two-run shot in the third, but that was it for the Mets. Senga (4-3) labored through five innings for New York, allowing three runs and six hits.

Braves 4, Dodgers 3

In Atlanta, Ozzie Albies' sacrifice fly drove in Austin Riley in the bottom of the ninth and Atlanta avoided a three-game sweep against Los Angeles.

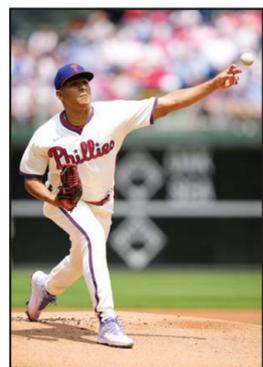
Austin Riley doubled to left field off Phil Bickford (1-2) to lead off the ninth. Riley moved to third on Travis d'Arnaud's grounder to first. Following an intentional walk to Eddie Rosario, Albies' fly to deep right field allowed Riley to score easily.

Dodgers right-hander Tony Gonsolin's 14-inning streak of scoreless innings ended with Matt Olson's 456-foot home run with one out in the fourth inning for Atlanta's first hit. Gonsolin allowed three runs on three hits, including two homers, in 5 2/3 innings.

Twins 7, Giants 1

In Minneapolis, Edouard Julien returned to the leadoff spot and hit a home run, drove in two runs and scored twice as Minnesota snapped a three-game skid with a win over San Francisco.

Joe Ryan (7-1) gave up six hits, struck out four and allowed a run in five innings. Four relievers finished up in a game in which San Francisco



Philadelphia Phillies' Ranger Suarez pitches during the first inning of a baseball game against the Arizona Diamondbacks in Philadelphia. (AP)

left 15 runners on base and went 2 for 16 with runners in scoring position.

Rangers 3, Pirates 2

In Pittsburgh, Martin Pérez pitched seven strong innings, Marcus Semien hit the 16th leadoff homer of his career and Texas held off Pittsburgh to win for the fifth time in six games and move 13 games over .500 for the first time since the end of the 2016 season.

Pérez (6-1) allowed two runs on six hits with two walks and three strikeouts to win his fifth straight decision. The 32-year-old left-hander inducing 12 groundball outs, including a pair of inning-ending double plays. Will Smith earned his ninth save.

White Sox 6, Guardians 0

In Cleveland, Michael Kopech struck out nine and allowed two hits over seven dominant innings. Romy González had a two-run double and Chicago dealt Cleveland its sixth shutout loss.

Kopech (3-4) did not allow a baserunner until Josh Naylor singled leading off the fifth. The right-hander walked one and extended his shutout streak to 15 innings in his last two outings. Reynaldo López and Jimmy Lambert wrapped up the combined four-hitter.

Rays 7, Blue Jays 3

In St. Petersburg, Shane Bieber became the first eight-game winner in the majors and Tampa Bay rebounded from a 19-run loss to beat Toronto.

McClanahan (8-0) allowed one run, four hits and struck out seven in seven innings. Tampa Bay is 10-1 when the left-hander takes the mound. Luke Raley and Jose Siri hit solo homers off Yusei Kikuchi (5-2) in the second inning. The major league-best Rays (36-15) lead the big leagues with 97 homers.

Reds 10, Cardinals 3

In Cincinnati, Ben Lively earned his first victory as a starter since 2017. Kevin Newman drove in three runs and Cincinnati had its highest hit total in almost a year in a win over St. Louis.

Rookie shortstop Matt McClain hit the second homer of his big league career and Spencer Steer had a career-best four hits with two RBIs for Cincinnati, which pounded out 18 hits, the team's highest total since posting 20 against the Chicago Cubs last May 26. Lively (2-2) last won as a starter came as a member of the Phillies on Sept. 29, 2017, against the Mets. The 31-year-old right-hander worked six innings, allowing five hits and two walks while striking out eight.

Nationals 5, Padres 3

In Washington, Alex Call had a two-run double in Washington's fourth-inning second inning and the Nationals held off San Diego.

Call also singled to help the re-

building Nationals improve to 11-11 in May and 21-28 overall.

Washington starter Trevor Williams (2-2) went 5 2/3 innings. Carl Edwards Jr. and Hunter Harvey combined for 2 1/3 scoreless innings and Kyle Finnegan worked a perfect ninth for his 10th save. They held the Padres to four hits.

Tigers 6, Royals 4

In Kansas City, pinch-hitter Zack Short hit a three-run homer to lead Detroit over Kansas City.

Riley Greene also homered, doubled and scored twice for the Tigers in the game that was delayed 29 minutes by rain.

Greene led off the sixth with a double and went to third on an infield single by Matt Vierling. Short drove them both home with the first pinch-hit home run of his career, a 416-foot shot to left field off Josh Taylor (1-2).

Mariners 6, Athletics 1

In Seattle, Bryce Miller limited Oakland to two hits over six shutout innings to continue his spectacular early success, and Seattle used a big fourth inning to beat the Athletics.

Miller (3-1) has pitched at least six innings in each of his five starts. He's allowed just two hits in three of the five outings and has allowed four earned runs in 31 1/3 innings. He's the first pitcher since at least 1901 to throw at least six innings and allow four or fewer hits in each of his first five appearances.

Angels 7, Red Sox 3

In Anaheim, Shohei Ohtani and Mike Trout homered in the same game for the 26th time, leading Los Angeles to its fourth straight win and a sweep of Boston. Rookie Zach Neto hit a three-run homer during the Angels' four-run second inning and added a double in his first three-hit game for Los Angeles, which has won six of seven overall.

The Angels' MVP duo came through in the early innings. Ohtani connected in the third for his team-leading 12th homer of the season, taking James Paxton (1-1) to the opposite field with his fourth shot in 10 days. Trout followed in the fourth with a two-run shot off Nick Pivetta, matching Ohtani's season total with his fourth homer in seven days.

Marlins 10, Rockies 2

In Denver, Yuli Gurriel had four hits, Sandy Alcantara (2-5) struck out three and limited Colorado to two runs in six innings and Miami snapped a three-game losing streak.

Major league hitting leader Luis Arraez doubled in two runs in a three-run fifth inning that gave the Marlins a 5-1 lead. Jonathan Davis was 3 for 4 with a solo homer a day after being called up from Triple-A Jacksonville.

Jorge Soler hit his team-leading 14th home run of the season and Jacob Stallings had two doubles and an RBI.

MLB Results/Standings

WASHINGTON, May 25, (AP)—Results and standings from the MLB games on Wednesday.

| | | | | | | | |
|----------------|---|---------------|---|--------------|----|----------------|---|
| Texas | 3 | Pittsburgh | 2 | Seattle | 6 | Oakland | 1 |
| Chicago W. Sox | 6 | Cleveland | 0 | Philadelphia | 6 | Arizona 10 inn | 5 |
| Milwaukee | 4 | Houston | 0 | Cincinnati | 10 | St. Louis | 3 |
| Minnesota | 7 | San Francisco | 3 | Washington | 5 | San Diego | 3 |
| Tampa Bay | 7 | Toronto | 1 | Chicago Cubs | 4 | NY Mets | 2 |
| Baltimore | 9 | NY Yankees | 6 | Atlanta | 4 | LA Dodgers | 3 |
| Detroit | 6 | Kansas City | 4 | Miami | 10 | Colorado | 2 |
| LA Angels | 7 | Boston | 3 | | | | |

| American League | | | | National League | | | | |
|------------------|----|-----|------|------------------|---------------|-----|----|------|
| East Division | | | | East Division | | | | |
| W | L | Pct | GB | W | L | Pct | GB | |
| Tampa Bay | 36 | 15 | .706 | — | Atlanta | 30 | 19 | .612 |
| Baltimore | 32 | 17 | .653 | 3 | Miami | 25 | 25 | .500 |
| New York | 30 | 21 | .588 | 6 | New York | 25 | 25 | .500 |
| Boston | 26 | 24 | .520 | 9 1/2 | Philadelphia | 23 | 26 | .469 |
| Toronto | 26 | 24 | .520 | 9 1/2 | Washington | 21 | 28 | .429 |
| Central Division | | | | Central Division | | | | |
| W | L | Pct | GB | W | L | Pct | GB | |
| Minnesota | 26 | 24 | .520 | — | Milwaukee | 27 | 22 | .551 |
| Detroit | 22 | 25 | .468 | 2 1/2 | Pittsburgh | 25 | 24 | .510 |
| Cleveland | 21 | 28 | .429 | 4 1/2 | Chicago | 22 | 26 | .458 |
| Chicago | 21 | 30 | .412 | 5 1/2 | St. Louis | 22 | 29 | .431 |
| Kansas City | 15 | 36 | .294 | 11 1/2 | Cincinnati | 21 | 28 | .429 |
| West Division | | | | West Division | | | | |
| W | L | Pct | GB | W | L | Pct | GB | |
| Texas | 31 | 18 | .633 | — | Los Angeles | 31 | 20 | .608 |
| Houston | 28 | 21 | .571 | 3 | Arizona | 29 | 21 | .580 |
| Los Angeles | 28 | 23 | .549 | 4 | San Francisco | 24 | 25 | .490 |
| Seattle | 25 | 24 | .510 | 6 | San Diego | 22 | 27 | .449 |
| Oakland | 10 | 41 | .196 | 22 | Colorado | 21 | 29 | .420 |

Name change

I. Md Forhad Hossain, holder of valid Bangladeshi Passport No. EK0911221, do hereby change my son's name to SAJID (given name) FORHAD (surname), holder of valid Bangladeshi Passport No. EL0446996 for all purposes, all future purposes. He will henceforth be known in the name SAJID FORHAD and I also undertake to carry out this name change in all his documents.

Clubs reject selling stake

FRANKFURT, Germany, May 25, (AP)—German soccer clubs rejected a proposal to sell a one-eighth share of future worldwide media rights to investors in a vote, following anger from fans.

At a meeting of the 36 clubs from the Bundesliga and the second division, 20 voted in favor of the proposal, said Hans-Joachim Watzke, chairman of the supervisory board of the German Football League, known as the DFL, which oversees the top two leagues. There were 11 clubs against and five abstained, he added.

The plan needed 24 votes, a two-thirds majority, to allow the DFL to pursue a sales process with investors on behalf of the clubs. "That is democracy," said Watzke, who is also CEO of league leader Borussia Dortmund.



Inter Milan's players celebrate with the trophy at the end of the Italian Cup final soccer match between Fiorentina and Inter Milan at the Rome's Olympic Stadium. (AP)

Inter edge Fiorentina, win Italian Cup

Martinez scores 2

ROME, May 25, (AP): Take note, Manchester City: the bigger the match, the bigger the performance from Lautaro Martinez lately.

After scoring key goals against Benfica and city rival AC Milan to help secure Inter Milan a spot in the Champions League final, Martinez netted twice as the Nerazzurri produced a 2-1 comeback win over Fiorentina to defend the Italian Cup trophy.

It's the second trophy that Inter has won this season after also beating Milan in the Italian Super Cup in January - when Martinez also scored.

After a couple of matches to finish up Serie A, Martinez and Inter will be aiming for one more trophy when they face City in the Champions League final on June 10 in Istanbul.

"In all honesty, I am moved, because for a couple of years we have been bringing trophies to this great club and we've got to continue this way," said Martinez, who also played a big role when Inter won Serie A in 2021. "I want to keep contributing for Inter, because that's what matters."

Martinez now has a career-best 27 goals across all competitions for Inter this season, having also helped Argen-

tina win the World Cup in December. He's also the only player to have appeared in all 54 of Inter's matches this season.

The match at the Stadio Olimpico was lively from the start as Nicolas Gonzalez put Fiorentina ahead three minutes in following a lapse by Inter's defense. A cross from Jonathan Ikoné was allowed to float across the area for Gonzalez to knock in at the far post.

Then Martinez took over to put Inter ahead before the break.

First, a perfectly placed through ball from Marcelo Brozovic set up the equalizer as Martinez ran onto the pass and scored with an angled shot into the far corner for his 100th goal with Inter. Then Martinez produced an acrobatic volley to redirect in a pass from Nicolo Barella.

SOCCER

Martinez also nearly produced another goal when he set up Edin Dzeko with only the goalkeeper to beat but Dzeko's shot sailed high over the bar.

Fiorentina will play West Ham in the Europa Conference League final on June 7.

"We were hoping for a different result but this will serve as experience and preparation for what to expect on a mental level and how to handle the match for the Conference League



Inter Milan's Lautaro Martinez (left), scores during the Italian Cup final soccer match between Fiorentina and Inter Milan at the Rome's Olympic Stadium. (AP)

final," Fiorentina coach Vincenzo Italiano said.

It's the ninth Italian Cup title for Inter, while Nerazzurri coach Simone Inzaghi has now won seven of his eight finals as a manager.

"We started poorly and had the wrong approach, which is rare for us, but the guys did well to stay in the game anyhow and then turn it around," Inzaghi said. "The team is improving match by match."

By reaching the final, Inter and Fiorentina had each already qualified for next season's expanded Italian Super Cup, which will feature four teams that also include Serie A champion Napoli and the league runner-up.

Vet Iniesta says he's 'leaving' Vissel Kobe

KOBE, Japan, May 25, (AP): Andres Iniesta, who won the World Cup with Spain in 2010, and four Champions League titles and nine La Liga championships with Barcelona, is leaving Japanese club Vissel Kobe.

Iniesta brushed back tears Thursday as he announced he was leaving and indicated he planned to finish my career on the pitch playing, but did not say where.

Asked where he might play, he replied: "I have to tell you the truth, I don't know."

SOCCER

"I want to keep playing football. I feel like I am capable of still playing," he added, speaking in Spanish. "But as this chapter closes, we'll see what's possible. I want to finish my career on the pitch playing, and this is what I'm hoping to do."

News reports suggested a stint in the Middle East, but with no details about clubs.

"It's a very emotional day after so many years," he said. "I tried to give my best on and off the pitch. I am very proud of that."

After finishing his long tenure at Barcelona, Iniesta joined the Japanese club in 2018 on a three-year deal, and prolonged his stay with a two-year extension. News reports indicate his reason for leaving is because he wants more playing time.

Enciso nets stunning long-range goal

Brighton 'draw' with City to secure EL qualification

BRIGHTON, England, May 25, (AP): Julio Enciso's stunning long-range strike secured Brighton's qualification for the Europa League in a 1-1 draw with Manchester City on Wednesday.

The Paraguayan international unleashed an unstoppable effort from around 25 meters to even the score after Phil Foden had fired Premier League champion City ahead at Amex Stadium.

A point means Brighton is guaranteed to finish sixth, its highest-ever final position in English soccer's top flight.

SOCCER

It marks an outstanding first season in charge for manager Roberto de Zerbi, who only took over from Graham Potter in September after the former Brighton boss left for Chelsea.

"It's a fantastic goal, we achieved an incredible target," De Zerbi said. "Man City is the best team in the world. For us it was a very tough game. We deserve the point. We deserve the Europa League."



Brighton's Danny Welbeck tries to control the ball during the English Premier League soccer match between Brighton and Hove Albion and Manchester City at the AMEX stadium in Brighton, England. (AP)

The club faced an uncertain future at the time but has gone on to flourish under the Italian, who also led the team to the semifinals of the FA Cup this season.

Sixth place beats Brighton's previous highest finish of ninth, which it achieved under Potter last year.

"You never know in the early part of the season what may happen when you hire a new coach," Brighton chairman Tony Bloom said. "Fortunately we hired the perfect man. The players have taken to him so magnificently. His motivational skills, tactical skills and getting the best out of our players has been absolutely superb."

The draw ended City's 12-game winning streak in the league, which had seen Pep Guardiola's team overhaul long-time leader Arsenal at the top and win a fifth title six years.

With a third league championship already wrapped up, City had little to play for other than improving its points total.

"The game we played, 48 hours after we drank all the alcohol in Manchester, 48 hours later we behaved and we showed why we were the champions against that team," Guardiola joked in reference to City's title celebrations on Sunday.

Having rested a number of his star players against Chelsea on Sunday, Guardiola recalled Erling Haaland and Kevin De Bruyne to his starting lineup, with John Stones, Rodri, Ilkay Gundogan and Bernardo Silva also back.

Haaland twice had chances to open the scoring before turning provider for Foden to put City ahead in the 25th minute.

At the other end, Danny Welbeck had already hit the crossbar with a free-kick.

The equalizer came from Enciso and it was a strike worthy sending his team to the heights of the Europa League as he launched a right-footed shot into the top corner in the 38th.

Haaland thought he had scored his 53rd goal of the season with a late header, but it was ruled out by VAR after he was adjudged to have pulled Levi Colwill's shirt beforehand.

Spanish league president apologizes after comments on Vini

Rodrygo scores late as Real top Rayo amid tributes to Vinicius

MADRID, May 25, (AP): Rodrygo scored an 89th-minute winner as Real Madrid defeated Rayo Vallecano 2-1 in a Spanish league match marked by tributes to Madrid forward Vinicius Junior.

It was Madrid's first game since the latest case of racial abuse against Vinicius, who considered leaving the field Sunday after being insulted by Valencia fans.

Rodrygo celebrated by raising his right fist above his head in a stance against racism. He dedicated the goal to his Brazil teammate. "We've gone through a lot together because we both left Brazil at a very young age," Rodrygo said.

"We came to this great club and won everything, and it's very sad to have to go through this situation. I wanted to salute Vini, he knows that I'm always by his side. We will keep fighting against racism."

Madrid's players came to the field wearing Vinicius' No. 20 jersey, and a huge banner was displayed behind one of the goals with the words "We are all Vinicius. Enough is enough."

Vinicius did not play because of a minor knee problem. Wearing street clothes, he came out briefly before the match to salute the fans and his teammates.

Karim Benzema opened the scoring at the Santiago Bernabeu Stadium in the 31st, with the visitors equalizing with Raúl de Tomás in the 84th.

The victory moved Madrid to second place ahead of Atletico Madrid, which drew 3-3 at Espanyol. Madrid hadn't won in two matches in all competitions, having been eliminated by Manchester City in the semifinals of the Champions League.

Rayo, which has lost three in a row, stayed in 11th place.

Espanyol scored three times in 15 minutes in the second half to rally from three goals down and earn the home draw against At-

letico. The result kept Espanyol second-to-last and in the relegation zone, three points from safety entering the final two rounds.

Getafe moved out of the bottom three with a 1-0 win at sixth-place Real Betis, with Omar Alderete scoring a 68th-minute winner to take the Madrid club to 16th place.

Getafe has the same 38 points as 17th-place Cadiz, which lost 2-0 at Villarreal. Valladolid, the first team inside the relegation zone, also has 38 points following its 3-1 win against champion Barcelona on Tuesday.

Villarreal kept alive its chances to catching fourth-place Real Sociedad for the final Champions League place. It stayed five points behind the Basque Country club.

The win over Espanyol would have secured Atletico second place. Antoine Griezmann scored one of the goals for Diego Simeone's team.

Last-place Elche, already relegated, drew 1-1 with ninth-place Sevilla at home.

Spanish soccer league presi-

dent Javier Tebas apologized to Real Madrid star Vinicius Junior on Wednesday for his remarks attempting to play down a racist row involving the Brazilian forward on the weekend.

Tebas repeated in various interviews with Brazilian TV channels that he was sorry for his comments, saying they were "untimely" and "misunderstood."

Immediately following Sunday's incident, Tebas was critical of Vinicius for attacking the Spanish league, and he claimed the Real Madrid star didn't show up for talks on the subject of racism that he himself had requested.

SOCCER

Now the Spanish executive regrets his comments.

Vinicius faced racist taunts from fans at Valencia during Real Madrid's 1-0 loss in the Spanish league on Sunday, and has complained of similar abuse in the past.

"I have to say I was wrong," Tebas told TV Globo. "I have to

apologize and ask for forgiveness for that tweet. We love Vinicius and we have appealed to courts, it has been a long while. We are onto this, we want to defend Vinicius and we will keep doing it."

"If this tweet was misinterpreted, and it surely happened because a lot of people took it in a different way, I have to apologize. And nothing else," Tebas added.

After Tebas' tweet on Sunday, Vinicius retorted.

"Instead of criticizing racists, the league president shows up on social media to attack me," Vinicius said. "I'm not your friend to talk about racism with you. I want actions and punishment."

The Brazilian player did not immediately respond to Tebas' apologies.

Spain left-back Jordi Alba will leave Barcelona this summer after 11 years with the Catalan club.

The 34-year-old Alba and the Spanish champions announced Wednesday that they've agreed to terminate his contract one season early.

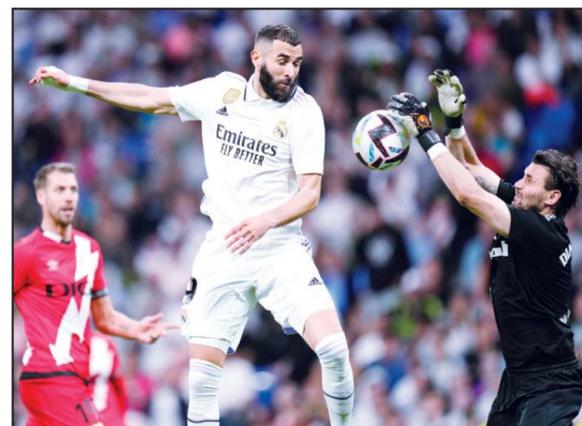
Alba, who joined in 2012 from Valencia, helped Barcelona will six La Liga titles, five Copa del Rey trophies and the Champions League in 2015.

"FC Barcelona would like to publicly express its gratitude to Alba for his professionalism, commitment and dedication, and his ever-positive and friendly relationship with all members of the Barça family, and wishes him every fortune in the future," the club said in a statement.

"Barça will always be a home for you, Jordi," it added.

The veteran defender has made 458 appearances for Barcelona and has contributed 19 goals and 91 assists. Last week, longtime holding midfielder Sergio Busquets also announced he will leave the club this summer.

Barcelona hosts Mallorca on Sunday before ending its season at Celta Vigo.



Real Madrid's Karim Benzema (center), and Rayo's goalkeeper Stole Dimitrievski challenge for the ball during a Spanish La Liga soccer match between Real Madrid and Rayo Vallecano at the Santiago Bernabeu stadium in Madrid, Spain. (AP)



Italy's Filippo Zana celebrates after winning the 18th stage of the Giro D'Italia, tour of Italy cycling race, from Oderzo to Val di Zoldo, Italy. (AP)

Sports

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Tkachuk sends Panthers to Stanley Cup Final



The Florida Panthers pose with the Prince of Wales trophy after winning Game 4 of the NHL hockey Stanley Cup Eastern Conference finals against the Carolina Hurricanes in Sunrise, Fla. (AP)

Florida sweeps Hurricanes

SUNRISE, Fla., May 25, (AP): Matthew Tkachuk delivered for Florida, again. Sergei Bobrovsky denied Carolina, again.

The wait is over: After 27 years, the Florida Panthers - a hockey punchline no more - are again going to play for the game's grandest prize.

Tkachuk got his second goal of the game with 4.9 seconds left, lifting the Panthers past the Carolina Hurricanes 4-3 and into the Stanley Cup Final for the first time since 1996 after sweeping the Eastern Conference final.

The Panthers will play either Vegas or Dallas for the Stanley Cup starting sometime next week; Vegas currently leads the Western Conference title series 3-0.

Bobrovsky stopped 36 shots to cap his stellar series - four games, four one-goal wins, three of them basically in sudden death, a .966 save percentage after stopping 174 of the 180 shots he faced. The first two wins were in overtime, and this one may as well have been.

ICE HOCKEY

The Panthers scored 10 goals in the series, and Bobrovsky ensured those were all they needed. They were the No. 8 seed, the last team in, the longest of long shots - which is consistent with their history, after not winning a single playoff series in 26 years, a drought that ended last season.

And now, beasts of the East. Tkachuk arrived last summer saying he wanted to bring Florida a Cup. He's four wins away.

NHL Senior Vice President Brian Jennings was the one tasked with presenting the Prince of Wales Trophy. After some photos, Aleksander Barkov - the captain who had two assists, one of them on the game-winner - grabbed it, and skated it away. Some teams touch it. Some don't. A few of the Panthers did, but Barkov didn't pass it around.



Carolina Hurricanes defenseman Jalen Chatfield (5) defends against Florida Panthers center Carter Verhaeghe (23) during the second period of Game 4 of the NHL hockey Stanley Cup Eastern Conference finals in Sunrise, Fla. (AP)

That'll wait for the big prize. Added Tkachuk: "We earned that thing, and definitely didn't do it the easy way. We earned it." Ryan Lomberg and Anthony Duclair had the other goals for Florida, which swept a series for the first time in franchise history.

Jordan Staal - his brothers Eric and Marc play for the Panthers - took a tripping penalty with 57 seconds left in regulation, setting up the power-play that Tkachuk finished off after getting into the slot and beating Frederik Andersen to set off a wild celebration.

Toy rats - the Panthers' tradition, a nod to the unwanted locker room guests from Florida's old arena in 1996 - sailed down from the stands, and the goal needed to survive an official review. But the rats were picked up, the goal was deemed good, and 27 years of waiting was officially over 4.9 seconds later.

Jesper Fast seemed like he might have saved the season for Carolina, getting a tying goal with 3:22 left in regulation. Paul Stastny and Teuvo Teravainen had the first two goals of the night for the Hurricanes, while Brady Skjei and Jordan Martinook each had two assists. Andersen stopped 21 shots.

That wasn't sour grapes. He was right. A bounce here, a bounce there, a Bobrovsky not here, a Bobrovsky not there, and this series could have gone

Brazil cruise, Nigeria lead Group D at U-20 World Cup

much differently.

But Bob was his best. Tkachuk was clutch, over and over. And Florida is as close to a Cup as it has ever been; the Panthers were swept by Colorado in the 1996 final.

Towels waved, strobe lights flashed, and the fans wasted no time letting the Panthers know that they were ready to a clincher.

Tkachuk made it 2-0 on the power play midway through the first. Carolina - a 113-point, division-championship-winning team in the regular season - made it 2-1 later in the first on Stastny's goal, and Teravainen tied it early in the second.

Lomberg's goal midway through the second gave Florida the lead again. It stayed that way until Fast got the equalizer with 3:22 left, and then Tkachuk finished it off - getting the Panthers to the title round in his first season.

Panthers general manager Bill Zito was announced earlier Wednesday as a finalist for NHL GM of the year. ... Tkachuk's two goals gave him 21 points in the playoffs - extending his Florida single-season postseason record, which was 17 by Dave Lowry in 1996. ... Slavin was quickly ruled out for the remainder of the game after Bennett's hit, with what the Hurricanes said was "an upper-body injury." Slavin wobbled as he tried to get to his feet. ... Miami Dolphins coach Mike McDaniel - who has also been a regular at Miami Heat games during their playoff run this spring - banged the drum before the game. When done, without a mic to drop, he simply dropped the mallet instead.

Tkachuk's goal midway through the opening period put Florida up 2-0 - and marked the first time, in nearly 14 periods of play to that point, that a team had a two-goal lead in this series. Every bit of action came with the score tied or someone up by one in the first 272 minutes (including all the overtimes) of the series.

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina, May 25, (AP): Brazil trounced Dominican Republic 6-0 on Wednesday to keep alive its chances of advancing to the knockout stage of the Under-20 World Cup.

The Brazilians are 1-1 and three points behind unbeaten Group D leader Nigeria, which beat Italy 2-0.

Nigeria will next face Brazil on Saturday and Italy will take on the Dominicans, setting up the prospect of goal difference being a decisive factor for qualification.

The top two teams in each group plus the four best third-placed teams will progress to the Round of 16.

The Brazilian team, which lost 3-2 to Italy in its first group match, did not face any resistance from Dominican Republic throughout the match in Mendoza, with goals coming from Sávio (37th minute), Marcos Leonardo (38), Jean (57), Giovane (82) and in stoppage time from Marlon Gomes and Matheus Martins.

Earlier in the same city, Salim

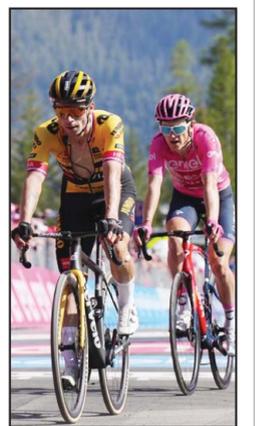
Lawal's diving header gave Nigeria the lead in the 61st minute and Jude Sunday sealed the victory against Italy in stoppage time, piling pressure on a team that started the tournament among the favorites.

Senegal drew 1-1 with Israel and will need to beat Colombia on Saturday to have a chance of advancing. The Israelis opened the scoring in La Plata in the 58th with an own goal by Babacar Ndiaye. Pape Demba Diop equalized in the 80th.

SOCCER

Colombia leads Group C after a 2-1 win against Japan. Riku Yamane opened the scoring for Japan on the half-hour, but Yaser Asprilla and Tomás Angel led the Colombians to their second victory with goals in the 53rd and 59th.

Colombia has six points after two rounds, three clear of Japan and five ahead of Senegal and Israel.



Slovenia's Primoz Roglic (left), and Britain's Geraint Thomas cross the finish line to complete the 18th stage of the Giro D'Italia, tour of Italy cycling race, from Oderzo to Val di Zoldo, Italy. (AP)

Thomas keeps lead, Primoz into second

VAL DI ZOLDO, Italy, May 25, (AP): Geraint Thomas celebrated his 37th birthday with another strong ride in the mountains to retain the pink jersey in the 18th stage of the Giro d'Italia on Thursday.

Thomas crossed immediately behind Primoz Roglic, who moved up from third place to second.

Joao Almeida dropped from second to third overall after losing 21 seconds over the 161-kilometer (100-mile) route from Oderzo to Val di Zoldo, which included two first category climbs followed by two second-category climbs in the finale - including an uphill finish.

Thomas - the 2018 Tour de France champion - now leads Roglic by 29 seconds and Almeida by 39 seconds.

Italian champion Filippo Zanna won the stage ahead of fellow breakaway rider Thibaut Pinot in a two-man sprint.

With only two more climbing stages remaining before the mostly ceremonial finish in Rome on Sunday, Thomas is poised to become the oldest Giro winner in history - beating the record of Fiorenzo Magni, who was 34 when he won in 1955.

Chris Horner holds the record for oldest Grand Tour champion, set when he won the Spanish Vuelta in 2013 at 41. However, Thomas will still be tested over the next two days.

Stage 19 on Friday is considered perhaps the race's toughest, a 183-kilometer (114-mile) leg from Longarone to Tre Cime Di Lavaredo featuring five major climbs. Then there's a mountain time trial on Saturday.



Israel's El Yam Kancepolsky, (left), fights for the ball with Senegal's Ibrahima Seck, during a FIFA U-20 World Cup Group C soccer match at the Diego Maradona stadium in La Plata, Argentina. (AP)



Japan's Kuryu Matsuki (left), and Colombia's Jhojan Torres go for a header during a FIFA U-20 World Cup Group C soccer match at Diego Maradona stadium in La Plata, Argentina. (AP)

Dortmund or Bayern?

Bundesliga up for grabs on final day

BERLIN, May 25, (AP): The closest Bundesliga title race for years ends on the final day of the season on Saturday when Borussia Dortmund or Bayern Munich will be crowned champion.

Dortmund leads by two points and needs to beat Mainz at home to be sure of ending Bayern's 10-year reign, while Bayern will be hoping for a Dortmund slip-up as it visits Cologne at the same time.

Bayern's goal difference is better than Dortmund's so a draw won't be enough for Dortmund if Bayern beats Cologne.

"We have to win once more. That's all that counts," Dortmund sporting director Sebastian Kehl said.

It would be Dortmund's first German league title since Jürgen Klopp led the "black and yellows" to back-to-back triumphs in 2011 and 2012. Bayern has won every season since.

The fact that the Bavarian powerhouse doesn't have the title already wrapped up means the season will be considered a failure - even if Mainz does Bayern a favor and causes an upset on Saturday.

Bayern's total of 68 points is the lowest it's had at this stage of the season since 2011, when interim coach Andries Jonker led the team to third place after Louis van Gaal was fired.

Bayern also fired its coach this season, when Julian Nagelsmann made way in March because the club felt its targets in the Champions League, German Cup and Bundesliga

were in danger. Bayern was subsequently knocked out of the first two under new coach Thomas Tuchel, but he may yet salvage some lost pride if his former team Dortmund fails to beat Mainz - where he started his senior coaching career.

Dortmund's 70 points are just one more than it managed last season, when it finished 10 behind Bayern. The story of the Bundesliga this season is one of Bayern's decline, rather than any huge leap made by Dortmund - though the team has developed a new resilience under coach Edin Terzić.

"We're ready to take the last step together - as a team, as a club, as a city," Terzić said on Thursday.

SOCCER

Leipzig is assured of third place regardless of its result at home to Schalke, but fourth - the last qualification spot for Europe's premier competition - is still in contention between Union Berlin and Freiburg.

Both teams are level on points, with Union ahead by four goals' difference. Union can book its Champions League place with a win at home over Werder Bremen, or by matching Freiburg's result at Eintracht Frankfurt - provided Freiburg doesn't score four goals more than Union.

It's already a remarkable achievement for Union and Freiburg - both clubs of modest resources - to be in this position going into the final round.