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Palestinian shooter kills Israeli security guard

Demolition set

JERUSALEM, Aug 6, (AP): A Palestinian gunman on Saturday opened fire in central Tel Aviv, killing an Israeli security guard before he was shot and killed by police, authorities said.

The attack came a day after a settler rampage in the occupied West Bank killed one Palestinian, deepening the spiral of violence that has gripped the region for the past year and a half.

Late Saturday, officials from Ichilov Hospital identified the Tel Aviv security guard who was killed as 42-year-old Chen Amir. Police identified the gunman as 27-year-old Kamel Abu Bakr, from a village near the flashpoint city of Jenin in the northern West Bank.

Jenin's refugee camp last month was the site of the largest Israeli offensive in the West Bank in nearly two decades. Twelve Palestinians, including at least eight militants, and one Israeli soldier, were killed in the fighting, which forced thousands to flee their homes and left large swaths of the camp in ruins.

Israeli police said that Amir and another officer noticed Bakr, and, believing he was acting suspiciously, approached him. They said Bakr then opened fire, gravely wounding Amir. After a short chase, an inspector shot Bakr.

Both Amir and Bakr later died at Ichilov Hospital, according to hospital officials. Amir was married and had three daughters, hospital officials said.

Amateur video circulated online of Bakr vowing that armed resistance was "the only path." Israel's internal security agency said that Bakr had been wanted for the past six months.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Police Commissioner Kobi Shabtai praised the Tel Aviv police for preventing a more serious attack.

"Our security forces will counter all those who seek to harm us," Netanyahu said in a statement Saturday night.

Overhaul

After the attack, police and civilians ran through the cafe-lined streets in the seaside metropolis as protesters nearby rallied for their 40th week of protests against Netanyahu's plan to overhaul the country's judiciary. Police said they would bolster their presence in Tel Aviv on Saturday night, and protest leaders said demonstrations would proceed normally.

The Palestinian militant groups Hamas and Islamic Jihad both issued statements praising the attack.

The shooting came one day after a settler rampage in a village in the northern West Bank. Late on Friday, armed settlers entered Burqa, a herding village east of the city of Ramallah, shooting and killing 19-year-old Qusai Matan, Palestinian health officials said.

Israeli police said Saturday that they had arrested two Israeli settlers in connection with the attack.

Meanwhile, the Israeli military on Sunday prepped the family home of a Palestinian gunman for demolition, a day after he killed an Israeli security guard in an attack.

On Saturday a Palestinian gunman shot and killed 42-year-old security guard Chen Amir in central Tel Aviv. The attacker, identified by police as 27-year-old Kamel Abu Bakr, was shot at the scene and died later in hospital.

Amir's funeral was expected to take place Sunday.

Saturday's shooting came a day after two Israeli settlers were arrested on suspicion of killing a Palestinian man in the West Bank on Friday night. Palestinian officials said armed settlers entered the West Bank village of Burqa and shot 19-year-old Qusai Matan.

The army said the Israeli settlers arrived in the area to herd sheep, leading to clashes between Israelis and Palestinians from the village. Israeli media reported that one of the suspects in the incident, Elisha Yered, was a former aide to an ultranationalist lawmaker in the "Jewish Power" party, one of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's key coalition partners.

The shooting is part of an escalation of settler attacks on Palestinian civilians in recent months, and several Israeli commentators warned Sunday that assailants felt emboldened by fellow ultranationalists in key positions in government.

The Israeli military said troops measured the home of the Palestinian attacker ahead of its demolition in the village of Rumana, near the restive West Bank city of Jenin.

Saudis, Bahrain call on citizens to quit Lebanon

Refugee camp clashes raise concern

BEIRUT, Aug 6, (Agencies): Bahrain called on its citizens Saturday to leave Lebanon "for their own safety" hours after Saudi Arabia did the same without giving a reason.

The decision by the two Gulf nations came after days of fighting in the largest Palestinian refugee camp in Lebanon between members of Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas' Fatah group and militants of Islamic groups.

The four days of fighting in Ein el-Hilweh camp near the southern port city of Sidon has left 13 people dead and dozens wounded.

Bahrain's Foreign Ministry said Bahrainis should abide by the government's previous decisions to avoid travel to Lebanon.

The Saudi embassy in Beirut posted a statement late Friday night on X, formerly known as Twitter, calling on its citizens to avoid going to areas where there are "armed conflicts" and also to leave Lebanon quickly.

On Saturday, the Kuwaiti Embassy in Lebanon urged Kuwaiti citizens in Lebanon to steer clear of "disturbance areas", calling on them to keep a low profile.



Khalil al-Sawadi plays with his adopted daughter Afraa in Jinderis, Syria, on Saturday, Aug. 5, 2023. Afraa was born under the rubble of her family home, destroyed by the deadly earthquake that hit Turkey and Syria six months ago, killing her parents and siblings. (AP)

NewsWatch

MULTAN, Pakistan: At least 30 passengers were killed and 60 more injured when a train derailed near the Pakistani town of Nawabshah in southern Sindh province, officials said Sunday.

The Hazara Express was on its way from Karachi to Rawalpindi when 10 cars derailed near the Sarhari railway station off Nawabshah, said senior railway officer Mahmoodur Rehman Lakho. Lakho is in charge of railways in the accident area.

Lakho said rescue crews took injured passengers to the nearby Peoples Hospital in Nawabshah. (AP)

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's former Prime Minister Imran Khan awoke Sunday as an inmate in a high-security prison after a court handed him a three-year sentence for corruption, a development that could end his future in politics.

The court ruled Saturday that national cricketing hero Khan, who was ousted in a no-confidence vote in April 2022 but remains the country's leading opposition figure, had concealed assets after selling state gifts.

The prison sentence could bar him from politics under a law that prohibits anyone with a criminal conviction from holding or running for public office. (AP)

TAIPEI: China has released a new documentary about the army's preparation to attack Taiwan and showcasing soldiers pledging to give up their lives if needed as Beijing continues to ramp up its rhetoric against the self-ruled island.

"Chasing Dreams," an eight-part docuseries aired by state broadcaster CCTV earlier this week to mark the People Liberation Army's 96th anniversary, features military drills and testimonials by dozens of soldiers, of which several express their willingness to die in a potential attack against Taiwan.

China claims Taiwan, a self-ruled democracy, as its own territory, to be conquered by force if necessary. (AP)

TAIPEI: Rain continued to pelt northeastern China in the wake of Typhoon Doksuri on Saturday, as authorities reported more fatalities and missing people while evacuating thousands more.

Six people died and four went missing in the city of Shulan in Jilin province, which has seen five straight days of rainfall, according to state media.

Over 18,900 people were evacuated from the city of more than 700,000, according to the local disaster relief agency. State news agency China News Service showed images of waterlogged streets around homes and factories. The average precipitation in the city had reached 111.7 mm (4.4 inches) by Friday afternoon.

China is struggling with record-breaking rainfall in some areas while others suffer scorching summer heat and drought that threatens crops. (AP)

CAIRO: Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah el-Sisi on Thursday reiterated his country's support for the political approach in Libya, calling for holding presidential and parliamentary elections.

El-Sisi made the remark while meeting with visiting Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis, stressing that all foreign forces and mercenaries should be pulled out of Libyan territories. Presidential Spokesman Ahmad Fahmi said in a press statement.

The Egyptian president also underlined that it is essential for Libya to regain its sovereignty, territorial integrity and stability, the spokesman added.

He voiced thanks and appreciation to Egypt for dispatching aid to Greece in its efforts to set out its wildfires. (KUNA)

CAIRO: A tugboat sank Saturday in Egypt's Suez Canal after it collided with a Hong Kong-flagged tanker, the waterway's authorities said.

In a statement, the Suez Canal Authority, which oversees the operation of the key water passage, said its teams were working to recover the tugboat after it launched an operation to save the seven-person crew. It did not mention whether the movement of other ships transporting through the canal had been affected.

The canal, which connects the Mediterranean and Red Seas, sees periodic groundings of mega-large transport ships that go through it, many of them traveling between China and Europe and the Western Hemisphere. Tugboats help guide ships passing through. (AP)



Activist and entertainer Jon Stewart hugs Sri Benson, husband of Katie Benson who served in Kuwait and died of mesothelioma, as they arrive to attend an event where President Joe Biden will sign the 'PACT Act of 2022' in the East Room of the White House on Aug. 10, 2022, in Washington. Hundreds of thousands of veterans have received additional benefits in the past year after President Joe Biden signed legislation expanding coverage for conditions connected to burn pits that were used to destroy trash and potentially toxic materials. (AP)

KFH renews Winter Wonderland partnership

— Details Page 7 —

Day by Day

The thief of planes and people's homes, who has exploited the 'innocent' has now jumped on the bandwagon to fabricate non-existent events and forging messages which are difficult to deceive even a child. The Arabs say: 'The screaming is as painful as the pain,' but his screaming has become louder than the pain.

The thief vacated his family from the country where they had lived for long. His wife fled on the plane, for which neither he nor she paid a penny. His son left the country he was born and brought up after his father transferred all the money stolen from many people who are chasing him today. He is facing imprisonment for breach of trust.

According to a proverb, the criminal is certain to leave behind some evidence and sometimes a straw is enough to drag him to accountability and imprisonment.

What if the documents and files of the thefts he committed are with the judiciary in the Gulf countries, some of which have expelled him in public interest? ...Yet tomorrow is another day.

Zahed Matar

Niger junta not backing down

Call for more sanctions on Sudan

CAIRO, Aug 6, (AP): A leading human rights group has called on the United States and the United Nations to impose further sanctions on those in Sudan "responsible for the atrocities" in the troubled Darfur region, where evidence of scorched-earth attacks is mounting.

The northeast African country plunged into chaos in April when monthslong tensions between the military, led by Abdel Fattah Burhan, and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces, commanded by Mohammed Hamdan Dagalo, exploded into open fighting in the capital of Khartoum, and elsewhere. In Darfur, the scene of genocidal war in the early 2000s, the conflict has morphed into ethnic violence, with the RSF and allied Arab militias targeting African communities in the western region, U.N. officials say.

In a press release, Human Rights Watch said Washington should impose targeted sanctions to "ensure that the U.N. Security Council finally acts to protect civilians and to hold those responsible for the atrocities to account." The U.S. took over the rotation presidency of the U.N. Security Council on Aug. 1.

The New York-based watchdog group said at least seven villages and towns have been almost completely burned to the ground or destroyed in West Darfur alone, according to satellite footage and testimonies analyzed by the group. These include Habilla Kanari, Mejmere, Misterei, Mollie, Murnei, Gokor, and Sirba.

"The world should not stand by as town after town in West Darfur is burned to the ground, sending tens of thousands of civilians fleeing for their lives," said Tirana Hassan, executive director at HRW.

In June, the U.S. imposed sanctions against four key companies either linked to or owned by the warring factions. The White House also placed visa restrictions on army and RSF officials, and leaders from the former government led by ousted President Omar al-Bashir. It did not specify which individuals were affected.

Al-Bashir, who ruled Sudan for more than 30 years, is wanted by the International Criminal Court on charges of war crimes and genocide linked to the Darfur conflict.

ABUJA: Regional mediation efforts to reverse the coup in Niger and restore its democracy collapsed as soon as they started. Tensions have escalated as the Sunday deadline nears for possible military intervention by other West African countries.

As its meeting ended Friday in neighboring Nigeria's capital, Abuja, the region's defense chiefs finalized a plan to use force against the Niger junta - needing approval by their political leaders - if Mohamed Bazoum is not reinstated as Niger's president. An Economic Community of West African States delegation to Niger, led by Nigeria's former head of state Gen. Abdulsalam Abubakar, had tried unsuccessfully to meet with the coup leader, Gen. Abdourahmane Tchiani, who later declared that any aggression against Niger "will see an immediate response and without warning."

What started as an overthrow of the president by his closest commanders in the Presidential Guard has received the support of some other soldiers, including the Nigerian army command.

'Excessive ... offensive'

Philippine military condemns China use of water cannon

MANILA, Aug 6, (AP): The Philippine military on Sunday condemned a Chinese coast guard ship's "excessive and offensive" use of a water cannon to block a Filipino supply boat from delivering new troops, food, water and fuel to a Philippine-occupied shoal in the disputed South China Sea.

The tense confrontation on Saturday at the Second Thomas Shoal was the latest flare-up in the long-seething territorial conflicts involving China, the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Taiwan and Brunei.

The disputes in the South China Sea, one of the world's busiest sea lanes, have long been regarded as an Asian flashpoint and a delicate fault line in the rivalry between the United States and China in the region. China claims ownership over virtually the entire strategic waterway despite international rulings that invalidated Beijing's vast territorial claims,

such as that of 2016 by the Permanent Court of Arbitration, an international body based in The Hague; China rejects that ruling.

Philippine navy personnel on board two chartered supply boats were cruising toward Second Thomas, escorted by Philippine coast guard ships, when a Chinese coast guard ship approached and used a powerful water cannon to block the Filipinos from the shoal that China also claims, according to Philippine military and coast guard officials.

The Chinese ship's action was "in wanton disregard of the safety of the people on board" the Philippine navy-chartered boat and violated international law, including the 1982 U.N. Convention on the Law of the Sea, said the Armed Forces of the Philippines, which did not say if any of its sailors were injured.



In this handout photo provided by the Philippine Coast Guard, a Chinese coast guard ship uses water cannon on a Philippine Coast Guard ship near the Philippine-occupied Second Thomas Shoal, South China Sea as they blocked its path during a re-supply mission on Saturday Aug. 5, 2023. (AP)

Prayer Timings

Fajr 03:43 Asr 15:30
 Sunrise .. 05:11 Maghrib .. 18:37
 Zohr 11:54 Isha 20:01

Local

Expected weather for the next 24 hours:

By Day: Very hot with light to moderate northwesterly wind with speeds of 08-28 km/h.

Weather

By Night: Hot to rather hot with light to moderate northwesterly wind with speeds of 08-28 km/h.

Station	Max Exp	Min Rec	Abdaly	Jahra	Salmiyah	Ahmadi	Nuwaisib	Wafra
Kuwait City	49	35	50	50	47	43	47	30
Kuwait Airport	49	36	30	36	34	35	30	29

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



Editor-in-Chief of the Arab Times and Al-Seyassah newspapers Ahmed Al-Jarallah, Deputy Editor-in-Chief Suleiman Al-Jarallah, Managing Director Mishaal Ahmed Al-Jarallah and Mohammad Al-Farhan met Chargé d'Affaires at the US Embassy in Kuwait James Holtsnider and Deputy Political Counselor Ian Crawford during their visit to the Arab Times.



Editor-in-Chief of the Arab Times and Al-Seyassah newspapers Ahmed Al-Jarallah (second right), and Managing Director Mishaal Ahmed Al-Jarallah (extreme right), Chargé d'Affaires at the US Embassy in Kuwait James Holtsnider and Deputy Political Counselor Ian Crawford during their visit to the Arab Times.

Editor-in-Chief receives US Chargé d'Affaires

Editor-in-Chief of the Arab Times and Al-Seyassah newspapers Ahmed Al-Jarallah recently received in his office Chargé d'Affaires at the US Embassy in Kuwait James Holtsnider and Deputy Political Counselor Ian Crawford.

They discussed issues of mutual concern, particularly those related to the media.

Also present at the meeting were Deputy Editor-in-Chief Suleiman Al-Jarallah and Managing Director Mishaal Ahmed Al-Jarallah.

Eye on unlicensed fundraising

Steps vowed against illegal donations, charity

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 6: According to informed sources from the Ministry of Social Affairs, the ministry's Department of Charitable Societies and Foundations recently monitored the publication of fundraising announcements made by the International Islamic Charitable Organization through its official website and various social media accounts without submitting an official request to the ministry and obtaining its prior approval before publication, reports Al-Jarida daily.

They explained that such advertisements are considered an explicit violation of the laws, decisions, controls and requirements for regulating charity work in the country, especially article 1 of law No. 59/1959 regarding licensing the collection of money for public purposes. The article stipulates that, "Individuals or groups may not collect donations from the public by any means for the purpose of spending them in a charity cause or helping the afflicted, without obtaining prior license from the Ministry of Social Affairs at least one month before the start of the collection process, provided that the duration, method and purpose of the collection shall be determined by the project organizer."

The ministry will take the quick necessary legal measures against unauthorized individuals or entities who announce the collection of donations or the launch of charity projects without its prior approval and away from the eyes of the state and its oversight, in order to preserve charitable work and ensure that it is not exposed to any defect.

The Ministry of Social Affairs is the body legally authorized to supervise and control charitable work, and authorize any party to carry out its activities, in accordance with the provisions of law No. 24/1962 regarding clubs and public benefit societies.

The sources said, "The ministry's inspection teams monitor and immediately remove charity work violations committed by entities or individuals. They also monitor communication sites such as Twitter, Instagram, WhatsApp, and Facebook, and follow up calls for unlicensed donations that did not obtain prior permission from the ministry, in order to take the necessary measures in that regard."

Some unknown people take advantage of the philanthropic nature of Kuwaiti society and its love to help the needy, in order to achieve private goals that are completely far from charity work. Therefore, we call on donors - both citizens and residents - to be careful when donating, not to succumb to such invitations, and to direct their donations to known and well-known parties in the country, especially since these funds may fall into the hands of those who misuse them and distort Kuwaiti charitable work."

'Create awareness on trafficking of humans'

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 6: Head of the Committee for Combating Torture, Racial Discrimination and Human Trafficking at the National Bureau for Human Rights Zakaria Al-Ansari said, "There are certain forms of human trafficking that some victims and perpetrators may not realize are crimes due to their ignorance of the law and the rights stipulated in international covenants. The most prominent among them are those related to forced labor either with or without salary, confiscation of travel documents, and restriction of freedom. The category of employment in the private sector and domestic workers is the most vulnerable to these violations," reports Al-Rai daily.

In a statement issued on the occasion of the International Day to Combat Human Trafficking, which falls on July 30 every year, Al-Ansari affirmed the office's keenness to increase societal awareness about this issue and to highlight that it is an international crime with great challenges that require double efforts to overcome these challenges.

He said, "The committee is in constant contact with the authorities concerned with managing the human trafficking file in the country."

Al-Ansari affirmed the readiness of the bureau for joint cooperation with all government agencies in several areas, most notably for strengthening capabilities and working to activate the national referral system and spreading community awareness.

Meanwhile, in a press statement, the National Bureau for Human Rights stated, "The most prominent recommendations issued to the State of Kuwait in international reports concerning the situation of combating human trafficking at the national level focus on the need to increase efforts in building capacities and educating law enforcement authorities, as well as increasing societal awareness, and abolishing the sponsorship (kafeel) system."



Head of the Kuwaiti Cultural Office in Saudi Arabia, Ahmad Al-Khanfar.



Director of the Sports Channel at Kuwait TV, Hamad Al-Dehani.

Pledge to expand viewership

'More seats for Kuwaiti students'

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 6, (KUNA): Seats for Kuwaiti medical students were increased in Saudi Arabia as part of the cooperation between the two countries, said a Kuwaiti official on Sunday.

Ahmad Al-Khanfar, head of the Kuwaiti Education Ministry's Cultural Office in Riyadh, told KUNA that the effort to increase the enrollment of students in Saudi universities came to cover the needs of students after scholarships to Jordan and Egypt were suspended.

Seats for the 2023-24 semester at Al-Faisal University in Riyadh were increased to 100 as opposed to 31 last semester, he revealed.

He said that the office would continue to seek an increase of seats in other universities for newly graduate Kuwaiti students and those transferred from other countries such as Canada, the UK, Australia, and others.

Al-Khanfar revealed that the office was also in the process of signing an agreement with the King Saud University for the 2024-25 semester to further enroll Kuwaiti medical students.

Meanwhile, Director of the Sports Channel at Kuwait TV Hamad Al-Dehani af-

firmed the channel's keenness on improving its work and acquiring rights to transmitting various global sporting events, as per the directive of information minister Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi and in line with ministry's strategy.

Al-Dehani told KUNA that this began with transmitting Argentinian championships exclusively in the Middle East, and added that last July the channel transmitted the International Champions Cup for football, which was watched by many as it included the world's largest clubs of Barcelona, Real Madrid, Manchester and so on.

The Sports Channel, explained Al-Dehani, is not solely concerned with football events, but covers all sorts of sporting events, pointing out that it had covered that hand ball tournament that took place in Germany and Greece last August.

On the channel's preparations for this current local season, Al-Dehani commented that they have upgraded the analysis studio, and will continue to implement further developments.

Al-Dehani thanked the ministry's officials and employees for all their efforts that translated into tangible improvements.

2 govt malls to open next month

Minister approves MC's decisions

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 6: The Minister of State for Municipal Affairs and Minister of State for Communications and Information Technology Fahad Al-Shoula approved the Municipal Council's decision to allocate five sites for the Public Investment Authority to establish and manage public storage spaces for food items, medicines, medical supplies, and others in Shuwaikh, Mina Abdullah, Doha, Shadaddiya areas, and the area surrounding the airport, reports Al-Jarida daily.

During the Municipal Council's session held on June 26, the minister approved the decision for the approval of four requests by the Public Authority for Roads and Transportation (PART) to allocate exposed rainwater collection basins, water channels, underground links, earthen berms, and drainage paths for the collection and drainage of rainwater in the Abdali housing areas, Salmi housing development, Naayem area, Naayem Industrial Area, and Umm Niqa housing project.

He also approved the council's decision to amend the special law regarding the organization of regulatory plots, and the system of dividing and allocating

lands intended for construction. He approved its decision regarding the refusal to allocate the quarry sites for the residential cities of Mutla'a and Nawaf Al-Ahmad.

2 new govt malls: The Ministry of Communications says next month two Government Malls in the western suburb of Abdullah Al-Mubarak in the Farwaniya Governorate and Sabah Al-Ahmad City in Al-Ahmadi Governorate, will be opened upon instructions from Minister of State for Municipal Affairs and Minister of State for Communications Affairs Fahd Al-Shoula, reports Al-Rai daily.

The opening of the two centers comes as a continuation of the ministry's plan to government malls in all governorates, noting the success of the experiment in the Liberation Tower in the Capital Governorate and in the Jaber Al-Ali and Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh, and in Al-Jahra Governorate.

The sources say the opening of the malls will benefit visitors and will save time and effort of everyone concerned as completion of all their transactions will be done under one roof.

Other Voices

The laws drafted away from professionalism, deliberation

By Ahmad alsarraf

The respected lawyer Fahd Al-Basam says that one of the illusions that the mere speed in passing laws is considered an achievement worthy of pride, is not successful, as the legislator turns into a contractor who is required to speed up the completion, regardless of the quality.

The government and the parliament hastened to draft laws, far from professionalism, deliberation, and far-sightedness. Consequently, some laws did not receive their due serious and in-depth discussion and research, as well as their social, political, and economic effects.

Deputies and ministers will inevitably leave, and lame and unstudied laws will remain with their flaws that disturb people, and the matter becomes more worrisome in light of the current poor educational system and related conditions.

Also, this legislative competition is considered a violation of the internal regulations of the Council, which in principle does not permit the conduct of the second deliberation until four days after the first, with the existence of the exception, which does not accept expansion.

Among the laws that have been passed recently is the housing law, which was satiated with criticism by specialists, who pointed out its shortcomings and the near impossibility of applying it, and one day the council will inevitably return to amend it.

The law to purchase vacations of state employees also was sloppy, after it was approved in haste, as it included several deficiencies that have recently appeared to the public, and the most serious of which is the Ministry of Finance's necessity to violate it with clear folly, bypassing its provisions and all constitutional and accounting



alsarraf

rules, and spending amounts that exceeded what was stipulated in the law!

After publishing my article on the issue of vacations, serious matters became clear, including the involvement of the government and a number of deputies in approving it, knowing that the amount of 300 million dinars was not enough.

This corruption in approval and disbursement, as a result of parliamentary interventions, is evidence of the continued confusion and chaos that marred the decision to buy vacations, and the cause became an accusation that the two authorities disavow, and it was found that even the worst-performing employee received an amount that reached ninety thousand dinars (for one employee), and this is an unprecedented earthly miracle!

Tons of public money is lost and no deputy or official said a word, except for MP Abdel Wahhab Al-Essa, who exposed the scandal. Even those concerned in the Ministry of Finance were not drawn to any attention or even a reprimand, despite their acknowledgment that parliamentary pressures are the reason for the exacerbation of the situation.

It is assumed that the government and the council were aware that thousands of government employees were in line to sell their earned leave and here I am talking about those who meet the conditions.

Meanwhile, some concerned authorities saw a big bird in the trap, so they wreaked havoc on the issue of license sale law, and made it easier for the "owners" to get the lion's share, before others, and before the scandal of abuse, which is difficult to swallow, was revealed!

Corruption and ruin continue, and the warnings of the Speaker of the National Assembly, nor anyone else, will not end them. It was unfortunate to note what was stated by the President, in his last speech, of inappropriate words against those who are truly credited with the history and renaissance of Kuwait.



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diwaniya ديوانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

'Personal gains at the expense of Kuwaiti women unacceptable'

"DESPITE the urgent need for the General Elections Commission, the previous version of Article 16 in the second paragraph was unjust towards women. It required women without men to adhere to Sharia rulings to exercise their political rights, including candidacy and election. This provision lacked clear Sharia controls and was deemed invalid by the Constitutional Court in the past" columnist **Ruqayyah Ibrahim Sheikh** wrote for **Al-Qabas** daily.

"After the recent passage of the law before the National Assembly, it is essential to acknowledge that laws should not discriminate against women in favor of men.

"The Kuwaiti constitution, specifically Article 29, emphasizes the equality of all individuals before the law, regardless of gender, origin, language, or religion.

"It is regrettable that discriminatory attitudes and prejudices against women persist. It is time to recognize that women are not just partners but equal members of society. Unfortunately, this archaic mindset resurfaces periodically, impeding progress and development.

"Achieving true balance and development is impossible as long as such restrictive mentalities persist, seeking to limit women's status and role. It is unacceptable for laws to apply differently to women than to men, and religious rulings should not be exclusive to women alone. The Holy Qur'an promotes gender equality, and the belief in righteous deeds applies equally to both men and women.

"It is vital to reject all forms of discrimination against women and stand up against those who exploit Kuwaiti women's issues for personal gain.

"To maintain Kuwait as a cultural and progressive society, the principle of equality must be upheld, and laws restricting women's freedom should not be tolerated. Embracing gender equality is crucial for fostering a society that thrives on knowledge, development, and progress."

Also:

"When women's political rights were approved on May 16, 2005, the decision did not refer to the rules and provisions adopted in line with the Islamic Law," columnist **Souad Al-Meajel** wrote for **Al-Qabas** daily.

"The decision was limited to the approval of this text: 'Every Kuwaiti who reached the age of 21 Gregorian years has the right to vote, except the naturalized citizens who obtained their nationality less than 20 Gregorian years ago in accordance with Article Six of Amiri Decree number 15 of 1959 or the Kuwaiti Nationality Law.'

"However, after 15 lawmakers submitted a request to add women's commitment to exercise their right of suffrage to the rules and provisions related to the Islamic Law, such clause was added along with others like the reduction of legal voting age and allowing the military to vote.

"The executive regulations were issued following the approval of women's political rights — foremost of which is the registration of women in the roster of voters according to the list from the Public Authority for Civil Information.

"The law neither stipulates nor indicates that the registration of female voters should be limited to those wearing the hijab. It states that all women who meet the conditions for voting in general.

"Indeed, none of the lawmakers who attended the 2005 parliamentary sessions commented on the issue of the rules related to Islam. It was not raised from afar or from a relative — that women should wear the hijab.

"The issue of a dress code for women — whether for candidacy or voting — was not addressed during the discussion of laws related to women's political rights, as well as during the addition of the phrase 'rules and provisions related to the Islamic Law'."

□ □ □

"Territorial waters are the strip of marine waters adjacent to countries bordering them, and subject to the latter's control and sovereignty. Territorial waters are political borders for countries to protect their interests, borders and rights in various marine resources close to their coasts — their outlets to the open marine bodies," columnist **Wasmiya Al-Mosallam** wrote for **Al-Anba** daily.

"They constitute advanced lines of defense along the country's coasts and land that enable it to protect its national soil, interests and rights in navigation and marine fisheries, along with the many resources it contains while thwarting smuggling attempts.

"They play a crucial role in protecting public health and preventing epidemics by subjecting ships that are ready to enter the territory to the control of State agencies, which prevent the infected or those suspected of being infected from entering the borders.

"Durra is a joint oilfield between Kuwait and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia — an exclusive right for the two countries. It is located in the submerged area divided between the two countries. The operation of Durra field was one of the projects disrupted by the corona pandemic, and no other party has right to it.

"Iran, which claims to have right to the field, must abide by international and legal rules on the demarcation of maritime borders. These borders should be demarcated as per the international and marine laws.

"Neutral international arbitration is the ideal and decisive solution

to disputes over the Durra field in order to ensure the security, stability and safety of the region.

"Kuwait has repeatedly asked Iran to define the maritime borders for the region's stability and the safety of its people. The region's problems could be solved through cooperation, good intentions and good neighborliness. In this manner, the region can enjoy progress and prosperity."

□ □ □

"On the occasion of the thirty-third anniversary of the Iraqi invasion, I urge certain politicians in Iraq to refrain from raising the issue of the Kuwaiti-Iraqi border, as this matter has been settled according to UN Security Council Resolution No. 833," columnist **Dahem Al-Qahtani** wrote for **Al-Qabas** daily.

They should learn from the past and avoid the same mistake made by former Iraqi president Saddam Hussein, who, despite his strength, lost his rule when he disregarded the border with Kuwait.

"The State of Kuwait has been a genuine supporter of post-Saddam Hussein Iraq, offering unwavering political, financial, and logistical support. Iraq will not find a more supportive neighbor than Kuwait.

"Therefore, it is crucial for some politicians in Iraq to transcend narrow mentalities and not exploit the border issue with Kuwait for electoral gains. The national interest of Iraq should take precedence over political maneuvering during elections.

"The Kuwaiti-Iraqi border has already been demarcated comprehensively, both on land and at sea, through the involvement of international and technical committees, with representatives from both countries. UN Security Council Resolution No. 833 of 1993, which received unanimous support, confirms this demarcation.

"The decision regarding the border was ratified by the Iraqi National Council and the Iraqi Revolutionary Command Council under Saddam Hussein's leadership. Post-2003 Iraqi governments have consistently recognized and upheld this decision.

"Completion of the land border markings may necessitate the removal of Iraqi houses adjacent to the border in Umm Qasr, and it is essential to expedite the placement of marine border markings starting from Column No. 106, as this process has been prolonged.

"The future between Kuwait and Iraq holds great promise and will not be hindered by discordant voices. These voices do not represent the true aspirations of the Iraqi people to collaborate with Kuwait based on neighborly and pan-Arab ties, nor do they reflect the rationality of successive Iraqi governments that have consistently demonstrated their commitment to UN resolutions."

— Compiled by Mai Elsoukary



Sheikh



Ambassador Dr Swaika meeting with National Assembly Speaker Al-Saadoun.

Indian envoy calls on Assembly Speaker

The Indian Ambassador to Kuwait HE Dr Adarsh Swaika called on Speaker of the National Assembly of the State of Kuwait HE Ahmed Al-Saadoun and

apprised him of the prospects of bilateral relations between India and Kuwait including parliamentary cooperation.

'Kuwait's scout movement has pioneering role in Arab world'

CAIRO, Aug 6, (KUNA): Kuwait's Ambassador to Egypt and its permanent representative at the Arab League Ghanim Al-Ghanim affirmed Thursday the key role of the Kuwaiti scout movement, which is considered "pioneering in the Arab world."

Al-Ghanim made the statement to KUNA during a visit to the delegation of Kuwait's Scout Association (KSA) partaking in the session of voluntary action development for distinguished leaders that kicked off Wednesday and will run until Monday.

Al-Ghanim lauded the KSA's role in terms of training courses provided to young men and women, and its permanent participation in all Arab and international activities, expressing delight at his presence with a group of scout leaders.

On Egyptian-Kuwaiti ties, Ambassador Al-Ghanim affirmed that the relations between the two countries are "fraternal, deep-rooted and distinguished" at the leadership and popular levels.

"Egypt's role throughout history is unforgettable," he said, stressing that

Egypt has been standing beside Kuwait before and after independence, wishing Egyptians every progress and prosperity.

Meanwhile, chairman of the Arab scout committee and head of KSA Dr. Abdullah Al-Tarjji said Al-Ghanim's visit to the Kuwaiti scout delegation shows the government's interest in its children in all activities held outside the country.

He added an agreement of cooperation was signed between the KSA and the Arab Scout Organization under the auspices of Ambassador Al-Ghanim that aims to share experience and coordinate to establish events, forums and training workshops for Kuwaiti scouts.

At the end of the visit, Al-Ghanim was awarded the neckerchief by the Secretary General of the Arab Scout Organization and the regional director Anr Hamdi. Al-Ghanim was also given the shield of the Kuwaiti Scout Association.

The course for distinguished leaders in the KSA, which is organized by the Arab Scout Movement founded in 1954, includes 10 sessions on many topics related to voluntary work.

Of the topics being covered are international scouting policy for adults, standards for its national application and sustainable development goals.



Al-Ghanim

Mol issues warning to expats driving cars in violation of law

'Deportation decisions issued against 100 in two months'

22 law violators arrested in raids

Expatriate rescued from burning alcohol factory

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 6: The Ministry of Interior says its statistics show 87,140 vehicles plying on the roads of Kuwait are owned by expatriates whose residence permits have either been cancelled, they are no longer in Kuwait or have died, reports Al-Rai daily.

The Security Media Department has now draw the attention of all those who own or use such vehicles must visit the General Traffic Department to transfer the ownership of the vehicle, cancel it or renew it, based on an official power of attorney.

In the event this procedure is not taken, a violation will be issued, and the vehicle will be impounded in accordance with Article (207) of the Traffic Law, which states that a motorized vehicle or car of any kind may be impounded if it is caught running on the road in case the driver does not hold a driving license or without valid insurance.

Auction

The administration may also sell it in a public auction according to followed legal procedures.

Meanwhile, aside from tightening control over those who violate traffic regulations; traffic patrol officers have been instructed to be strict in dealing with violators, especially the expatriates, reports Al-Rai daily quoting sources from the security sector.

Sources revealed that deportation decisions were issued against about 100 expatriates in just two months; because they committed serious traffic violations like driving without a license, speeding, recklessness on the road or using personal vehicles for transporting passengers.

Sources added Director of the General Traffic Department in the Interior Ministry Major General Youssef Al-Khadra has instructed traffic patrol officers to strictly implement the traffic regulations.

Sources disclosed a comprehensive plan is being implemented in areas where a large number of expatriates are residing or working. The plan includes checking driving licenses and durability of vehicles, as well as taking legal measures against those who committed violations including deportation for expatriates who commit grave traffic violations, sources concluded.

□ □ □

Tunis Street reopened: About a month after closing the Tunis Street for vehicular traffic in the direction of Hawally at its intersection with the Fourth Ring Road, a security source said that the vital street has been opened to traffic, indicating that the barriers leading to the street have been completely removed and the road has been restarted, reports Al-Anba daily.

'Special prescription needed'

MoH brushes aside social media report

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 6: The Ministry of Health has bluntly brushed aside that the Ibn Sina Hospital refused to dispense medicine to a cancer patient, reports Al-Rai daily.

This came in response to what was published in the social media. The hospital management said the patient arrived at the hospital with his sister last Thursday and the medicine was dispensed as per the description mentioned in the patient's e-file based on controls that govern the dispensing of medications, reports Al-Rai daily.

The hospital added, one of the medicines require a special prescription from the attending physician, since it has some side effects and moreover the cancer drugs are not dispensed through Ibn Sina Hospital.

Contrary to what was mentioned in the circulating video clip, the head of the medical staff in the hospital met the patient and his sister and the issue was discussed.

However, the ministry appreciates adherence to the specific controls for the dispensing of medicines, calling for truthfulness and accuracy before publishing any news reports.

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 6: A fire broke out in an apartment in the Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh area which resulted in serious injury to an expatriate who was reportedly running a local winery, reports Al-Anba daily.

The daily said the firemen rescued the expatriate from almost certain death and handed him over to the paramedics who rushed him to the intensive care unit of the Farwaniya Hospital in critical condition.

The items seized from the apartment are in police custody and the man will be interrogated after he is discharged from the hospital.

□ □ □

One injured in accident: The Public Relations and Media Department of the Directorate-General of Fire Department (DGFD) said one person was injured following a collision between two cars on a road in Salmi recently, reports Al-Rai daily.

Acting on information, firefighting teams from the Shagaya Center rushed to the site of the accident and handed over the injured person to the emergency medical personnel.

□ □ □

22 violators held: The General Administration of Residence Affairs Investigations Department has arrested 22 violators of residence and labor laws from two dubious servants recruiting offices from two regions



Al-Rai photo

Illegal liquor factory damaged in the fire.

— Salmiya and Sabah Al-Nasser, reports Al-Rai daily.

The daily added, the department has also placed a 'block' on another company for violating labor laws.

The Public Relations and Security Media Department of the Ministry of Interior said nine people were seized from the Sabah Al-Nasser office and 13 violators from the Salmiya office (including 6 holding under Article 20 visa, 8 reported absent, 6 persons with no ID, one person under Article 18).



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LOCAL

Real estate investment sector logs 85.4 pct occupancy rate in Q2 2023

Salmiya tops number of vacant investment lands

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 6: According to a real estate report, as of the end of the second quarter in 2023, Kuwait had a total of 394,942 thousand housing units for investment purposes. Out of this number, 337,083 thousand units were rented, leaving approximately 57,859 thousand units vacant, as reported by sources cited in Al-Rai daily.

The report, a collaborative effort between Aayan Real Estate Company and ESTATER Company, highlighted that while there is a growing demand for investment housing, the potential for increasing the supply is limited. This limitation is due to the scarcity of available residential investment lands in Kuwait. The report revealed that there are only 2,205 lands, comprising a mere 14.7 percent of the total residential investment properties in the country. This percentage is notably low compared to neighboring regional markets, where the proportion often exceeds 40 percent.

As per the report by Aayan Real Estate Company in collaboration with ESTATER, it is projected that the average rental rate in the residential investment real estate sector will decrease to 4.42 dinars per square meter in 2023,

marking an 8.5 percent decline from the rates in 2019. This decrease is expected to be due to an increase in occupancy and rental rates in the coming years, attributed to the growing demand in 2022 and 2023, with potential for continued growth in 2024.

Looking ahead, the report anticipates that the average rental rate in the investment sector in 2025 will be approximately 4.55 dinars per square meter, the highest average since 2021. This rate encompasses all categories (first, medium, and low degree), across all regions and types of units, such as studios, one-room apartments, and two-bedroom apartments.

Intensified

Over the past 4-5 years, construction activities have intensified in various areas of Kuwait with a focus on investment housing, including Sabah Al-Salem, Mahboula, Mangaf, and others. However, no new residential investment areas or vacant lands have been added to the market. The Jaber Al-Ahmad and Sabah Al-Ahmad regions possess a limited number of lands suitable for building investment housing complexes, and only a few real estate developments have been established there. This shortage of investment lands in Kuwait creates clear supply constraints that may have significant implications in the future.

The report points out that many of these lands suitable for invest-

ment housing could instead be used for developing commercial real estate, such as clinics and offices. Consequently, the supply restrictions within the investment housing sector are expected to result in increased occupancy and prices as demand continues to rise.

Regarding vacant investment lands, Salmiya has the highest number with 393 vacant lands, followed by Sabah Al-Salem with 247, Fahaheel with 245, Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh with 230, and

Mangaf with 203.

In terms of occupancy rates, the report reveals that by the end of the second quarter of 2023, the real estate investment sector achieved an 85.4 percent occupancy rate, showing a slight improvement from the 85.1 percent recorded in 2022. The report predicts a gradual increase in occupancy rates over the following years, reaching 85.5 percent by the end of the current year, 86 percent in 2024, and 87 percent in 2025.

Deadline for submitting bids on Oct 19

KNPC tenders two strategic contracts focused on Mina Al-Ahmadi refinery

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 6: According to a report by the MEED magazine, the Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC) has tendered two strategic contracts focused on the Mina Al-Ahmadi refinery, through which it plans to use smart ultrasound technology. One of the contracts is a project to inspect six submersible pipelines in the facility using high-precision smart scraping technology based on ultrasound technology. This technology uses ultrasonic sensors to detect and measure pipe corrosion, metal wear, cracks, scratches and pipe deformations, reports Al-Anba daily.

A meeting was held prior to the bid on August 3. It was decided

that October 19 will be the deadline for submitting offers.

The second contract is related to consulting services for primary engineering and design work for the fuel gas desulfurization unit at the Mina Al-Ahmadi Refinery.

The desulfurization units would extract and subtract sulfur dioxide from the exhaust flue gases present in industrial facilities such as oil refineries. Fossil fuels such as coal and oil can contain a large amount of sulfur. When these fuels are burned, 95 percent or more of the sulfur is generally converted to sulfur dioxide.

The pre-bid meeting for the contract was held on August 2, and October 19 has been decided as the deadline for bid submissions.

Cooperative societies have six months to amend conditions

Transfer of licenses for shops from co-op to investors

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 6: According to informed sources from the Ministry of Social Affairs, a work team was formed under the chairmanship of the undersecretary of the Ministry of Social Affairs and membership of five government agencies - the Public Authority for Manpower, the Kuwait Municipality, the Ministry of Finance (State Property Management), the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, and the Public Authority for Civil Information - for dealing with the conditions related to the use of shops invested in cooperative societies and unions. This team is on the verge of approving the transfer of commercial licenses for these shops from cooperative societies to their investors, reports AlJarida daily.

The sources explained that the team decided to give the coopera-

tive societies a period of six months to amend the conditions of their branches, especially with regard to resolving any problem related to employment registered on its files.

A meeting of the team will be held to discuss some points and put the final touches on the final version of the decision, which will be submitted to the Minister of Social Affairs for approval and issuance.

In the next stage, the team will discuss radical solutions to the problem of the cooperative society branches that were granted to investors through "draws", which is the most difficult matter in the chapter.

The team classified the branches into three categories:- shops obtained through lottery, shops whose commercial license has expired and was not renewed, and shops whose license is valid and whose employ-

ment residency is under the main cooperative society.

The dismissal of the workers in the investing branches achieves several advantages for all parties concerned, and benefits the cooperative societies and the branch's investors. It spares the cooperative societies the burden of the violations of the investing branches.

Implementation

The team has listed the names of the workers in the invested shops, whose residencies are registered under the main files of the cooperative societies and unions. The team worked on the development of procedures and action plans necessary to solve the problems of such employment and arrange its conditions, as well as follow up the implementation of the items related to that.

The sources said, "The chapter addresses the imbalance in the transfer of salaries of workers registered in the branches, in addition to separating the transfer of their salaries from workers in cooperative societies. It also avoids cooperative societies from being exposed to the suspension of their file for not paying the salaries of their employees, and the consequent suspension of all cooperative societies' procedures related to employment."

They indicated that the separation process achieves the independence of these activities, and avoids recording violations against the cooperative societies in exchange for employing the branches' workers with others, as well as stops the process of bringing workers from some cooperative societies under the name of the investor without his knowledge.



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KUNA photo
Bahrain Crown Prince and Prime Minister Prince Salman bin Hamad Al-Khalifa meets Secretary General of GCC Jassem Al-Budaiwi.

Bahrain keen on strengthening joint GCC efforts – Bahraini Crown Prince

MANAMA, Aug 6, (KUNA): Bahrain Crown Prince and Prime Minister Prince Salman bin Hamad Al-Khalifa affirmed Saturday on the importance of further strengthening joint GCC efforts and cooperation to create a more prosperous future for all.

The remarks were made when Prince Salman met earlier with the Secretary General of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC), Jassem Mohamed Al-Budaiwi and his accompanying delegation.

Prince Salman emphasized the importance of building on the Council's efforts in line with the far-reaching goals and aspira-

tions of GCC leaders.

The Bahraini Crown Prince welcomed the GCC Chief to Bahrain, and wished him success in his endeavors.

Prince Salman underscored the importance of increasing integration and cooperation between GCC countries to meet the aspirations of their citizens and consolidate global peace and development.

For his part, Al-Budaiwi expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to meet with Prince Salman, highlighting the Crown Prince and Prime Minister's ongoing support of the longstanding strategic partnership between member states of the GCC.

Package undelivered

Kaspersky warns of scams targeting courier service users in Middle East

DUBAI, Aug 6: Kaspersky experts detected a wave of scams related to courier services in the Middle East, Turkey, and Africa. Fraudsters are employing deceptive tactics to trick unsuspecting users into divulging their financial information by claiming packages were undelivered due to unpaid delivery fees. Emails are mimicking communication on behalf of courier services popular in Africa, Turkey, and the Middle East.

Cybercriminals are sending deceptive emails that appear to be from the Aramex courier service, falsely claiming that a package can be delivered after paying a fee. To create a sense of urgency, the email urges users to click on a provided link for further instructions. When users click on the link, they are redirected to a fraudulent website masquerading as a legitimate courier service portal.

Upon reaching the fraudulent website, victims are prompted to input their bank card credentials, providing cybercriminals with direct access to sensitive financial information. Falling prey to this scam exposes individuals to potential identity theft, financial fraud, and significant personal losses.

"As technology continues to permeate all aspects of our lives, the use of courier services continues to grow and plays an important logistics role, especially for the eCommerce market. The sad reality is that cybercriminals see this as an opportunity to exploit the market and customers using such services on a regular basis, trying to trick them with scam and phishing mails," says Roman Dedenok,

Spam Analysis Expert at Kaspersky. "When watching out for scam and phishing emails, pay attention to the emotional tone conveyed in the message. Scammers often try to evoke fear, excitement, or urgency, to manipulate recipients into taking impulsive actions. Take a step back and analyze how the email makes you feel. This can be key to identifying and avoiding phishing scams effectively."

To stay safe and not fall victim to phishing, Kaspersky recommends:

- Verify website authenticity: Before making any transactions or providing personal details, double-check the website's URL for secure connections (look for "https" and a padlock icon). Be wary of websites with slight misspellings or unusual domain names, as these may indicate fraudulent activity.

- Pay careful attention before clicking on any links received in an email or via an SMS message, as these could be potential phishing links.

- For businesses, implement protection at the mail gateway level to lessen the likelihood of corporate employees encountering phishing emails. Internet-facing devices need to be protected by an endpoint security solution.

- Hold regular awareness training for employees on the latest cyberthreats, or, at the very least, regularly inform them of potential phishing scams.

- Use a security solution: A trusted security solution, such as Kaspersky Premium, will protect you from all known and unknown forms of scams, including courier related phishing.

The Conversation

Women fare worse than men in anxiety and depression

Less sleep, less relaxation... school year takes a toll on moms

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

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

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

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

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

Conversely, mothers spend about half an hour more per day during the school year taking care of others, including kids, and five additional min-

utes on travel - which often involves driving their kids to and from school.

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

Research

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

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

Prior research has shown there is a gender gap in mental health, with women faring worse than men on measures such as anxiety and depres-

sion. Women are also four times as likely as men to be diagnosed with seasonal affective disorder, a type of depression that typically occurs in fall and winter.

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

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

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

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



The Edvantage team

Edvantage bolsters IELTS readiness for Kuwaiti students

Local startup preps Kuwaiti youth for global stage

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 6: Born out of a shared passion for education and empowerment, Edvantage has been making strides in its mission to prepare Kuwait's youth for the global stage. The local startup's most recent initiative, the IELTS Mock Exam Experience, held in collaboration with Australian University (AU) on July 22, 2023, stands as a testament to this commitment.

The event's results highlighted a pressing need. With an average score of 3.8 out of 9, the results highlighted the necessity of focused preparation and guidance. In 2022, Kuwait's average IELTS score was 5.5, lagging behind the global average of 6.3.

The IELTS Mock Exam Experience aims to provide students with an authentic exposure to the IELTS, a key standardized test that many international institutions require for admissions. By simulating an exam environment, the initiative aims to alleviate students' test anxieties and identify their areas for improvement.

Alongside personalized feedback, participants receive one-on-one post-exam consultations and a select group benefit from a comprehensive 2-week IELTS preparatory course. These efforts underline the program's commitment to helping students succeed.

Collaboration

Hussain Al-Haddad, Manager of Student Affairs at AU, said: "Our collaboration with Edvantage is not just about mock exams. It's about a collective commitment to Kuwait's future, ensuring that the youth have the skills, confidence, and opportunities they need to excel in higher education and beyond. We look forward to more fruitful collaborations with Edvantage in the future."

Yousef AlJamili, Managing Director at Edvantage, echoed this sentiment: "Our vision at Edvantage is not just to help students pass exams. We stand by them every step of the way - from standardized tests, profile-building, university applications, to further professional development as they navigate their future career paths."



Mock exams alleviate students' test anxieties and identify their areas for improvement.

Edvantage's track record highlights their impact in the educational sector, with a success rate of 81.9% in assisting students with university applications. This underlines the company's unwavering commitment and effec-

tiveness in elevating students' academic pursuits.

To learn more about Edvantage's programs or register for the next IELTS mock exam, connect with the company at @edvantage.m

Childhood obesity exploding

Fix obesity: Make healthy choices the easier choices

By Kathleen Trejo Tello
College of Charleston

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

The global childhood obesity epidemic has exploded. Over the past four decades, the world has witnessed a tenfold increase in obesity in children and adolescents between 5 and 19 years old.

More than 124 million children across the world are currently considered to be obese. In children under age 5, obesity used to be nearly unheard of. Now, more than 38 million young children live with this condition.

Researchers now estimate that there are more obese children than underweight children worldwide. Children and adolescents who are obese are more likely to become obese adults, setting them up for a lifelong trajectory of poor health.

With this growth in childhood obesity comes an increase in associated poor mental and physical health outcomes. Conditions that were once rare in children are now becoming increasingly common. These debilitating and costly diseases include hypertension, type 2 diabetes and others.

I am a public health researcher who studies and teaches about the factors underlying the obesity epidemic. My research seeks to understand what is driving these trends. Why are more and more people, including children, becoming obese?

Childhood obesity was once predominantly an issue within developed nations. But it has become an emerging health concern even in the poorest countries and regions.

Compared

The standard measure used to determine obesity in children and adolescents has long been the body mass index, or BMI. This is a measure of an individual's height as compared to their weight. Children whose BMI is a set threshold above the mean, or average, are considered obese. The role of BMI in defining obesity in children and adults may be changing, however.

Although BMI remains a low-cost and practical method for assessing obesity across populations - such as estimating the percentage of children in a particular nation who are obese - growing evidence has shed light on its limitations for use at the individual and clinical level. Leading medical organizations and researchers are encouraging physicians to consider the use of alternative measures, which may change the way children are screened for health risks related to their weight at the doctor's office.

In essence, childhood obesity is the result of kids eating and drinking more calories than they are burning off through play, movement and growth. Because of this, researchers have largely focused on understanding the individual eating and physical activity habits of these kids.

In the case of childhood obesity, researchers like me also know that parental figures play critical roles in both mirroring and creating opportunities for physical activity and healthy eating.

However, attempts to address childhood obesity have often focused excessively on individual behaviors of parents and children and too little on the environment where children and their families live. Research and statistics make it clear that this approach has failed and that new strategies are needed to understand and address why more children are becoming obese.

Social determinants of health refer to the conditions where people live, learn, work, play and worship that affect health and quality of life.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has described five broad categories of social determinants of health. These include:

- economic stability
- education access and quality
- health care access and quality
- neighborhood and the built environment, such as access to sidewalks and playgrounds
- social and community context

Social determinants can promote health. For example, neighborhoods with access to

safe parks and green spaces and healthy food retailers may support healthy eating and physical activity for families.

But social determinants can also facilitate or encourage unhealthy behaviors. Because of their underlying role in contributing to health outcomes like childhood obesity, social determinants have been described as the "causes of the causes." In other words, if poor diet is one of the causes of childhood obesity, then the social determinants that shape a child and their family's food environment - such as lack of neighborhood grocery stores or limited income to purchase healthy foods - would be a cause of that poor diet.

Rates

Globally, people are spending more time in cars and less time walking - one of the most basic forms of physical activity. Even in the poorest nations, private car ownership rates are skyrocketing. Kids who would inadvertently be engaging in physical activity just by walking or biking to school are more likely to be taking cars and buses to school instead.

When it comes to food, societies in the US and around the world are producing and consuming more calorie-dense ultra-processed foods. Advertisers are targeting children with these food products and sugar-sweetened beverages online and on television.

But for working parents with long hours or those who are unable to afford healthy groceries, these are often the easiest or affordable options for feeding their children. In fact, poor families are more likely to live in communities designated as "food deserts," areas where there are few or no grocery stores and a high concentration of fast-food restaurants and convenience stores.

And children's lifestyles have changed drastically, shifting away from outdoor physical activity into an increasingly sedentary way of life, in large part due to social media and screen time. The role of screen time in the childhood obesity epidemic is a significant and growing area of concern and research.

In my own research in Peruvian communities, parents identified many of these same factors as barriers to their children being physically active. Mothers complained about the lack of safe spaces for their kids to play. Local parks were full of crime, and yards were congested with traffic and other safety hazards. Mothers felt it was safer for their young children to be inside watching TV than outside playing.

This example is not unique to Peru. Parents around the world are contending with these challenges.

Addressing the underlying causes

The field of public health prioritizes making the healthy choice the easy choice. Combating the childhood obesity epidemic means making healthy eating an easier choice for children and families than staying inside and eating processed foods.

However, the reality is that much of the world's population now lives, works, plays and worships in places that make it more difficult to choose healthy behaviors.

Policies and programs that address the social determinants of health are a critical part of curbing the childhood obesity epidemic. These include investing in community resources like playgrounds and free programs that get kids outside.

Some nations and even U.S. cities have implemented "sin taxes" on sugar-sweetened beverages to discourage consumption. In Chile, policies have been created that limit television advertising of unhealthy food products toward children. Other policy examples include tax incentives and programs that increase access to healthy foods and lower their cost.

In my view, every kid should be able to swim in the safe and accessible community pool rather than relying on their living room TVs to escape the blistering summer heat, or access fresh and affordable produce in their neighborhood instead of having to rely on fast food as the only close food resource. Childhood obesity is a preventable condition that communities can reduce most effectively by increasing access to resources that will allow them to live healthy lives. (AP)

Turkmenistan Airlines suspends Moscow flights

Turkmenistan's flagship carrier, Turkmenistan Airlines, announced Saturday it would extend its suspension of flights to Moscow until the end of October, citing safety concerns after an increase in drone attacks on the Russian capital.

The suspension of flights between the Turkmen capital of Ashgabat and Moscow would be in place until Oct. 28 "due to the situation in the Moscow air zone, and based on a risk assessment in order to ensure flight safety," the airline said in a statement.

The suspension of flights, first announced

on Wednesday, was initially planned until Aug. 22.

The airline's Saturday statement said that flights between Ashgabat and Moscow would instead fly to the city of Kazan, located, over 700 kilometers (435 miles) from Moscow.

A drone attacked a skyscraper in central Moscow early Tuesday for the second time in around 48 hours, damaging the building's facade and further underscoring the Russian capital's vulnerability. Russian authorities accused Ukraine of staging the assault. (AP)

Musk says cage fight with Zuckerberg will be streamed on X

Elon Musk says his potential in-person fight with Mark Zuckerberg would be streamed on his social media site X, formerly known as Twitter.

The two tech billionaires seemingly agreed to a "cage match" face-off in late June. Zuckerberg is actually trained in mixed martial arts, and the CEO of Facebook's parent company Meta posted about completing his first jiu jitsu tournament earlier this year.

"Zuck v Musk fight will be live-

streamed on X." Musk wrote in a post Sunday on the platform. "All proceeds will go to charity for veterans."

Musk said earlier Sunday he was training for the fight by lifting weights.

"Don't have time to work out, so I just bring them to work," Musk wrote.

Whether or not Musk and Zuckerberg actually make it to the ring in Las Vegas has yet to be seen - especially as Musk often tweets about

action prematurely or without following through. But even if their cage match agreement is all a joke, the banter has gained attention.

It all started when Musk, who owns X, responded to a tweet about Meta preparing to release a new Twitter rival called Threads. He took a dig about the world becoming "exclusively under Zuck's thumb with no other options" - but then one Twitter user jokingly warned Musk of Zuckerberg's jiu jitsu training. (AP)

Market Movements

06-08-2023

	Change	Closing pts
UAE - DFM	+0.79	4,083.18
JAPAN - Nikkei	+0.10	32,192.75

	Change	Closing pts
PAKISTAN - KSE 100	-0.04	48,588.99
PHILIPPINES - PSEI	-1.91	6,450.84
SAUDI - Tadawul	-0.89	11,375.78
EGYPT - EGX 30	-0.02	17,451.44

Business

US PMI data declined with manufacturing data coming at 46.4

Tight labor market shows mixed signs amid ratings downgrade

By National Bank of Kuwait

United States

PMI Prints Show Contraction in Manufacturing, Slowdown in Services

In the US, the latest ISM manufacturing index came in at 46.4, well below 50, indicating that the manufacturing sector is still in contraction. The figure displays the eighth month of the US manufacturing sector coming in at contraction territory, albeit at a slower pace. Meanwhile, PMI in the services sector declined to 52.7 from 53.9 previously. Although economic activity in the US services sector continues to expand, July's reading shows a pullback in growth as the Fed look for signs of softening inflation in the services part of the economy.

JOLTS Job Openings

Over in the US, the latest JOLTS job openings came in at 9.58 million, below the forecasted 9.61 million, dropping to its lowest level since April 2021. Nevertheless, the latest number comes to show that the labor market is still historically tight despite the aggressive interest rate hikes by the Fed. This decline is just what Fed doves needed to advocate for stopping interest rate hikes in the next meeting to not exert more pressure onto the economy.

ADP Non-Farm Employment Change

It seems that a "soft-landing" is very much achievable in the United States. While the Fed started its vigorous rate hike increases, the fear of recession started to loom. However, the resilient labor market seems to have just done enough to fade away those fears, and that was evident once again in the latest ADP non-farm employment change data released. The latest reading showed that private payrolls increased by 324K, squashing the forecasted number of 191K. This comes as a breather for Fed officials as the latest data show that inflation is slowing down, without having the burden of dealing with the massive unemployment that usually comes with a recession.

Unemployment Claims and Non-farm Employment Change

The number of Americans filing for unemployment claims increased to 227,000 from 221,000 previously amid a series of mixed employment data coming over the week. Moreover, non-farm employment change came in at 187,000 versus an expected figure of 205,000. While both data points exhibit a possible softening in the labor market, the unemployment rate fell to 3.5% from 3.6% previously.

Fitch Ratings Downgrade

Fitch Ratings announced on Tuesday a downgrade on US credit from the highest AAA rating to AA+ amid a

- US PMI data declined with manufacturing data coming at 46.4 while services data showed a decline to 52.7.
- JOLTS Job Openings came in at 9.58 million versus a forecast of 9.61 million.
- Non-farm employment came in at 187,000 versus an expectation of 205,000.
- Fitch downgrades US credit rating from AAA to AA+.
- Eurozone inflation at 5.3% for headline and 5.5% for core.
- Bank of England hikes by 25bps to 5.25%.
- China manufacturing PMI at 51.5 from 53.2 previously.
- Reserve Bank of Australia holds cash rate steady at 4.10%.

"steady deterioration" of governance and politics. The ratings agency stated that several debt ceiling gridlocks and last minute resolutions indicated an "erosion of governance" amid higher interest payments and debt burden. US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen strongly disagreed with the decision stating that it is "arbitrary and based on outdated data." Moreover, white house press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said "we strongly disagree with this decision."

The US dollar index ended the week higher at 102.017.

Europe

Inflation Remains Sticky

Over in the Eurozone, annual headline inflation is down to 5.3% from 5.5% previously, largely due to the underlying drop in energy prices. Moreover, Food, tobacco and alcohol is expected to be at 10.8% annually this month, a notable drop from last month's figure of 11.6%. Despite this, core inflation remains sticky, coming in at 5.5% annually matching last month's figure. Services inflation also accelerated to 5.6% from 5.4% previously. While this is still a long way off the ECB's inflation rate target of 2.0%, the worry shown by ECB speakers regarding weakness in consumer demand as well as these figures might just be enough to allow the ECB policymakers to tolerate the idea of sitting and evaluating the effects of their rapid tightening. Markets are currently pricing in no hike for the September ECB meeting as officials vow to remain data dependent.

The Euro ended the week in decline, with the EUR/USD currency pair closing at 1.1010.

United Kingdom

BoE Hikes by 25bps

The Bank of England (BoE) proceeded with an interest rate hike on Thursday of 25bps, sending its official bank rate to a 15-year high of 5.25%. The British economy has witnessed unintended records recently, with inflation reaching a 41-year high of 11.1% last year, and now modestly dropping to 7.9%, almost quadruple the intended BoE inflation target of 2%. Bank of England governor Andrew Bailey attributed the inflation in service prices to the economy's sticky inflation, stating that "continued strength in services price inflation may suggest high inflation will persist." The British economy's inflation of 7.9% is the highest of any major economy, and as a result, the BoE remains very hawkish in its statements with the most recent being that "the MPC will ensure that Bank Rate is sufficiently restrictive for sufficiently long to return inflation to the 2% target."

The Sterling fell over the week, with the GBP/USD currency pair last trading at 1.2748.

Asia-Pacific

China Manufacturing PMI

The latest news coming out of China is not encouraging in the slightest, with the latest PMI data showing a drop in the non-manufacturing services sector all the way to 51.5 from 53.2 previously, and way off the forecasted 52.9 figure. Another similar drop in the services sector could well send the figure below the 50 threshold, sending the aforementioned sector into contraction, alongside the manufacturing sector that is still below the 50 mark, although it slightly rose up to 49.3. The majority of the

non-manufacturing PMI components are already showing contraction, with the only component being well and truly above the 50 mark being the "expectations" component, raising concerns that the only reason behind the optimism in this component comes from the hope that the government will come up with some sort of stimulus that will bring life to the economy.

The USD/CNY currency pair ended the week lower, last trading at 7.1706.

RBA Holds Cash Rate

The Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) decided to hold the cash rate at 4.10%. In their policy statement delivered by Governor Philip Lowe, the central bank declared that "inflation in Australia is declining but is still too high." Lowe added, "The decision to hold rates unchanged provides further time to assess the impact of the increase in interest rates to date and the economic outlook." Australia is still suffering from persistent inflation in the services sector as well as a historically tight labor market. This has prompted the central bank

to leave open the possibility of further hikes when the statement read "Some further tightening of monetary policy may be required to ensure that inflation returns to target in a reasonable timeframe, but that will depend upon the data." Markets are currently pricing in no change for September's RBA meeting.

The Australian Dollar is down on the week following the decision to hold rates steady, with the AUD/USD pair last trading around 0.6569.

Kuwait

Kuwaiti Dinar

USD/KWD closed last week at 0.30730.

Rates - August 06th, 2023

Currencies	Previous Week Levels				This Week's Expected Range		3-Month Forward
	Open	Low	High	Close	Minimum	Maximum	
EUR	1.0944	1.0933	1.1041	1.1010	1.0800	1.1120	1.1061
GBP	1.2712	1.2687	1.2792	1.2748	1.2600	1.3000	1.2757
JPY	142.56	141.54	142.88	141.75	141.00	144.00	139.70
CHF	0.8739	0.8697	0.8782	0.8727	0.8500	0.8900	0.8668

Profits at Buffett's firm reach \$36 billion as stocks surge on

Insurance holdings perform well

OMAHA, Neb. Aug 6, (AP): Profits rebounded at Warren Buffett's conglomerate along with the value of its \$353 billion stock portfolio in the second quarter to hit \$35.9 billion, and many of Berkshire Hathaway's assorted businesses also performed well, led by strong results in its core insurance businesses, particularly Geico.

Berkshire Hathaway said Saturday that its profits surged to hit \$24,755 per Class A share. A year ago, the Omaha, Nebraska-based company recorded a loss of \$43.6 billion, or \$29,633 per Class A share, when the value of its biggest investments fell.

But Buffett has long said that those bottom-line figures can be misleading because of the big swings in the paper value of its investments from quarter to quarter when few of Berkshire's investments are actually bought or sold. Instead, Buffett recommends that investors focus on operating earnings to see how the more than 90 companies Berkshire owns are actually performing.

By that measure, Berkshire's operating earnings grew 6.6%, to \$10.043 billion, or \$6,928.40 per Class A share. That's up from \$9.417 billion, or \$6,403.61 per Class A share, a year ago.

The three analysts surveyed by FactSet Research expected Berkshire to report operating earnings of \$5,575.67 per Class A share.

Berkshire's revenue jumped to \$92.5 billion from last year's \$76.2 billion thanks largely to the addition of truck stop operator Pilot Travel Centers, which generated \$14.75 billion in revenue during the quarter. Berkshire's results were also helped by last fall's acquisition of the Allegheny insurance conglomerate.

CFRA Research analyst Cathy Seifert said Berkshire will have a



CSR team from AUB with the employees children during the event

AUB organizes an entertaining event for the bank's employees and their families

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 6: Ahli United Bank (AUB) organized an entertaining event in the world of exploration from National Geographic Ultimate Explorer at the Assima Mall recently for the bank's employees and their families. This initiative aimed to further strengthen the bonds of communication and social relationships among the bank's employees and their families for hours of continuous joy, fun and education.

Commenting on this event, Mr. Naeqeb Amin, General Manager of Human Resources at AUB said:

"How do you sustain this level of growth when many of your underlying businesses are not putting up this level of growth?" Seifert said.

Underwriting profits at Geico rebounded to \$514 million as it raised

"This event comes as part of our continuous efforts to maintain our position as the employer of choice in Kuwait. Undoubtedly, we are delighted by the overwhelming response to such events, as they have a positive impact on enhancing communication and camaraderie among our bank's employees. It allows them to come closer together and enjoy leisure time away from work pressures in a joyful family atmosphere. We firmly believe that the success of any institution primarily relies on the extent of cooperation and teamwork among its

employees."

Amin emphasized that AUB offers a unique and notable experience in human resources management. Hence, the bank has been able to retain a large number of its employees for more than 30 years during which they managed to accomplish their career ambitions through active interaction with management. This enabled them to share experiences with each other. Moreover, it proves the Bank's success in dealing with its employees being the Bank's most precious asset.

premiums on its auto insurance customers by an average of 16% and continued to cut back on its ubiquitous lizard ads while paying out fewer claims. A year ago, Geico reported a \$487 million pretax underwriting loss.

Up 7% from 2022

UPAC records revenues of KD 5m in first half of 2023

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 6: United Projects for Aviation Services Company (UPAC), a commercial real estate and facilities management company, today announced its first half financial results where it recorded a revenue of KD 5 million up 7% from 2022. UPAC's net profit amounted to KD 641,000, down 20% from 2022.

Nadia Akil, Chief Executive Officer at UPAC, said: "Our first half results were in line with our expectations. We anticipate a positive trend in the remainder of 2023. Kuwait International Airport operations are witnessing a strong rebound during the first half, particularly with the summer season kicking off back in June."

Akil also said: "UPAC's witnessed the successful inauguration of Reem Mall's Snow Abu Dhabi in early June. Reem Mall has been welcoming visitors since it opened to the public in February. As of the end of June, we have over 110 units operating covering nearly 50% of the gross leasable area (GLA) at Reem Mall. The mall has been welcoming Abu Dhabi residents and visitors. We expect openings by more tenants over the coming months."

The snow park is located in the heart of Reem Mall, Abu Dhabi's new retail, leisure, dining and entertainment destination. Snow

Abu Dhabi covers a sprawling 9,732 SQM.

In Kuwait, UPAC operates three major projects, including the management and operations of Kuwait International Airport's Terminal 1 airport mall, parking and related facilities, as well as the management of real estate and parking facilities at the airport's Sheikh Saad Terminal and parking and related facilities at Terminal 4, the dedicated Kuwait Airways terminal.

About UPAC

Established in 2000, publicly listed on Boursa Kuwait, and headquartered in Kuwait, UPAC is a leading commercial real estate and facilities management company with a specialization in Build Operate Transfer (BOT) initiatives. Its services cover project management and consultancy, real estate development as well as property and facilities management. UPAC manages over 24,000 sqm of commercial space at the Kuwait International Airport (Terminal 1), Sheikh Saad Terminal, as well as the parking lot and related facilities at Kuwait International Airport's Terminal 4. UPAC is part of the Kuwaiti-led consortium that has developed Abu Dhabi's Reem Mall, a \$1.3 billion project spread over 270,000 sqm. For more information, please visit the website: www.upac.com.kw

Research reveals a relationship between Security & Innovation

HERNDON, Va. Aug 6. (Business Wire): Expel, the security operations provider that aims to make security easy to understand, use and improve, today unveiled a new report, "Security-Enabled Innovation and Cloud Trends" by the Cloud Security Alliance (CSA). The report, commissioned by Expel, showcases the results of research aimed at gaining a deeper understanding of several critical areas of innovation and cloud use trends. More specifically, the research was designed to:

Security-Enabled Innovation and Cloud Trends

"The survey findings paint a complex picture of the current IT landscape, where organizations are constantly striving for balance and optimization, navigating challenges, and adjusting their strategies based on a variety of factors," said Hillary Baron, lead author and Senior Technical Director for Research, Cloud Security Alliance. "Today's enterprises place a premium on adaptable, scalable, and portable solutions, and only by fostering a shared understanding of the strategic role of security, leveraging the benefits of

multi-cloud environments, and carefully considering the potential challenges and trade-offs will they be able to successfully traverse today's ever-changing digital landscape."

Below are some of the insights uncovered by CSA's research, including attitudes about security and its relationship with innovation, the benefits and challenges associated with multi-cloud use, and the surprising data that indicates organizations are migrating workloads from the cloud to on-prem.

In general, respondents reported that organizations have a positive attitude towards security and its role in innovation. These organizations prioritize security during product development and regard it as a competitive advantage, as well as critical for nurturing a culture of innovation. However, the results indicate a disconnect in attitudes between C-suite leadership and security staff. Leadership sees security as a critical part of product development and cloud strategy, but security staff doesn't see the impact it's making on innovation.

Ties with bank has been an extraordinary success: Al Dousari

KFH renews Winter Wonderland strategic partnership

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 6: Following the huge success of Winter Wonderland project in its first season under the Bank's sponsorship, Kuwait Finance House (KFH) has announced the renewal of its strategic partnership with Touristic Enterprises Company (TEC) to launch the second season of the project, one of the most prominent entertainment initiatives in the country.

KFH Acting Group Chief Executive Officer, Abdulwahab Iesa Al Rushood stated that renewing the partnership with TEC affirms KFH's leadership in social responsibility and sustainable development which is in line with the country's effort to support internal tourism.

"Through the exclusive sponsorship of Kuwait Winter Wonderland Project, KFH reiterates its standing as a key supporter of social initiatives and national businesses participating in the Winter Wonderland events. It is also part of KFH's strategy to revitalize the tourism and entertainment business environment as an important sector and driver of development" Al Rushood added.

Al Rushood announced his statement during TEC delegation visit to KFH Headquarters. The delegation included TEC Chief Executive Officer Fadhel Mahmoud Al-Dousari, and Head of Marketing and Public Relations Abdullah AlOmani. The meeting was also attended by Acting Chief Executive Officer KFH Kuwait, Khaled Yousef Alshamlan, KFH Deputy General Manager Public Relations and Media, Yousef Al-Ruwaieh, as well as Executive Manager Media and Government Relations, Mohammed Alfaris and Senior Manager Sponsorships and CSR, Faisal Alsurayye.

Al Rushood lauded KFH's proactive role in supporting the first Winter Wonderland project, pointing out that the Bank will continue its partnership for the second season reflecting its vital social responsibility as the largest private sector institution in Kuwait.

He explained the importance of supporting tourism as a pivotal sector and an economic driver for sustainable development and creating job opportunities for the Kuwaiti youth, stressing the essential role of private sector to assist in large-scale projects that are being managed by Kuwaiti youth.

Fadhel Al-Dousari

Meanwhile, TEC Chief Executive Officer, Fadhel Mahmoud Al-Dousari commended KFH's pivotal support in the current and previous seasons of Winter Wonderland, saying that TEC takes pride in organizing the most significant entertainment event in Kuwait, which would not have been possible without KFH's fruitful cooperation.

"As we appreciate the trust placed in us, this partnership with KFH has been an extraordinary success. We look forward to continuing this strategic partnership in the future and hope for further achievements to raise the standing of Kuwait's tourism and entertainment industry" Al-Dousari concluded.



Top and above some photos from the event.

The Conversation

Shaligrams, the sacred fossils that have been worshipped by Hindus and Buddhists for over 2,000 years, are becoming rarer due to climate change

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

By Holly Walters
Wellesley College

For more than 2,000 years, Hinduism, Buddhism and the shamanic Himalayan religion of Bon have venerated Shaligrams - ancient fossils of ammonites, a class of extinct sea creatures related to modern squids.

Originating from a single remote region in northern Nepal - the Kali Gandaki River Valley of Mustang - Shaligram stones are viewed primarily as manifestations of the Hindu god Vishnu. Because they are not human-made, but created by the landscape, they are believed to have an intrinsic consciousness of their own. As a result, Shaligrams are kept in homes and in temples, where they are treated as both living gods and active community members.

I went on my first Shaligram pilgrimage in 2015. After arriving at the village of Jomsom in Mustang, I, along with a group of Indian and Nepali pilgrims, started the five-day trek northeast from there to the temple of Muktinath, where the journey culminates.

Making our way through the winding river passage, between 26,000-foot (8,000-meter) mountain peaks, we carefully looked for Shaligrams in the fast-moving water and gathered up any we could reach.

Since then, as an anthropologist, I have documented a wide variety of Shaligram practices while working with devotees in Nepal and in India. In 2020 I wrote the first ethnographic account, "Shaligram Pilgrimage in the Nepal Himalayas," which demonstrates how popular and important the pilgrimage is among South Asian and the wider global Hindu diasporas.

However, my ongoing work focuses more on how climate change and gravel mining are altering the course of the river, which is endangering the pilgrimage by making it harder to find Shaligrams.

The mythology of Shaligrams is associated with two legends. The first is told in a series of three Hindu scriptures, the Varaha, Padma and Brahmavaivarta Puranas.

In each version of this story, the Hindu god Vishnu, believed to be the supreme creator, is cursed by the goddess Tulsi, who is also called Brinda, because he compromises her chastity. As the story is told, Vishnu disguised himself as her husband Jalandhar so that the god Shiva could kill the demon in a fight. This was because Jalandhar, born from Shiva's third eye, had previously won a boon from the god Brahma that his wife's chastity would keep him invincible in any battle.

Angry at the deception, Tulsi transformed herself into a river - the Kali Gandaki - and turned Vishnu into a river stone, a Shaligram. In this way, Vishnu would be continuously born from her, like a child, in repayment for the karmic debt of killing her husband and making her a widow. The landscape of Mustang thus represents the bodies of Tulsi and Vishnu, producing Shaligram stones as divine manifestations from the waters of the Kali Gandaki.

The second legend is told in the Skanda Purana, which explains that Shaligrams are physically created by a type of celestial worm called the vajra-kita - translated as thunderbolt or adamant worm - which is responsible for carving out the holes and coiled spiral formations that appear on the stones.

As a result, the beliefs around the mythological formation of Shaligrams involve both legends. As part of the first legend, Vishnu takes up residence within a sacred stone that appears in the Kali Gandaki River of Nepal. The story of the second legend is expressed in the carving of that stone by the vajra-kita to give it its uniquely smooth, rounded shape and the characteristic spirals both

inside and on the surface. Shaligram pilgrimage takes place high in the Himalayas, usually between April and June and again between late August and November. This helps avoid both the worst of the July monsoon rains and the December snows.

Mustang, however, is currently divided into the upper or the northern region and the lower or the southern region. In 1950, both Upper and Lower Mustang were closed to travel following China's annexation of Tibet. But though Lower Mustang was reopened to pilgrimage and trekking in 1992, Upper Mustang remains highly restricted.

This means that the current Shaligram pilgrimage route does not include visiting the Damodar Kund - the glacial lake that produces Shaligrams from the high-altitude fossil beds - because pilgrims are still not allowed to freely cross into Upper Mustang.

The village of Kagbeni marks the principal boundary between the two divisions and is also one of the main stops on the Shaligram pilgrimage route. The village sits directly on the banks of the Kali Gandaki and is one of the few areas where pilgrims can reliably find significant numbers of Shaligrams by wading through the river themselves and by watching the river bed for any signs of a black spiral emerging from the sand.

The last destination on the pilgrimage route, at roughly 13,000 feet (4,000 meters), is the temple site of Muktinath, which contains multiple sacred areas of worship for Hindus, Buddhists and followers of Bon. As a place of Hindu worship, Muktinath offers a central shrine to the deity Vishnu as well as 108 water spouts under which pilgrims must pass. The water spouts themselves are hammered directly into the mountain side, which contains a natural aquifer, and provide one last opportunity for practitioners to bathe themselves and their Shaligrams in the waters of Mustang.

As a Bon sanctuary, Muktinath is home to the "Jwala Mai," or the mother flame, a natural gas vent that produces a continuous flame that burns next to the constant flow of water from the mountain aquifer. Along with the high winds of the Himalayas, representing the element of air, and Shaligrams, representing the element of stone, Jwala Mai contributes to Bon practitioners' view of Muktinath as a rare place where all of the sacred elements of their religion come together.

As a Buddhist complex, Muktinath is more commonly referred to as "Chumig-Gyatsa," or the Hundred Waters, and the icon that is worshipped by Hindus as Vishnu is venerated by Buddhists as Avalokitesvara, the bodhisattva of compassion. In 2016, Muktinath also became home to the largest statue of the Buddha ever built in Nepal.

These traditions then come together to provide a place to ritually welcome all of the new Shaligrams that have just been taken from the water into the lives of the people who venerate them. But Shaligrams are becoming rarer. Climate change, faster glacial melting, and gravel mining in the Kali Gandaki are changing the course of the river, which means fewer Shaligrams are appearing each year. This is mainly because the Kali Gandaki is fed by meltwater from the Southern Tibetan Plateau. But with the glacier disappearing, the river is becoming smaller and shifting away from the fossil beds that contain the ammonites needed to become Shaligrams.

For the moment, though, the majority of pilgrims are still able to find at least a few Shaligrams every time they travel to Mustang, but it's getting harder. Even so, once the new Shaligrams are introduced to worship at Muktinath, it is time for pilgrims to leave Mustang and return home.

For many, this is a bittersweet moment that marks the birth of their new household deities into the family but also means that they will be leaving the beauty of the high Himalayas and the place where deities come to Earth. (AP)

The Conversation

'Courage is contagious'

Ellsberg's decision to release 'Pentagon Papers' did not take place in a vacuum

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

By Christian Appy
UMass Amherst

In 1971, when Daniel Ellsberg arrived at a federal court in Boston, a journalist asked if he was concerned about the prospect of going to prison for leaking a 7,000-page top-secret history of the Vietnam War. Ellsberg responded with a question of his own: "Wouldn't you go to prison to help end this war?"

The classified documents Ellsberg released to The New York Times and 18 other newspapers were quickly dubbed the Pentagon Papers. They exposed more than two decades of government deceit about U.S. involvement in Vietnam, from 1945 to 1968.

Ellsberg died June 16, 2023, three months after announcing that he had been diagnosed with terminal cancer. To millions of Americans who opposed the war, his whistleblowing was an act of patriotism - but millions of others regarded it as treason. In Ellsberg's own papers at UMass Amherst, where I teach history and direct the Ellsberg Initiative for Peace and Democracy, you can read hundreds of letters to him from ordinary citizens expressing both extremes: the highest possible praise, and vitriolic, often antisemitic, hostility.

How a young war planner became a peace activist is one of the most striking conversion stories in American history. But Ellsberg's political and moral transformation did not happen in a vacuum. It reflected a titanic shift in public attitudes about the Vietnam War. The massive anti-war movement inspired and reinforced Ellsberg's dissent - and, in turn, his example has emboldened activists and whistleblowers in the decades since.

Once a fervent Cold Warrior, Ellsberg joined the Marine Corps in the mid-1950s, earned his doctorate in economics from Harvard and in 1959 became a nuclear war analyst for the Rand Corp., a think tank that, at the time, was funded mostly by the Air Force. In 1964, he was one of the brainy young analysts, dubbed "whiz kids" by the media, that Defense Secretary Robert McNamara recruited to the Pentagon.

Throughout his 20s and early 30s, Ellsberg believed that serving the president was a "knightly calling," even if it required lying to the public. So how did he come to believe that loyalty to truth-telling superseded loyalty to the chief of state?

From 1965 to 1967, Ellsberg went to Vietnam for the State Department, believing the war was a challenging but necessary part of a global struggle to contain communism. Yet he became deeply disillusioned, convinced that the war could not be won. He was particularly disturbed by indiscriminate U.S. bombing and shelling, most of it on South Vietnam, the land the U.S. claimed to be protecting. About 20,000 American lives had already been lost, and roughly a million Vietnamese people had been killed, about half of them civilians. By the war's end eight years later, 58,000 Americans and 3 million

Vietnamese had died. By 1968, Ellsberg was trying to persuade U.S. leaders to seek a negotiated end to the war. On his own time, meanwhile, he was beginning to meet anti-war activists who advocated a bottom-up effort to demand immediate U.S. withdrawal.

But most galvanizing for Ellsberg were the Pentagon Papers, which he helped compile for McNamara. Full of technocratic euphemisms for lethal policies, the documents convinced him that the entire history of U.S. involvement in Vietnam was marked by deception: that it was an aggressive counterrevolution that denied the Vietnamese people the right of self-determination, disguised as a battle for democracy.

Ellsberg had first viewed the Vietnam War as a just cause to be won, then as an unwinnable stalemate to be gradually abandoned. By late 1969, however, he saw it as an immoral war to be ended unilaterally and immediately. Millions of Americans had already come to that conclusion. Back in 1965, in fact, Ellsberg's future wife, Patricia Marx, agreed to a first date only if it included an anti-war demonstration in Washington.

Just as he finished reading the Pentagon Papers, Ellsberg attended a War Resisters League conference that proved pivotal to his decision to leak the documents. There he met a few of the 3,250 young Americans who were sentenced to up to three years in prison for resisting the draft. Deeply moved by their courage, Ellsberg asked himself what he could do if he were willing to risk prison and his career.

A month later, with help from his friend and Rand colleague Anthony Russo, Ellsberg began photocopying the Pentagon Papers.

For the next year and a half, Ellsberg tried to get anti-war members of Congress to put the documents into the congressional record and hold hearings. None was willing, so he eventually offered them to war correspondent Neil Sheehan at The New York Times - the first newspaper to report on the papers' revelations.

Public interest was scant, however, until President Richard Nixon began attacking the press and Ellsberg. Although the Pentagon Papers did not include Nixon's time in office, the White House feared that Ellsberg might leak more documents - especially about Nixon's 1968 effort to sabotage the Vietnam peace talks to improve his odds of winning the presidential election.

The government indicted Ellsberg on a dozen felony counts with a possible 115-year prison sentence. He was the first American ever criminally charged under the Espionage Act of 1917 for disclosing classified documents to the press and public rather than to a foreign agent or nation.

In early March 2023, Ellsberg made public a letter to friends and supporters announcing that he had only months to live. He closed by thanking fellow activists whose "dedication, courage, and determination to act have inspired and sustained my own efforts."

Ellsberg's life and legacy are reminders that individual acts of moral courage depend on examples set by others, and they have the potential to spark more, far into the future. As Ellsberg often said, "civil courage is contagious." (AP)



The Romanian Ambassador to Kuwait with Lulu Hypermarket officials.

Romanian Ambassador explores business opportunities at Lulu

The Romanian Ambassador to Kuwait, His Excellency Mugurel Loan Stanescu made a significant visit to the regional office of Lulu Hypermarket Kuwait on August 6, 2023. During his visit, His Excellency engaged in productive discussions with Mr. Mohamed Haris, Director of Lulu Hypermarket Kuwait, and other esteemed members of Lulu's top management to explore potential business collaborations, particularly focusing on the import of Romanian products into the vibrant Kuwaiti market. The meeting commenced on a cordial

note, with warm greetings exchanged between the Romanian Ambassador and the Lulu Hypermarket team. Expressing gratitude for the opportunity to visit the renowned retail giant, His Excellency acknowledged Lulu's prominence in the Kuwaiti retail landscape and its contribution to the region's economic growth. Ambassador highlighted Romania's growing in various sectors, emphasizing the country's rich heritage of high-quality products and goods. He stressed the potential for Romanian products to captivate

the discerning Kuwaiti consumers and cater to the growing demand for diverse and unique offerings in the Kuwaiti market. The Director of Lulu Hypermarket Kuwait extended a warm welcome to the Romanian Ambassador and expressed enthusiasm for exploring the prospects of importing Romanian goods. He affirmed Lulu's commitment to providing its customers with an extensive range of premium products from around the world, and he recognized Romania's offerings as an excellent addition to their product portfolio.

Lightest 911 of the 992 generation

New Porsche 911 S/T: purist special-edition model marks 60th anniversary of 911

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 6: Porsche is celebrating the 60th anniversary of the 911 with a special edition built for maximum driving enjoyment: in a limited run of 1,963 examples, the Porsche 911 S/T offers lightweight design and a purist driving experience. For the first time, the 386 kW (525 PS) high-revving engine from the 911 GT3 RS delivers its power to the road via a manual gearbox and lightweight clutch. Stuttgart/Dubai. To mark the special anniversary of the iconic 911 sports car, the engineers in Weissach have designed a highly purist sports car dedicated to sheer driving enjoyment: the 911 S/T.

Every steering movement, every ounce of pressure on the accelerator or brake is implemented immediately and with pinpoint precision. Unlike the 911 GT3 RS, the focus of the development of the 911 S/T has been not on track use, but rather for journeys on public roads. The name marks out the new 911 S/T as the descendant of a particularly performance-focused version of the first 911 generation. From 1969, Porsche offered a special race version of the 911 S. Internally, these vehicles were called 911 ST. Modifications to the chassis, wheels, engine and body significantly improved acceleration, braking, traction and cornering grip. Large spoilers and other aerodynamic aids were not yet used in these models. The new 911 S/T takes up the spirit of the original 911 S (ST) and transfers it to the current model generation of the Porsche 911. The anniversary model combines elements of the 911 GT3 RS with the body of the 911 GT3 with Touring Package and supplements it with lightweight components specially developed for the 911 S/T. The result is a unique driving experience within the 911 GT portfolio.

Lightweight construction from the wings to the clutch
Among other measures, the 911 S/T achieves its particularly agile and direct handling through consistent lightweight design. The front bonnet, roof, front wings and the doors with their striking inlets are made of lightweight carbon-fibre-reinforced plastic (CFRP). The same applies to the roll cage, rear axle anti-roll bar and shear panel (stiffening element on the rear axle). Porsche also fits the anniversary model with magnesium wheels, the PCCB system, a lithium-ion starter battery and lightweight glass, all as standard. With reduced insulation,



the omission of rear-axle steering and weight savings in the powertrain, the 911 S/T achieves a DIN kerb weight of just 1,380 kg. This makes the car, optimised for a fast-road setup, a further 40 kg lighter than a manual 911 GT3 Touring. Porsche engineers developed a new lightweight clutch exclusively for the 911 S/T. In conjunction with a single-mass flywheel, it reduces the weight of the rotating mass by 10.5 kg. This noticeably improves the responsiveness of the naturally aspirated boxer engine, which now builds revs with especially bracing speed and directness. Coupled with a six-speed manual transmission with a shorter gear ratio than on the 911 GT3, the high-revving engine in the 911 S/T delivers even more immediacy in its dynamics. It propels the 911 S/T to 100 km/h in just 3.7 seconds. It achieves a top speed of 300 km/h. The exhilarating driving experi-

ence is heightened by the compelling soundscape of the standard lightweight sports exhaust system. The 911 S/T is the only 911 of the current generation to combine a double-wishbone front-axle design with a multi-link rear axle without rear-axle steering. The dampers and control systems were tuned accordingly. The aerodynamics of the 911 S/T are also optimised for the public road rather than the racing track. The anniversary model is equipped as standard with a Gurney flap on the extending rear spoiler. Standard equipment also includes 20-inch (front) and 21-inch (rear) lightweight centre-locking magnesium wheels. Ultra-high-performance 255/35 ZR 20 tyres, meanwhile, ensure a high level of mechanical grip at the front of the car. On the rear, the 911 S/T features 315/30 ZR 21 tyres. CFRP full bucket seats come as standard. The four-way-adjustable



Left to right: The new Porsche 911 S/T.

Sports Seat Plus is available at no extra charge. The instrument cluster and the clock of the Sport Chrono package are finished in a classic green Porsche colour scheme. The 911 S/T is offered with an optional exclusive Heritage Design Package. The new exterior colour Shoreblue Metallic and the wheel rim colour Ceramica are exclusively available for this particularly elegant variant. On the doors, a starting number from 0 to 99 as well as a decorative foil can be applied on request. The classic-design Porsche crest from the original 911 that adorns the front, the hub caps, the steering wheel, the headrests and the car key underscores the historic roots of the 911 S/T. The interior also features cloth seat centers in Classic Cognac with black pinstripes, which are another homage to heritage. Two-tone semi-aniline leather trim in Black/Classic Cognac leather with extensive leather

surrounds, a roof lining in perforated Dinamica, and other elements from Porsche Exclusive Manufaktur round out the package. The Porsche logo and the 911 S/T model designation on the rear of the car are in Gold. Porsche Design is exclusively offering customers of the 911 S/T the Chronograph 1 - 911 S/T. Featuring a titanium case, uncoated and blasted for weight-saving reasons, this exclusive timepiece goes all in on the lightweight design principle of the new purist 911 special edition. The heart of the chronograph is the Porsche Design WERK 01.240 with its COSC certification and flyback function. It is operated with a rotor in the design of the magnesium wheel of the 911 S/T.

Further information, as well as film and photo material, is available in the Porsche Newsroom: newsroom.porsche.com

Gulf Bank provides local currency payments to over 350 merchants for people visiting Kuwait

For the first time in Kuwait, in partnership with Fexco International

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 6: Gulf Bank has announced a strategic partnership with Fexco International – a global leader in innovative payment and currency exchange solutions – to expand its Dynamic Currency Solutions (DCC) to over 350 merchants across Kuwait.

This collaboration marks the first time that Fexco's DCC solution will be available in the area, providing a ground-breaking platform for customers and merchants alike.

Fexco's DCC technology enables merchants to offer international customers the choice of paying in their home currency at the point of sale, providing a more seamless and personalised shopping experience. The platform also enables merchants to better manage currency risk and streamline payment processing.

The partnership between Gulf Bank and Fexco demonstrates a shared commitment to innovation and improving the customer experience. As the first bank in the country to offer DCC technology, Gulf Bank is cementing its position as a leader in the financial services industry.

Commented

Mohammed Taqi, Assistant General Manger of Consumer Banking at Gulf Bank, commented: "This partnership with Fexco is a significant milestone for Gulf Bank as we continue to innovate and provide the best solutions to our customers. We are committed to delivering a superior customer service experience and to supporting the growth and success of the local business community."

Alistair Batten, General Manager, Middle East, Africa and South Asia Fexco said: "We are delighted to partner with Gulf Bank to bring our Dynamic Currency Solutions to Kuwait for the first time. Now the country will benefit from DCC, which is an integral part of the guests' experience at world class hotels, fine dining restaurants and luxury brands all over the world. This expansion will empower merchants to provide a more personalised payment experience for their international customers and help businesses in the country to compete on a global scale."

Gulf Bank's vision is to be the leading Kuwaiti Bank of the Future. The Bank is constantly engaging and empowering its employees as part of an inclusive and diversified workplace in recognition of every employee's role in delivering customer excellence and serving the community at large. With its extensive network of branches and innovative digital services, Gulf Bank



Participants of KON Program pose for a group photo.

Zain Innovation Campus hosts 'participants' of KON Program

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 6: The Zain Innovation Campus (ZINC) hosted a special session for the participants of the KON Social Entrepreneurship Program, held by the leading non-profit LOYAC in collaboration with Babson

College in Boston. Zain sponsors the program as part of its long-term partnership with LOYAC, which extends for 19 years.

Zain's support to this unique educational program springs from its strong belief in the high value it presents to the local entrepreneurial community. The company continues to witness great enthusiasm and curiosity from hundreds of eager young people who participate in the program every year to make the most out of their summer vacation by learning new business skills, growing their talents, and fulfilling their future dreams.

The session hosted at ZINC centered around the basics and essentials of public speaking and business pitching, giving the students invaluable insights on how to pitch their businesses to investors to finance their projects and turn their ideas into profitable and sustainable startups. The session was attended by nearly 50 students from this year's KON program.

KON targets students of 12-16 years and empowers them to learn the essentials of entrepreneurship and business, gain insights on social and environmental challenges faced by today's businesses, and learn how to plan and develop their own projects.

The program also guides students into making their own case studies of the market and specifying their target audience, while introducing them to successful experiences from local entrepreneurs. KON comes in collaboration with Babson College in Boston, one of the most prestigious entrepreneurship colleges in the United States and the number one institution in the world for entrepreneurship education.

Zain and LOYAC's strategic partnership extends to 19 years of successful programs and initiatives that empowered thousands of ambitious Kuwaiti youth in business, volunteering, and academic projects. Zain considers this a great achievement that truly reflects the strength and resilience of the collaboration ecosystem between the private sector and non-profit organizations in empowering Kuwaiti youth.

LOYAC is a non-profit organization established in Kuwait in 2002 with the aim of empowering the youth to become impactful leaders in the society, offering a broad range of unique programs that fall under a model integrating community, professional, and life empowerment. LOYAC operates in Kuwait, Lebanon, Yemen, and Jordan, and has empowered over 3.5 million young people since its inception.

Burgan Bank announces names of monthly draw winners

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 6: Burgan Bank announced today the names of the Kanz account monthly draw winners, who will each take home a KD 2,000 cash-prize. All Kanz customers who maintain a minimum balance of KD 200 for at least one week before the draw date, are included in the draw, and their chances of winning increase with higher deposits.

- The 20 lucky winners are:
- Abdulaziz Ihssen Abdulaziz
 - Abdulaziz Mejbil Naser
 - Abdulmohsen Hameed Alstaleb
 - Ahmad Khalifa Alshohomi
 - Alaa Hasan Alsalah
 - Ali Abdulrahman Alraish
 - Atta Mohammad Hassan
 - Eiman Ali Almeerza
 - Fahad Zubail Khamees
 - Fatemeh Ali Mohei
 - Hamad Ghazi Almatar
 - Maria Nirmala Mathias
 - Marziyeh Hassan Raeisi
 - Nawal Abdulaziz Alshamhan
 - Noumah Hamad Alshammari
 - Salman Mohammad Abbas
 - Shareef Abdulmoumen Mousa
 - Saad Ibrahim Alfaraaj
 - Yousef Abdulredha Alhaddad
 - Yousef Asaad Abdalla

In addition to the monthly draw of Kanz account, Burgan Bank also offers a semi-annual KD 500,000 prize and a mega annual prize of KD 1,500,000. Kanz Account is accessible to any individual and can be opened in Kuwaiti Dinar or in major currencies (USD, EURO, GDP) with a minimum KD 200 requirement for account opening.

More information on opening a Kanz account, the draws or any of the Bank's products and services, is available at

any of Burgan Bank branches, through the Call Center at 1804080 and Burgan Bank website www.burgan.com.

About Burgan Bank
Established in 1977, Burgan Bank is currently the third-largest bank by assets in Kuwait. From its earliest days, the Bank has significantly focused on the corporate and financial institution sectors, in addition to diversifying its offering to cater to its growing retail and private banking customer base.

Burgan Bank has majority-owned subsidiaries, collectively known as the "Burgan Bank Group", in the MENAT region. This Group is supported by one of the largest branch networks across the region and includes: Gulf Bank Algeria - AGB (Algeria), Tunis International Bank - TIB (Tunisia), and the fully owned Burgan Bank Turkey. Furthermore, Burgan Bank has a presence in the UAE through its corporate office, Burgan Financial Services Limited.

The Bank has continuously improved its performance over the years, through an expanded revenue structure, diversified funding sources, and a strong capital base. The adoption of state-of-the-art services and technology has positioned it as a trendsetter in the domestic market and within the MENA region. Moreover, Burgan Bank's brand has been built on a foundation of real values – trust, commitment, excellence, and progression – which serve as a reminder of the high standards to which the Bank always aspires. In fact, the Bank's core philosophy of 'Driven by You' is the foundation on which its products and services are continuously developed.

The Bank obtained the ISO/IEC 27001: 2013 Information Security Management Systems certificate (ISMS) and was re-certified with the prestigious ISO 9001:2015, making it one of the few banks in the GCC and Kuwait to receive such certification for five consecutive times. The Bank also has the distinction of being the only Bank in Kuwait to have won the JP Morgan Chase Quality Recognition Award for twenty consecutive years. Moreover, in a testament to its dedication to the development of its human capital, Burgan Bank is the first bank in Kuwait to be certified as a Great Place to Work®, earning the distinct honor in 2023.

Burgan Bank is a majority-owned subsidiary of KIPCO (Kuwait Projects Company), one of the largest holding companies in the MENA region.



Mohammed Taqi, Assistant General Manger of Consumer Banking at Gulf Bank.

is able to give its customers the choice of how and where to conduct their banking transactions, all while ensuring a simple and seamless banking experience.

Gulf Bank is committed to maintaining robust developments in sustainability at environmental, social and governance levels through diverse sustainability initiatives, strategically selected to benefit the Bank both internally and externally. Gulf Bank supports Kuwait Vision 2035 "New Kuwait" and works with various parties to achieve it.



Names of Kanz monthly draw winners.

The Conversation

Nearly 70,000 Americans fell victim to online romantic scams in 2022

Research reveals scammers' tactics – and how to defend them

By Fangzhou Wang
University of Texas at Arlington

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

In the Netflix documentary "The Tinder Swindler," victims exposed notorious con artist Simon Leviev, who posed as a wealthy diamond mogul on the popular dating app Tinder to deceive and scam numerous women out of millions of dollars. Leviev is a flashy example of a dating scammer, but criminal operations also prey on emotionally vulnerable people to gain their trust and exploit them financially.

The internet has revolutionized dating, and there has been a surge in US adults using apps to find ideal matches post-pandemic. While these apps offer convenience for connecting with romantic partners, they also open the door to online romance scams. Criminals create both deceptive profiles and urgent scenarios to carry out the scam.

The Federal Trade Commission reports that nearly 70,000 Americans fell victim to online romantic scams in 2022, with reported losses topping US\$1.3 billion.

Online romance scams exploit people through calculated online social engineering and deliberately deceptive communication tactics. In a series of research projects, my colleagues from Georgia State University, University of Alabama, University of South Florida and I focused on understanding how scammers operate, the cues that may prompt changes in their tactics and what measures people can take to defend themselves against falling victim to this scam.

Online romance scams are not coincidental. They're carefully planned schemes that follow distinct stages. Research has identified five stages:

- Baiting victims with attractive profiles.
- Grooming victims with intimacy.
- Creating crises to extract money.
- On occasion manipulating victims with blackmail.
- Revealing the scam.

In short, scammers do not swindle victims by chance. They plan their actions in advance, patiently following their playbooks to ensure profitable outcomes. Scammers worm their way into a victim's heart to gain access to their money

through false pretenses. In a previous study, my colleague Volkan Topalli and I analyzed victim testimonials from the website stop-scammers.com. Our research revealed scammers' use of various social engineering techniques and crisis stories to prompt urgent requests. Scammers leveraged social norms, guilt and supposed emergencies to manipulate victims. Scammers also paid close attention to communication patterns and adapted their tactics based on victims' responses. This interplay significantly influenced the overall operation of the scam.

Exploitation

Across the globe, online romance scammers use different techniques that vary across cultures to successfully defraud victims. In my recent research, for example, I looked closely into an online romance scam in China called "Sha Zhu Pan," which loosely translates to "Pig Butchering Scam." In Sha Zhu Pan, scammers bait and groom victims for financial exploitation through well-structured group setups. Multiple scammers across four groups - hosts, resources, IT and money laundering - persuade victims through romantic tactics to invest in fake apps or use fake gambling websites, convincing them to pay more and more without ever receiving their money back. My friend with victims, resources members identify targets and collect information about them, IT creates the fake apps and websites, and the money launderers process the ill-gotten gains.

Like street robbers, online romance scammers can be influenced both positively and negatively by a range of situational cues that serve as incentives or deterrents.

Our investigation showed that deterrent messages can significantly affect scammers' behavior. Here's an example of a deterrent message: "I know you are scamming innocent people. My friend was recently arrested for the same offense and is facing five years in prison. You should stop before you face the same fate." Based on live conversations with active scammers online, our recent analysis suggests that receiving deterrent messages reduced scammers' response rate and their use of certain words, and increased the likelihood that when they sought further communications, they admitted they had done something wrong.

Our observations indicate that scammers not only diversify their approaches

to prompt more responses, such as appealing to their romantic relationships, asking for identifying information and requesting victims switch to private chat platforms, but they also use several techniques for getting victims to overcome their misgivings about sending the scammers more money. For example, scammers subtly persuade victims to see themselves as holding more power in the interaction than they do.

There are methods that could help users defend against online romance scams. In experimental findings, my colleagues and I suggest online apps, especially dating apps, implement warning messages. An example would be applying linguistics algorithms to identify keywords like "money," "MoneyGram" and "bank" in conversations to alert potential victims of the scam and deter scammers from engaging further.

In addition, apps can use tools to detect counterfeit profile pictures and other types of image fraud. By concentrating on identifying scammers' use of counterfeit profile pictures, this advanced algorithm holds the potential to preemptively hinder scammers from establishing fake profiles and initiating conversations from the outset.

Online dating app users can take precautions when talking to strangers. There are five rules users should follow to steer clear of scammers:

- Avoid sharing financial information with or sending money to strangers.
- Refrain from sending private photos to strangers.
- Pay attention to spelling and grammar because scammers often claim to reside in English-speaking countries when they actually operate in non-Western countries.
- Use image and name-reverse searches.
- Confide in family and friends if you grow suspicious.

One last piece of advice to empower those who have fallen victim to online romance scams: Don't blame yourself.

Take the courageous step of breaking free from the scam and seek support. Reach out to your loved ones, trustworthy third-party organizations and law enforcement agencies for help. This support network is essential in helping you restart your life and move forward. (AP)

'Age and experience are assets'

Biden, US oldest sitting president, needs young voters to win again

NEW YORK, Aug 6, (AP): At 24, Alberto Rodriguez has grandparents younger than Joe Biden. But he's more interested in the 80-year-old president's accomplishments than his age.

"People as young as me, we're all focusing on our day-to-day lives and he has done things to help us through that," Rodriguez, a cook at Mandalay Bay Resort and Casino in Las Vegas, said of Biden's support among young voters. Rodriguez pointed specifically to federal COVID-19 relief payments and government spending increases on infrastructure and other social programs.

Voters like him were a key piece of Biden's winning 2020 coalition, which included majorities of young people as well as college graduates, women, urban and suburban voters and Black Americans. Maintaining their support will be critical in closely contested states such as Nevada, where even small declines could prove consequential to Biden's reelection bid.

His 2024 campaign plans to emphasize messages that could especially resonate with young people in the coming weeks as the anniversary of the sweeping Inflation Reduction Act approaches in mid-August. That legislation includes provisions that the White House will embrace to argue that Biden has done more than any other president to combat climate change.

Reality

Such efforts, however, could collide with Biden's personal reality – like when he recalled that, while attending a St. Patrick's Day parade at age 14, he appeared in a photo with President Harry S. Truman.

"Purely by accident – I assume it was an accident – the photographer from the newspaper got a picture of me making eye contact with Harry Truman," Biden said to chuckles last week at the Truman Civil Rights Symposium in Washington.

In 2020, 61% of voters under age 30 – and 55% of those between 30 and 44 – supported Biden, according to AP VoteCast, a nationwide survey of the electorate.

It's an age group with which Republicans hope to make inroads. Former President Donald Trump, who is the early front-runner in the GOP presidential primary and is only 3 1/2 years younger than Biden, said Friday, "We are hitting the young person's market like nobody's ever seen before."

Kevin Munoz, a spokesman for Biden's campaign, referred to Trump's "Make America Great Again" movement in arguing that "young people are acutely impacted by the issues front and center in this election, driven by the extreme MAGA agenda." He said that included inaction on climate change, gun violence and student debt.

"We will meet younger Americans where they are and turn their energy into action," Munoz said in a statement. That might not defuse questions



US President Joe Biden poses for a photo with the Students Demand Action group after speaking at the National Safer Communities Summit at the University of Hartford in West Hartford, Conn., June 16, 2023. The oldest president in American history, Joe Biden would be 86 by the end of his second term, should he win one. (AP)

about age, though, when it comes to Biden or Trump.

"There's a frustration and exhaustion that they feel with the rematch," Terrance Woodbury, co-founder & CEO of the Democratic polling firm HIT Strategies, said of young voters.

"That's more of a problem than either of those two candidates individually, is that a system can just keep reproducing," Woodbury added. "And I think a lot of people just find that untenable."

An April poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research found that just 25% of Democrats under 45 said they would definitely support Biden in a general election, compared with 56% of older Democrats. A majority of Democrats across age groups said they would probably support him as the party's nominee, however.

Attacks

Biden's campaign is relying heavily on the Democratic National Committee, which during last year's midterms, hired campus organizers in Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Michigan, Arizona and other battleground states and offered weekly youth coordinating meetings to encourage in-class contacts and "dormstorms." The DNC sees young people as some of the most critical voters it will need to reach in 2024 and promises "significant investments" to mobilize them. Plans are underway to expand on its work last cycle, including trainings it held on how best to turn out voters.

The Republican National Committee is trying to use Biden's age against him, posting online videos of Biden seeming frail or making verbal gaffes, such as when he declared in June "God save the queen," nearly nine months

after the death of England's Queen Elizabeth II.

Rodriguez shrugged off online attacks, "People can make all the hit pieces and memes and TikToks all they want."

A starker contrast might be between the president and rising Democrats such as 46-year-old California Rep. Ro Khanna and Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg, 41, one of Biden's primary rivals in 2020. Neither seriously entertained running for the White House in 2024 and have backed Biden's reelection.

"The only thing that really matters is your ability to do the job," Buttigieg, who was 37 when he launched his 2020 presidential bid, said recently on CNN. Khanna told Fox News Channel that age will "obviously" be a 2024 factor, but suggested that Biden's staff "over-protects" him and "the more he's out there, the better."

Liabilities

Other top young Democrats have lined up to back Biden. Florida Democratic Rep. Maxwell Frost, who was elected to Congress last year at 26, is on the Biden campaign's advisory board, as is Maryland Gov. Wes Moore, 44. New York Rep. Alexandria Ocasio Cortez, 33, recently endorsed Biden.

Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson, a progressive who says strong turnout among young voters helped him win a runoff election this spring, said Biden's policies transcend his age. Johnson noted that the president's work "around climate justice speaks not just to this generation, but generations to come."

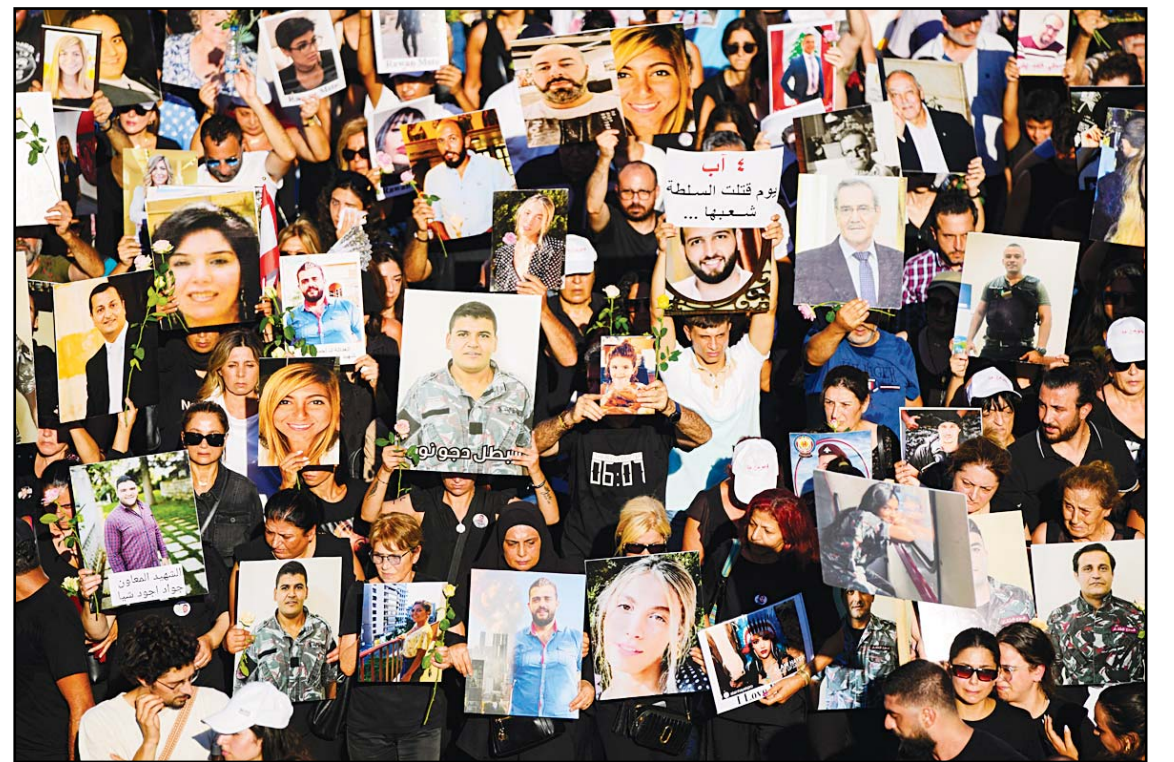
"The excitement that I believe that we're going to have is going to speak to the incredible work and organizing that we are committed to doing as a party," said Johnson, 47. "And we're looking forward to working with the president over the course of his next four years."

Still, Randi Weingarten, president of the American Federation of Teachers, acknowledged that even the president's supporters understand how demanding the White House can be.

"People worry about Joe Biden. They worry like you would worry about a beloved father or grandfather," said Weingarten, 65. "What you normally hear from Democrats is this sense of, 'OK, I just want him to be OK.' And you're hearing just the consternation of, 'This is a hard job.'"

Biden said he "took a hard look" at his age while deciding to seek a second term. But he's also tried to suggest his age and experience are assets rather than liabilities by joking repeatedly about them. That's a departure from 2020, when Biden called himself a "transition candidate" and pledged to be a "bridge" to younger Democrats.

Santiago Mayer, the founder of Voters of Tomorrow, which has 20-plus chapters nationwide and works to increase political engagement among young voters, argues that Biden is not defying his past promise by running for reelection, but keeping it.



Relatives of victims of the deadly 2020 Beirut port explosion hold portraits of loved ones to mark the third anniversary of the massive blast, outside the port of Beirut, Lebanon, Friday, Aug. 4, 2023. Hundreds of people marched in the Lebanese capital Friday to mark the 3rd anniversary of Beirut's deadly port blast with some calling on the international community to help in the investigation. (AP)

Death toll is disputed

3 years after Beirut port blast, intrigue foils an investigation

BEIRUT, Aug 6, (AP): Three years after Beirut's massive port explosion, attempts to prosecute those responsible are mired in political intrigue, the final death toll remains disputed and many Lebanese have less faith than ever in their disintegrating state institutions.

As the country marks the anniversary Friday, relatives of some of those killed are still struggling to get their loved ones recognized as blast victims, reflecting the on-going chaos since the Aug. 4, 2020 explosion. The blast killed at least 218 people, according to an Associated Press count, wounded more than 6,000, devastated large swaths of Beirut and caused billions of dollars in damages.

Among those not recognized as a blast victim is a five-month-old boy, Qusai Ramadan, a child of Syrian refugees. His parents say he was killed when the explosion toppled the ceiling and a cupboard in his hospital room, crushing him. They have been unable to get the infant added to the official death list, a move that could have made them eligible for future compensation.

They accuse the authorities of discriminating against victims who are not Lebanese.

Meanwhile, the blast anniversary brought renewed calls for an international investigation of those responsible, including top officials who allowed hundreds of tons of highly flammable ammonium nitrate, a material used in fertilizers, to be improperly stored for years at a warehouse in the port.

Victims

Lebanese and international organizations, survivors and families of victims sent an appeal to the U.N. Rights Council, saying that on the third anniversary of the explosion, "we are no closer to justice and accountability for the catastrophe."

Hundreds of people marched in the Lebanese capital on Friday to mark the anniversary, with some family members of the victims calling on the international community to help in the investigation.

Carrying roses and photos of their loved ones, the families led the march and gathered outside Beirut's port.

6.3m facing acute hunger: FAO

Sudan food security crisis 'intensifies' amid conflict

ROME, Aug 6, (KUNA): The UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) raised on Thursday a dire warning about the escalating food crisis in the Sudan.

As conflict and economic decline continue to ravage the country, urgent and intensified humanitarian support for rural communities is urgently needed, FAO said in a press release.

According to the latest Integrated Food Security Phase (IPC) projections, over 20.3 million people, representing more than 42 percent of the population in the country, are experiencing high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above) between July and September 2023.

Compared to the results from the last IPC analysis conducted in May 2022, the number of highly food insecure people has nearly doubled.

With 14 million people facing Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and nearly 6.3 million people facing Emergency (IPC Phase 4) levels of acute hunger, the situation is critical.

The states most severely affected are grappling with active conflict, including Khartoum, South and West Kordofan, and Central, East, South and West

Darfur, where over half of the population is facing acute hunger.

The violence has resulted in the large-scale displacement of over 2.6 million people across the country and forced over 700 000 individuals to seek refuge in neighboring countries.

Critical infrastructure, including healthcare facilities, power sources, and telecommunications, has suffered significant damage, further exacerbating food insecurity and malnutrition.

Market disruptions and soaring food prices have compounded the population's struggle to access essential goods and services.

FAO's Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative for the Near East and North Africa Abdulhakim Elwaer expressed his deep concern about the situation, stating, "The conflict has had devastating consequences on the food and nutrition security and well-being of millions of people."

"Families are facing unimaginable suffering, and it is vital that FAO is stepping in to support more than 1 million farmers this season to produce enough food for Sudanese people," he cautioned.

Victims' names were read and a moment of silence was held at 6:07 p.m. - the time when the blast occurred.

The mother of one of the victims called for an international and impartial investigation "within the U.N. framework."

"Three years have passed and you have been turning a deaf ear to this request and this hurts a lot," said Mireille Bazergy Khoury, the mother of Elias Khoury who was killed by the blast. "This crime is not a Lebanese issue. Victims are all of all nationalities. Please take action."

Maan, a Lebanese group advocating for victims and survivors, put the death toll at 236, significantly higher than the government's count of 191. The authorities stopped counting the dead a month after the blast, even as some of the severely wounded later died.

Among those listed by the Maan initiative is Qusai, the Syrian infant. He had been undergoing treatment for a severe liver condition and was transferred to a government hospital near the port about a week before the explosion. Hospital staff said the infant needed a liver transplant and was in critical condition.

On the day of the blast, Qusai's aunt, Noura Mohammed, was sitting at his bedside while his mother rested at home. The aunt said the staff ordered everyone to evacuate immediately after the explosion, and that she found the infant dead, crushed by fallen debris, when she returned.

Hospital officials said Qusai died an hour after the explosion, with the death certificate listing cardio respiratory arrest as the cause. The family buried him a day later.

Protest adds to challenges of Tinubu

Striking Nigerian doctors to embark on nationwide protest over unmet demands by country's leader

ABUJA, Nigeria, Aug 6, (AP): Striking Nigerian doctors on Saturday said they will embark on a nationwide protest, accusing the country's newly elected president of ignoring their demands for better pay, better work conditions and payment of owed earnings.

The protest, scheduled to start on Wednesday, adds to other challenges confronting Nigeria's President Bola Tinubu, who is leading efforts by the West Africa regional bloc of ECO-WAS - which he chairs - to restore democracy in Niger after last week's

coup.

The protest became necessary "to press home our demands, which have been largely neglected by our parent ministry and the federal government," Dr. Innocent Orji, president of the Nigerian Association of Resident Doctors, wrote in an Aug. 5 letter to the country's ministry of health, a copy of which was made available to The Associated Press.

The resident doctors are graduate trainees providing critical care at public hospitals across Nigeria,

which has one of the world's lowest doctors-to-patients ratio, with two physicians per 10,000 residents, according to the Nigerian Medical Association.

The resident doctors have been on strike since July 26 to protest unpaid salaries and demand improvements in pay and working conditions. But instead of meeting their demands, the nation's ministry of health directed a "no work, no pay" policy against them along with other "punitive measures," Orji told The Associated Press.

Dr Vince Clinical Research joins fight against opioid crisis

CSX-1004 blocks fentanyl's respiratory depressant effects

OVERLAND PARK, Kan., Aug 6: Vince Clinical Research (DVCR), a full-service CRO specializing in Phase I-II clinical trials, has announced the first subject was screened for Cessation Therapeutics' CSX-1004 in a First-In-Human single ascending dose study in normal healthy volunteers. CSX-1004 is a human monoclonal antibody infusion that is being developed for the prevention of fentanyl overdose. The study is being conducted at DVCR's world-class clinical pharmacology unit located in Overland Park, Kansas.

Currently, opioid-related overdose is the leading cause of death for Americans between the ages of 18 and 45, with over 200 deaths per day. Fentanyl and similar synthetic opioids are the main sources of the epidemic. Fentanyl can cause death within minutes of exposure to a lethal dose (more quickly than heroin or prescription opioids), which limits the effectiveness of current treatments. Thus, there is a need to develop new therapies which are aimed at preventing overdose. CSX-1004 potentially binds to fentanyl and structurally related synthetic opioids, blocking them from entering the brain.

"Our company is privileged to be involved in the early clinical development of a first-in-class compound that could potentially provide a viable alternative to healthcare providers in their battle against the opioid epidemic, specifically with fentanyl," says Brad Vince, D.O., CEO and Medical Director. "The team at Dr. Vince Clinical Research possesses deep industry experience in conducting First-In-Human trials with monoclonal antibodies as well as for drugs for substance abuse."

Provide

In addition to clinical conduct at its Phase I unit, DVCR will provide project management, data management, biostatistics, and monitoring services to Cessation. Their cGMP compliant pharmacy, featuring a team with over 50 years of combined clinical research experience, provided extensive guidance on the preparation of CSX-1004 for dosing and associated infusion supplies.

Cessation's Chief Scientific Officer Andy Barrett, Ph.D., stated, "We are thrilled to partner with Dr. Vince Clinical Research on this critical First-In-Human study. Given the unit's deep expertise in early phase studies, it was a logical choice to study a potentially paradigm-shifting therapy in the fight against fentanyl."

DVCR looks forward to successfully completing this critical path study for Cessation's potentially ground-breaking therapy and joining the effort to combat the fentanyl crisis in America.

Dr. Vince Clinical Research (DVCR) is a world-class early phase CRO (Contract Research Organization) with a custom-built, green-designed headquarters and research complex encompassing three buildings in Overland Park, KS. DVCR's complex includes a 90-bed clinical pharmacology unit featuring a combination of luxurious and private research suites and a cGMP compliant pharmacy. DVCR specializes in conducting clinical trials for both healthy normal volunteers and

patient populations in a wide variety of early phase trials. Support services include project management, data management, biostatistics, monitoring and medical writing. By leveraging both technology and one of the country's most experienced leadership teams, DVCR provides Smarter, Faster Data to their biopharmaceutical clients.

Boehringer Ingelheim, a leading research-driven biopharmaceutical company, continues to advance its pipeline in both Human Pharma and Animal Health expanding across its key therapy areas.

Currency-adjusted net sales rose by 9.7 percent to 12.2 billion EUR driven by high demand for medications during the first six months of 2023, driven by strong momentum in Jardiance® for Human Pharma and NexGard® for Animal Health.

"True innovation addressing high unmet patients' needs has enabled us to reach ever more patients in the first half of this year," said Hubertus von Baumbach, Chairman of the Board of Managing Directors. "Persistent and above-average investments in our pipeline during the last years have resulted in many new treatment options for patients in the years to come, thus transforming lives for generations."

Boehringer Ingelheim continued expanding its pipeline portfolio through in-house as well as external innovation - 15 new innovation partnerships were formed in areas such as cancer immunology, fibrotic lung diseases and retinal diseases. Overall, the company has committed to invest 25 billion EUR in Research & Development and an additional 7 billion EUR for new production technologies over the next five years.

Net sales in Human Pharma were up 11.3 percent (currency-adjusted) at 9.6 billion EUR in the first half of the year, mainly driven by the Jardiance® family at 3.5 billion EUR and the respiratory medicine OFEV® at 1.7 billion EUR.

Jardiance® experienced strong momentum in the first six months of 2023. It is expected to grow following additional regulatory action for treatment of chronic kidney disease. Worldwide 850 million people live with this disease. With the addition to existing indications in type 2 diabetes and heart failure, Jardiance® will potentially be able to help manage cardio-renal-metabolic conditions. Over 1 billion people live with cardio-renal-metabolic conditions globally.

In oncology, the company's MDM2-p53 agonist brigimadlin has advanced into the pivotal trial for the treatment of dedifferentiated liposarcoma, a rare cancer with limited treatment options so far. The clinical development of two additional investigational therapies (zongertinib, also known as BI 1810631, and BI 764532) from the oncology pipeline has been accelerated based upon positive early clinical data.

The PDE4b agonist BI 1015550 is now in two clinical Phase III trials for the treatment of Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis (IPF) and Progressive Pulmonary Fibrosis. Patient recruitment for trial investigating BI 1015550 in IPF is well ahead of plan.



Dr Vince Clinical Research joins the fight against the fentanyl crisis, announces screening of first subject for Cessation Therapeutics' overdose prevention therapy in a first-in-human trial.

Hyper-realistic XR training experiences

GigXR & DICOM introduce 3D medical imagery learning app

Replimune, Incyte to study cancer therapy

RPx to induce patient-specific 'anti-tumor immune response'

LOS ANGELES & NEW HAVEN, Conn., Aug 6: GigXR, Inc, whose immersive learning platform delivers a catalog of complementary XR applications for healthcare training, has announced the debut of DICOM XR Library powered by INTRAVISION XR. The new application renders a complete set of hyper-realistic 3D medical imagery derived from MRI and CT scans for use in teaching, training, and simulation. This empowers nursing and medical schools, hospitals, and the Department of Defense with the all-new ability to leverage holographic medical imagery in anatomy and pathophysiology curricula.

"As a surgical oncologist for 25 years, I relied on imaging to perform complex surgeries. I also saw firsthand the need for better imaging technology," said David Pearlstone, MD, CEO at DICOM Director. "In the operating room, I was guided by what was essentially a picture taped to a light during a six-plus-hour liver resection. By partnering with GigXR, we are ensuring that tomorrow's medical professionals will work from more detailed, sophisticated content from day one."

Assess

By providing a 360-degree, in-depth look at how pathology and injury manifests in diagnostic imaging, DICOM XR Library better prepares medical and nursing students and professionals to assess and diagnose a real-life patient. The application also adds pathophysiology to the vital skill of reading and interpreting test results by showing holograms with full-dimensional anatomy.

DICOM XR Library is delivered by the Gig Immersive Learning Platform, enterprise software for institution-wide immersive teaching, training, and simulation across levels, programs, and departments. Managed through the platform's dashboard, instructors can curate a custom library of complementary applications for a simple, streamlined way to incorporate holographic content into their curricula. This further empowers learners to:

- Reinforce general anatomy learning by exploring body structures in HoloHuman, a 3D human cadaver made in collaboration with Elsevier, prior to seeing exactly how anatomy translates to real-life medical imaging in DICOM XR Library.

- Visualize pathophysiology immersively in high-fidelity 3D with the Insight Series, developed by ANIMA RES. Learners can view accurately modeled, holographic animations of the heart, lung and kidney in the Insight Series applications prior to assessing conditions and pathologies through 3D MRI and CT scans in DICOM XR Library.

- Replicate real-world diagnostic processes by examining holographic standardized patient scenarios in HoloPatient. With DICOM XR Library, learners can make a likely diagnosis of the patient prior to reviewing the corresponding 3D medical imagery.

- Better evaluate and apply actual test results to clinical simulation in HoloScenarios, an application co-created with Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, University of Michigan, and Morlen Health, a subsidiary of Northwest Permanente, P.C. DICOM XR Library offers a 3D

WOBURN, Mass. & WILMINGTON, Del., Aug 6: Replimune Group, Inc. (NASDAQ:REPL), a clinical stage biotechnology company pioneering the development of a novel portfolio of tumor-directed oncolytic immunotherapies, and Incyte (NASDAQ:INCY), a global biopharmaceutical company, has announced a clinical trial collaboration and supply agreement to study RP1, Replimune's lead product candidate, in combination with INCB99280, Incyte's small molecule oral PD-L1 inhibitor.

We are excited to enter into this collaboration with Incyte to explore the use of RP1 prior to surgery as we believe that our tumor-directed oncolytic immunotherapies could have a great impact in the neoadjuvant setting both in cutaneous squamous cell carcinoma (CSCC) and in other cancer types, given the high rates of complete responses we've seen to date, and data indicating RP1 is generally very well tolerated," said Robert Coffin, Chief Research and Development Officer of Replimune. "The unique potential of the RPx platform to induce a patient-specific anti-tumor immune response with an off-the-shelf treatment speaks to the practicality and broad potential utility of the approach, and exploring its use with Incyte's oral PD-L1 inhibitor has the potential to improve the patient experience further."

"We look forward to collaborating with Replimune on this study

evaluating INCB99280 and RP1 in patients with CSCC. Our oral PD-L1 program has shown promising safety and efficacy in early studies thus far, and we look forward to adding to the growing body of evidence for INCB99280 and learning more about its potential to improve clinical outcomes," said Lance Leopold, M.D., Group Vice President, Clinical Development Hematology and Oncology, Incyte.

Risk

Under the terms of the agreement, Incyte will initiate and sponsor the clinical trial of INCB99280 and RP1 in patients with high risk, resectable cutaneous squamous cell carcinoma (CSCC), with the clinical trial expected to initiate in early 2024. Replimune will supply Incyte with RP1 for the study and share equally in the costs of the study.

RP1 is Replimune's lead oncolytic immunotherapy product candidate and is based on a proprietary new strain of herpes simplex virus engineered for robust tumor selective replication and genetically armed with a fusogenic protein (GALV-GP R-) and GM-CSF, intended to maximize tumor killing potency, the immunogenicity of tumor cell death, and the activation of a systemic anti-tumor immune response.

INCB99280 is a potent and selective small molecule oral PD-L1 inhibitor, which has demonstrated promising clinical activity and

safety in patients with solid tumors. INCB99280 is being evaluated in multiple Phase 2 studies as monotherapy and in combination with other antitumor agents.

Replimune Group, Inc., headquartered in Woburn, MA, was founded in 2015 with the mission to transform cancer treatment by pioneering the development of novel tumor-directed oncolytic immunotherapies. Replimune's proprietary RPx platform is based on a potent HSV-1 backbone with payloads added to maximize immunogenic cell death and the induction of a systemic anti-tumor immune response. The RPx platform has a unique dual local and systemic mechanism of action (MOA) consisting of direct selective virus-mediated killing of the tumor resulting in the release of tumor derived antigens and altering of the tumor microenvironment (TME) to ignite a strong and durable systemic response. This MOA is expected to be synergistic with most established and experimental cancer treatment modalities, and, with an attractive safety profile the RPx platform has the versatility to be developed alone or combined with a variety of other treatment options.

Incyte is a Wilmington, Delaware-based, global biopharmaceutical company focused on finding solutions for serious unmet medical needs through the discovery, development and commercialization of proprietary therapeutics

perspective to complement the holographic diagnostic tools built into HoloScenarios.

Multiple learners can view any angle or cross-section of a medical imaging hologram, resize or rotate it at will, and view or hide abnormalities, pathologies and injuries - collaboratively and from anywhere in the world. Instructors and learners simply log into the Gig Immersive Learning Platform to access DICOM XR Library and its ever-expanding catalog of applications that present real-world cases. Using a mixed reality headset or any Android or iOS mobile phone or tablet, learners can observe and interact with immersive content in their own safe-to-fail environment.

"Peer-reviewed research has proven the efficacy of mixed reality training while studies conducted by our customers show how much learners prefer holograms to analog teaching methods. As healthcare institutions go from proof of concepts to scaled immersive simulation using mixed reality, the Gig Immersive Learning Platform scales with them in both breadth of content and technological delivery," said Jared Mermey, CEO of GigXR. "It is true

enterprise scale technology delivering hyper-realistic XR training experiences made by incredible partners like DICOM Director and through collaborations with the world's foremost healthcare institutions."

Applications

DICOM Director joins 3D4Medical from Elsevier and ANIMA RES as the latest third-party content partner to distribute enterprise training applications on the Gig Immersive Learning Platform. Designed specifically for pedagogy, the platform enables enterprise-scale healthcare institutions to build full immersive curricula that can be managed from a single dashboard. GigXR is trusted by customers across four continents with institutions that include Kaiser Permanente School of Medicine, Miami Dade College, Ursuline College, The University of Queensland, Otago Polytechnic, and many more.

GigXR also creates holographic clinical simulation with world-class institutions like the University of Cambridge and Cambridge University Hospitals (CUH) NHS Foundation Trust, University of Michigan, and Morlen Health, a subsidiary of Northwest

Permanente, P.C. These simulations include modules centered around Respiratory diseases, Basic Life Support, Advanced Cardiac Life Support, and Neurology scenarios.

GigXR is a global provider of holographic training solutions for medical and nursing schools, hospitals and higher education and the Department of Defense. GigXR's Immersive Learning Platform delivers a rapidly growing catalog of hyper-realistic mixed reality training applications created in partnership with world-class medical education experts at healthcare institutions. The applications are designed to break through the limitations of conventional 2D learning resources, by placing hyper-realistic hologram simulations and medical tools in a physical space using mixed reality headsets and mobile devices.

GigXR's flagship mixed reality applications, HoloScenarios, HoloPatient and HoloHuman, create safe-to-fail learning environments in which medical and nursing students can practice vital diagnostic, communication and clinical reasoning skills. GigXR is headquartered in Los Angeles, CA, with global customers on five continents.

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Social media influencer Cenat faces charges of inciting riot

People

NEW YORK, Aug 6, (AP) — Social media influencer Kai Cenat is facing charges of inciting a riot and promoting an unlawful gathering in New York City, after the online streamer drew thousands of his followers, many of them teenagers, with promises of giving away electronics, including a new PlayStation.

The event produced chaos, with dozens of people arrested — some jumping atop vehicles, hurling bottles and throwing punches.

Cenat was released early Saturday from police custody after being issued a desk appearance ticket, which police issue to require a suspect to appear in court to answer charges. A police spokesperson said he is to appear in court on Aug. 18.

The mayhem in New York City's Union Square Friday afternoon put further focus on the hold social media influencers have on the people who follow and fawn over them.

"Our children cannot be raised by social media," Mayor Eric Adams said Saturday during a press briefing on an unrelated crime.

Police said they arrested 65 people, including 30 juveniles. Several people were injured, including some with bloodied faces. At least four people were taken away in ambulances.

"I don't think people realize the level of discipline that we showed to take a very dangerous, volatile situation and to be able to bring it to a level of resolve without any loss of life or any substantial damage to property and without young people harming themselves," Adams said.

Cenat, 21, is a video creator with 6.5 million followers on the platform Twitch, where he regularly livestreams. He also boasts 4 million subscribers on YouTube, where he posts daily life and comedy vlogs ranging from "Fake Hibachi Chef Prank!" to his most recent video, "I Rented Us Girlfriends In Japan!"

His 299 YouTube videos have amassed more than 276 million views among them. In December, he was crowned streamer of the year at the 12th annual Streamy Awards.

Media representatives for AMP, which represents Cenat and a small group of other influencers, said in an email Saturday that the Union Square event was intended to show appreciation to fans.

"We've hosted fan meet ups and video shoots in the past, but we've never experienced anything at the scale of what took place yesterday," AMP said.

Responsibility

"We recognize that our audience and influence is growing, and with that comes greater responsibility," the statement continued. "We are deeply disheartened by the outbreak of disorderly conduct that affected innocent people and businesses, and do not condone behavior."

In its apology, the company said it was cooperating with authorities. Livestreaming on Twitch from a vehicle as the event gathered steam, Cenat displayed gift cards he planned to give away. Noting the crowd and police presence, he urged, "Everybody who's out there, make sure

y'all safe. ... We're not gonna do nothin' until it's safe."

Eventually he and an entourage got out of the vehicle and hustled through a crowd, crossed a street and went into the park, where Cenat was surrounded by a cheering, shoving mob.

Chief Jeffrey Maddrey of the New York Police Department said Cenat at some point in the afternoon was removed "for his safety" and police were in contact with him. Videos posted on social media and taken from news helicopters showed Cenat being lifted over a fence and out of the crowd and then placed in a police vehicle.

Aerial TV news footage showed a surging, tightly packed crowd running through the streets, scaling structures in the park and snarling traffic. Shouting teenagers swung objects at car windows, threw paint cans and set off fire extinguishers. Some people climbed on a moving vehicle, falling off as it sped away. Others pounded on or climbed atop city buses.

Skylark Jones, 19, likened the scene to "a movie," as he said police arrived with riot gear and began "charging at people."

Jones arrived with a friend hoping to get a chance at getting one of the giveaways. When they arrived, the scene was already packed and things became unruly even before Cenat appeared, he said.

Maddrey said three officers were hurt. "We have encountered things like this before but never to this level of dangerousness," Maddrey said.

Variety



This image released by Sony Pictures Classics shows Justin Min, (left), and Sherry Cola in a scene from 'Shortcomings.' (AP)

Film

Park adapts a favorite novel for his feature debut

Slice-of-life Asian drama in 'Shortcomings'

PARK CITY, Utah, Aug 6, (AP) — Randall Park was a struggling actor when he first encountered Adrian Tomine's graphic novel "Shortcomings" in 2007. The story focused on a twentysomething Japanese American man named Ben, who is trying to find himself in the Bay Area along with his girlfriend Miko and best friend Alice. They are all flawed, complex and figuring things out, sometimes inelegantly. Park was obsessed.

"I remember thinking, gosh this would make an amazing movie," Park said in an interview earlier this year during the Sundance Film Festival. "And in my dreams it was like, 'Oh I'd love to play Ben.'"

It would take about 15 years for "Shortcomings" to become a feature. By then Park had, in his words, aged out of the role. But he got a cooler gig out of it: feature film director. "Shortcomings," starring Sherry Cola as Alice, Ally Maki as Miko and Justin H. Min as Ben, had its world premiere at Sundance and is now coming to theaters Friday through distributor Sony Pictures Classics.

"I love the overlap between me and Alice, the queerness, the Asianness and just like the loudness, the kind of recklessness almost, you know? The obnoxiousness and also the unapologetic mess," Cola said in January. "Of course she's flawed, she's imperfect. But she kind of owns it, and she wants to do better for herself."

Park had known Cola and Maki prior to casting the movie. Casting Ben was a bigger challenge, he said, because he is a difficult, sometimes unlikeable character.

"There's all the shiny things about him, the opinions and the tirades and the snarky comments. But there has to be a deep vulnerability about him and a sadness and a humanity that people could identify with," Park said. "We saw a lot of great actors, and a lot of those actors were my friends and people who I really wanted to work with. But Justin just

gave the most interesting performance. There's a very human quality about him that made him really watchable."

For Min, it felt like a revelation to play a three-dimensional character with nuances and contradictions.

"It's not a type of role that I've often seen for myself or got to play," Min said. "It feels like for most of my career, they wanted us to play one thing."

Park, who had directed episodes of "Fresh Off the Boat," was influenced by some of Noah Baumbach's films like "Frances Ha," and Alexander Payne's "Sideways" for "Shortcomings."

Resonated

"I always wanted to see a movie like that where Asian American characters are just kind of hanging out in diners, walking in the city and talking about complex things and going through, you know, life stuff," Park said. "One of the reasons why ('Shortcomings') resonated with me so much was because I saw a little bit of myself in all of the characters. It felt just so real to me."

He also has a brief cameo in the film, as a waiter. But that was less a product of him wanting to be in the movie than the nature of an independent film made during COVID-19. For Min, getting to act against Park, and seeing him get Cola to break character and laugh, was one of the most fun days on set.

The film begins with Ben and Miko watching a film on the big screen that is a not-so-subtle reference to "Crazy Rich Asians." Afterwards they get into a debate about its merits. Miko loves it. Ben, who considers himself a cinephile, doesn't. And they discuss the idea of representation for representation's sake.

"We were so excited to have that scene because we've all had those conversations," Min said. "There are Asian Americans who loved 'Crazy

Rich Asians' and a lot of Asian Americans who hated it. But at the time when it came out, because it was such an important, significant moment for us, a lot of people who might not have vibed to it weren't really able to talk about it openly."

It also perfectly sets the stage for what's to come in "Shortcomings," as the characters grapple with their identities.

"It's more of a symbolic thing versus a pointed reference," Cola said. "It's not just about that film. It's about all the big films that have succeeded in the mainstream that have allowed us to tell this kind of story. Starting the movie with that kind of like big-picture thing and then going microscopically into this slice of life, opinionated dynamic I think is really fun."

Park, who loves "Crazy Rich Asians," empathizes with the burden to represent everybody.

"A movie like ours, it's about the margins of the margins in some ways," Park said. "It's a complex community. Nothing is monolithic. We all have different opinions, different tastes and different ways of seeing the world. And I think that's what excites me so much about this story is that there's an authenticity to it and a specificity to it that makes it different."

Also:

LOS ANGELES: Mario is a-here. Since early August, "The Super Mario Bros. Movie" has been streaming on Peacock, bringing one of the year's biggest box office hits to the NBCUniversal platform. Back when the film (the second attempt at a big-screen adaptation of the Nintendo videogame) opened in theaters in April, it raced to more than \$1.3 billion at the global box office. In my review, I called this "Mario" "okey-dokey," writing: "As nice as it is to look at 'The Super Mario Bros. Movie,' it's not anywhere near as fun as it would be to play it." (AP)

NEW YORK: Broadway star Phillipa Soo has not forgotten her childhood stage fright.

The Grammy-winning actor and singer known for her roles in "Hamilton," "Into the Woods" and other musicals is collaborating with her sister-in-law Maris Pasquale Doran and illustrator Qin Leng on a picture book about a girl more at ease singing to her stuffed animals than in front of a crowd. Random House Studio, an imprint of Random House Children's Books, announced Wednesday that "Piper Chen Sings" will come out next April.

"I have often been asked, 'If you could say anything to your younger self, what would it be?' 'Piper Chen Sings' is certainly an answer to that question," Soo, 32, said in a statement. "This book comes straight from the heart and is inspired by my own life and experiences — a little girl who loves to sing, but is overwhelmed with nervousness about singing in front of others."

Soo originated the role of Elizabeth Schuyler Hamilton, Alexander Hamilton's wife, in Lin-Manuel Miranda's celebrated play. She has since starred in Broadway revivals of "Into the Woods" and "Camelot," and was featured in a Kennedy Center production of "Guys and Dolls." Soo won Grammys for her work on the soundtracks to "Hamilton" and "Into the Woods." (AP)

NEW YORK: USA Today's weekly list of bestselling books, a publishing fixture that had been on hiatus since December, returned.

"We couldn't be more thrilled because this content is important to our vast audience and uniquely supports the communities we serve," Kristin Roberts, Gannett Media's chief content officer, said in a statement.

Gannett had not run the list since Mary Cadden, the longtime compiler, was among hundreds laid off late last year. According to Erik Bursch, senior vice president for product and engineering, the logging of sales figures — entered manually by Cadden — has been automated. The list otherwise will be managed

aged by the paper's books editor, Barbara VanDenburgh.

The publishing industry has long valued the USA Today rankings as a comprehensive, data-focused way of measuring the consumer market. The list, which began in 1993 and includes the top 150 books, is "based exclusively on sales



Soo



Miranda

analysis from U.S. booksellers including bookstore chains, independent bookstores, mass merchandisers and online retailers." Unlike The New York Times and other lists, USA Today does not have separate categories for hardcovers, paperbacks, audio books and e-books, instead combining

them all, no matter the genre or release date.

The top seller on Wednesday's list was Elin Hilderbrand's latest beach read, "The Five-Star Weekend," followed by Bonnie Garmus' popular debut novel "Lessons in Chemistry" and Ali Hazelwood's comic romance "Love, Theoretically."

Others included range from such perennials as "To Kill a Mockingbird" and "The Very Hungry Caterpillar" to Paul McCartney's photography book "1964," David Sedaris' "Happy-Go-Lucky" and "Blood Meridian," the acclaimed novel by Cormac McCarthy, who died earlier this month. (AP)

People & Places

People

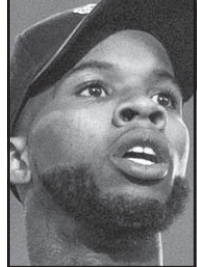
Sentencing today

Lanez faces 13-yr prison, deportation

LOS ANGELES, Aug 6, (AP): Three years have passed since hip-hop superstar Megan Thee Stallion was shot multiple times by rapper **Tory Lanez** in Los Angeles following a pool party at the home of Kylie Jenner.

On Monday, Lanez is scheduled to be sentenced, following his December conviction on three felony charges. Here's what you need to know about the case so far.

Tory Lanez, whose legal name is Daystar Peterson, is a Canadian artist who began releasing mixtapes in 2009 and saw a steady rise in popularity, moving on to major-label albums. The 31-year-old's last album reached the top 10 on the Billboard 200 chart, and he was a featured artist on Jack Harlow's No. 2 hit, "Whats Poppin."



Lanez

Megan Thee Stallion, now 28, was already a major rising star at the time of the shooting, and her prominence has surged since. The Houston-based rapper born Megan Pete won a Grammy for best new artist in 2021, and had No. 1 singles on the Billboard Hot 100 with her own song "Savage," featuring Beyoncé, and as a guest on Cardi B's "WAP."

A Los Angeles jury found Lanez guilty of three felonies: assault with a semiautomatic firearm; having a loaded, unregistered firearm in a vehicle; and discharging a firearm with gross negligence.

Prosecutors are seeking a 13-year prison sentence and Lanez faces deportation to his native Canada.

"I suffered gunshot wounds, as a result of a crime that was committed against me and done with the intention to physically harm me," Megan wrote on Instagram on July 15, 2020. "I'm incredibly grateful to be alive and that I'm expected to make a full recovery."

At the time, police announced that officers responded to gunfire around 4:30 a.m. three days earlier, in the Hollywood Hills. They said a woman had been treated for a foot injury. Lanez was publicly identified and arrested on a concealed weapons charge, but not initially charged in the shooting.

Charges

Nearly two weeks later, Megan revealed in an Instagram Live video that she had been shot in both feet and had to get surgery. She named Lanez as the shooter in another Instagram Live video that September: "Yes ... Tory shot me. You shot me and you got your publicist and your people going to these blogs lying," Megan said, adding, "I didn't tell the police nothing because I didn't want us to get in no more trouble."

Lanez was subsequently arrested on charges of assault with a semiautomatic firearm and carrying a loaded, unregistered firearm in a vehicle in early October of that year.

The day after Megan named him as the shooter, Lanez released his "Daystar" album with a track featuring lyrics that appeared to be aimed at Megan: "How the f--- you get shot in your foot / don't hit no bones or tendons."

Once arrested, he posted bail at \$190,000 and was ordered to surrender all weapons and not contact Megan. He pleaded not guilty in November 2020 but violated the protective order after appearing with rapper DaBaby during a Rolling Loud Miami festival set in July 2021, moments after Megan got off stage. His bail was increased to \$250,000.

In April 2022, he was briefly jailed for sending tweets that appeared to target her, increasing his bail to \$350,000. And in October 2022, Lanez was placed on house arrest until the case went to trial after allegedly attacking another musician, August Alsina, at a concert, violating his bail.

In December 2022, Megan testified in front of Lanez, stating that she left the party at Jenner's house in an SUV with Lanez, his bodyguard, and her friend and assistant Kelsey Harris. She said she had an intimate relationship with Lanez, to the chagrin of Harris, who had a "crush" on the rapper. Harris and Megan got into an argument, which escalated and eventually led to Lanez and Megan disparaging each other's careers. Megan exited the vehicle, she said, at which point Lanez began shooting at her feet and yelled, "Dance b-----!"

Lanez's defense attorney George Mgedesyan said in his opening statement that there was no way Megan would have been able to identify the shooter because they were behind her. Harris testified that Lanez did not shoot Megan, but prosecutors presented an audio recording in which Harris was heard saying, "He was shooting the gun." After the incident, Harris texted Megan's manager, "Help. Tory shot meg. 911." On the stand, Harris said she "wasn't truthful" in the recording.

Image

Prosecutor Alexander Bott argued that Megan had no reason to lie about domestic violence and subject herself to online vitriol. Mgedesyan argued that Harris was the shooter and Lanez had attempted to stop the altercation. He contended Megan was lying because the idea that Lanez shot her was less damaging to her public image than the idea that her friend would have shot her during an argument over a man.

Since the shooting, Megan has been the target of widespread misinformation and vitriol spread through social media and inflamed with each development. A lot of the abuse, experts say, can be attributed to misogynoir - a particular type of misogyny experienced by Black women.

Some of the hate was exacerbated by industry peers: Rappers Drake and 21 Savage targeted Megan by name in lyrics attempting to discredit her allegations. 50 Cent posted memes mocking her, likening the rapper to actor Jussie Smollett, who was convicted in 2021 for lying to police about a racist, homophobic attack.

Others have come to her defense - #MeToo founder Tarana Burke and US Rep. Maxine Waters have also spoken out about violence against Black women and were among the signers of an open letter supporting Megan. The star herself wrote an op-ed in the New York Times calling for the protection of Black women.

As soon as Lanez's conviction was read in court last December, he was taken into custody. In the courtroom, Lanez's father denounced the "wicked system" that led to his conviction.

Sentencing was delayed as Lanez's attorneys filed a motion for a new trial, arguing that evidence was wrongly admitted. That request was denied in May 2023. Such motions immediately following a conviction are common and rarely succeed.



Freddie Mercury's Yamaha Grand Piano, estimated at 2-3 million pounds, on display at Sotheby's auction rooms in London, Thursday, Aug. 3. More than 1,000 of Freddie Mercury's personal items, including his flamboyant stage costumes, handwritten drafts of 'Bohemian Rhapsody' and the baby grand piano he used to compose Queen's greatest hits, are going on show in an exhibition at Sotheby's London ahead of their sale. (AP)



Lizzo performs at the BottleRock Napa Valley Music Festival on May 27, 2023, in Napa, Calif. Lizzo has been sued by three former dancers who accuse the Grammy winner of sexual harassment and allege the singer and her production company created a hostile work environment. The civil lawsuit filed Tuesday, Aug. 1, in Los Angeles County Superior Court claims Lizzo pressured one of the dancers to engage with nude performers at a club in Amsterdam and shamed another dancer for her weight gain before firing her. (AP)

Variety

DORSET, Vt: A driver accused of causing a crash that killed **Treat Williams** knew the actor and considered him a friend but denied wrongdoing and said charges are not warranted.

Ryan Koss, the managing creative director of the Dorset Theatre Festival in Vermont, said he knew Williams for years as a member of the tight-knit community, as well as a fellow theater member. He said he was devastated by Williams' death and offered his "sincerest condolences" to the actor's family. "I considered him a friend," Koss said.

Koss, 35, of Dorset, issued a statement Friday evening, three days after being issued a citation for grossly negligent operation causing death. He was ordered to appear in court in September to be formally charged.

A Vermont State Police investigation concluded Koss' vehicle pulled in front of Williams' motorcycle on June 12 in Dorset, but Koss said he's "confident the facts will show I obeyed all relevant traffic laws, and the state's charges are unwarranted."

Williams, 71, of **Manchester Center**, was pronounced dead at Albany Medical Center in **New York**.

Richard Treat Williams starred in the TV series "Everwood" and the movie "Hair." He appeared in more than 120 TV and film roles, including the movies "The Eagle Has Landed," "Prince of the City" and "Once Upon a Time in America." (AP)

SANTA FE, NM: The woman who was overseeing the use of weapons on the movie set where **Alec Baldwin** fatally shot a cinematographer agreed Friday to forgo a preliminary hearing that would have provided court testimony from dozens of people, including eyewitnesses to the shooting.

Arizona-based armorer Hannah Gutierrez-Reed, in a court filing, waived her right to a courtroom review of evidence on charges of involuntary manslaughter in the 2021 shooting of **Halyna Hutchins** on the set of the Western movie "Rust." Gutierrez-Reed also waived her right to a review of charges by a grand jury.

Defense attorney **Jason Bowles** has described Hutchins' death on Oct 21, 2021, as a tragic accident and says that Gutierrez-Reed committed no crime. Gutierrez-Reed has not entered a plea to charges of involuntary manslaughter and

Music

Over 1,400 personal items of Queen singer to go on sale

Mercury's piano, song drafts on display

LONDON, Aug 6, (AP): More than 1,400 of Freddie Mercury's personal items, including his flamboyant stage costumes, handwritten drafts of "Bohemian Rhapsody" and the baby grand piano he used to compose Queen's greatest hits, are going on display in a free exhibition at Sotheby's London ahead of their sale.

The vast collection of the singer's personal belongings, which had been left to Mercury's close friend Mary Austin, had remained undisturbed in his west London mansion for 30 years since his death in 1991.

Austin, 72, said in a BBC interview in April that she has decided to sell almost all the items to "close this very special chapter in my life" and "put my affairs in order."

Among the hundreds of Mercury's personal treasures were previously unseen working drafts of hits "Don't Stop Me Now," "We Are the Champions" and "Somebody to Love."

The handwritten draft of "Bohemian Rhapsody" - which shows that Mercury experimented with naming the song "Mongolian Rhapsody" before crossing it out - is expected to fetch 800,000 to 1.2 million pounds (\$1 million to \$1.5 million).

"We have here working lyrics for pretty much every song that Freddie Mercury wrote through the 1970s," said Gabriel Heaton, a specialist at the auction house. "We've got extensive working drafts that really showed how songs developed, how they changed, how they took shape in the most wonderful way."

Survived

The star of the show, however, is Mercury's beloved Yamaha baby grand piano, which is set to sell for 2 million to 3 million pounds (\$2.5 million to \$3.8 million). The piano survived several house moves, took center stage at his mansion, and was the heart of Mercury's musical and personal story from 1975 until his death, auctioneers said Thursday.

"Of all the objects that he had, this is the one that meant the most to him," Heaton said.

Many of the highlights conveyed Mercury's love of theatre and showmanship. There were his dazzling sequined, skin-tight catsuits, leather jackets and the lavish red cape and crown he wore on his last Queen performance in 1986, as well as his collection of Japanese silk kimonos.

Other items were more personal and intimate, including a school book with the singer's name, Fred Bulsara, dating from the 1960s when he had just arrived in the UK with his family from Zanzibar. Visitors could study Mercury's detailed dinner party seating

evidence-tampering. If convicted, she faces up to three years in prison.

"Rust" safety coordinator and assistant director **David Halls** has pleaded no contest to a charge of unsafe handling of a firearm and received a suspended sentence of six months' probation.

In April, prosecutors dropped charges against Baldwin, who was pointing a gun at Hutchins when it went off, killing her and injuring director **Joel Souza**.

That left Gutierrez-Reed as the sole re-

Lizzo says she's 'not the villain' after her dancers claim abuse

LOS ANGELES, Aug 6, (AP) Lizzo said Thursday that she's "not the villain" that three of her former backup dancers falsely accuse her of being in a sexual harassment lawsuit.

The civil lawsuit filed Tuesday in Los Angeles Superior Court claims Lizzo pressured the dancers to engage with nude performers at a club in Amsterdam and shamed one of them for her weight gain before firing her.

"I am not here to be looked at as a victim, but I also know that I am not the villain that people and the media have portrayed me to be these last few days," Lizzo said in a statement posted on social media. "I am very open with my sexuality and expressing myself but I cannot accept or allow people to use that openness to make me out to be something I am not."

Plaintiffs Arianna Davis, Crystal Williams and Noelle Rodriguez made numerous allegations including sexual, religious and racial harassment, disability discrimination, assault and false imprisonment. They accuse the Grammy winner and her production company of creating a hostile work environment.

The legal complaint seeks unspecified damages from Melissa Viviane Jefferson, known professionally as Lizzo, her production company Big Grrrl Big Touring, Inc., and Shirlene Quigley, captain of the performer's dance team.

"These last few days have been gut wrenchingly difficult and over-

whelmingly disappointing. My work ethic, morals and respectfulness have been questioned. My character has been criticized," Lizzo said in the statement. "Usually I choose not to respond to false allegations but these are as unbelievable as they sound and too outrageous to not be addressed."

She said the "sensationalized stories" were coming from former employees "who have already publicly admitted that they were told their behavior on tour was inappropriate and unprofessional."

The court filing claims that after performing a concert in Amsterdam, Lizzo and her crew attended a sexually themed show at a club in the city's notorious Red Light District where "Lizzo began inviting cast members to take turns touching the nude performers" and led a chant pressuring Davis to touch the breasts of one of the nude women performing at the club.

"Finally, the chorus became overwhelming, and a mortified Ms. Davis acquiesced in an attempt to bring an end to the chants," the complaint states. "Plaintiffs were agast with how little regard Lizzo showed for the bodily autonomy of her employees and those around her, especially in the presence of many people whom she employed."

Lizzo, who routinely champions body positivity, is also accused of calling out Davis for her weight gain after accusing the dancer of not being committed to her role.

plans and menus, as well as handwritten invitations to his famous birthday bashes - including one dated 1977 that instructed guests to "Dress to Kill!"

Also on sale are Mercury's art collection, featuring works by Pablo Picasso, Salvador Dali and Marc Chagall, as well as his eclectic antique furniture and numerous cat figurines.

"(Mercury) wrote this: 'I like to be surrounded by splendid things. I want to lead a Victorian life, surrounded by exquisite clutter,'" said Sotheby's furniture and decorative arts specialist Thomas Williams.

The hundreds of items have turned the auction house's elegant central London building into a shrine to Mercury, with all 15 of its galleries devoted to his story. It is the first time Sotheby's is opening its entire gallery space to the public for the weeklong

exhibition, Williams said, adding it is perhaps its "most democratic sale," with objects like Mercury's chopsticks and sewing kit starting at under 100 pounds (\$125) each.

"Freddie Mercury: A World of His Own," which is free to view, opened Friday and runs until Sept. 5. The items will then be sold in a series of auctions later that month.

Sotheby's expects buyers to include institutions like museums, as well as members of Mercury's worldwide fanbase. Asked whether the rare objects may be better displayed in a museum, rather than sold individually by lot, Williams said Mercury "didn't want a stuffy museum."

"He conveyed that to Mary (Austin) and to his personal assistant," Williams said. "This is absolutely the vehicle he would have loved."



Baldwin



Williams

maintaining defendant.

Baldwin has said the gun fired accidentally after he followed instructions to point it toward Hutchins, who was behind the camera. He said he pulled back the hammer - but not the trigger - and the gun fired.

Prosecutors have reserved the right to refile charges against Baldwin and commissioned additional weapons testing to investigate whether the gun's hammer was intentionally modified. (AP)

Climate

'Extreme weather'

Brutal summer: Climate wake-up call for many

NEW YORK, Aug 6, (AP): Veronica Iordanova remembers Octobers growing up in Arizona when it was too cold to trick-or-treat in a short-sleeved Halloween costume. She can't imagine that anymore.

The summer heat lasts longer and feels more intense now, and she knows that is a result of human-caused global warming. She worries about her and her family's future.

"We need to realistically look at the situation and realize it's not going to get better," said Iordanova, who lives in Tempe.

Across the US, many people are living through one of the most brutal summers of their lives. And some psychologists believe the attention on a cascade of record-shattering heat, wildfire smoke, extreme flooding and Jacuzzi-hot ocean water could be "another turning point" in efforts to raise awareness about the everyday impact of climate change, as Cornell University climate scientist Natalie Mahowald put it. That's a crucial step to prompt collective action on global warming.

The recognition that human-caused climate change is already contributing extreme weather has been gaining traction for a few years now among Americans.

"This definitely feels like we're in that point of no return that people have talked about for a long time," said Stephen Escudero of Miami, who says this has been the worst summer he's ever seen in his 38 years living there.

For years, Anthony Leiserowitz, the director of the Yale Program on Climate Change Communication, was unable to see any sign in the data that extreme weather was influencing Americans to think differently about climate change. That started changing around 2016, he said, when more people started connecting their experiences of extreme heat and drought with broader climate patterns.

A majority of people in the US understand that climate change is real and caused at least in part by human activity. Over half of the general public say extreme weather that they've experienced was at least partly a result of climate change, according to an AP-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research poll. Yale's polling asks about personal experiences using a different measure and finds that 44% of people say they have personally experienced global warming.

Sentiment

Leiserowitz notes that an extremely small yet vocal climate-denying minority can tend to dominate the discourse — Iordanova and Escudero expressed that they feel alone in their beliefs about climate change even though they're in the majority, and public sentiment has been gradually moving in their direction over time.

However, "there's still a long ways to go before Americans have fully understood what's happening here" with climate change, Leiserowitz said.

Sometimes personal experiences end up being a more compelling measure than peer-reviewed research.

"Back then I was like, oh, my gosh, you know, climate change, that's horrible," said Paul Bowyer, who grew up in Arizona and now alternates his time between Northern California and Costa Rica. He said that he used to be interested in the messages coming from political figures like Al Gore, but over time, the urgency faded away and left him feeling like he hadn't seen too much difference in the weather.

"The thing is, nothing has changed," he said. Though he acknowledged that this year brought the worst snowstorm he's ever seen after years of drought — 5 feet of snow on his deck was "not normal," he said — he interpreted that as an act of Mother Nature to "replenish" things rather than as anything too concerning.

Still, some researchers think as more people experience extreme weather, more will change their minds in the opposite direction of Bowyer. Leiserowitz pointed out that extreme heat is powerful because it's easier to connect with the concept of "global warming," even though that warming also contributes to less intuitively-connected events like stronger hurricanes, more intense rainfall and other wacky weather.

And highly visible events in places where they're not normally expected — like heat waves in places without air conditioning infrastructure, or wildfire smoke on the East Coast and in the Midwest — can be more noticeable to people. When threatened by natural disasters, "even for people who aren't willing to call it climate change, they're willing to say like, 'there's a problem and I want to protect my home,'" said Kaitlin Raimi, an associate professor of public policy at the University of Michigan who teaches a course on the psychology of climate change.

Mahowald noted that boilerplate scientific methods are now allowing researchers to more quickly and reliably connect short-term extreme weather events and long-term climate patterns. But minds won't change overnight, because beliefs about climate change can be deeply tied to long-held notions of personal identity.

"What I keep hoping to see is a more nuanced understanding of how difficult it is to change beliefs and a way to help people make that bridge, to close that gap," said Barbara Hofer, a professor emerita of psychology at Middlebury College.

Monica Castellanos, a student in Miami, said that she feels sad when she thinks about people who aren't open to accepting climate science. "More of the older generations are just like, 'ah no, it's just hot.' Like no, the planet's dying," she said. "A lot of people don't seem to take it seriously."

But Gale Sinatra, a professor of education and psychology at the University of Southern California who co-wrote a book on science denial with Hofer, highlighted the fact that many people have been exposed to climate change misinformation for a long time.

"It isn't really individuals' faults if they hear climate change is a hoax, they hear it's a conspiracy," Sinatra said. "They've been sort of introduced to those views systemically by bad actors who are specifically trying to obfuscate the problem, usually for financial or sometimes political gain."

The real psychological test for the coming decades will be to see whether personal experiences cause people not only embrace the science of climate change but also to take action in addressing it.

"Emotions can be a barrier because we want to disconnect from things that make us uncomfortable," she said, but they can also "be leveraged to in a more positive way, get us engaged in activities that are motivating us towards solutions."

Also:

TOKYO: A meandering storm was headed again toward southwestern Japan on Sunday, prompting fresh warnings about dangerously heavy rainfall after the same area was hit several days ago.

Tropical Storm Khanun, which means jackfruit in Thai, was returning to the southernmost group of islands of Okinawa moving slowly northward, packing winds of up to 30 meters per second (67 miles per hour) and hovering over Okinawa through Monday, according to the Japan Meteorological Agency.

Okinawa Gov. **Denny Tamaki** warned residents to brace for torrential rains and mudslides.

"This could mean that the dangers about to hit the area where you are living are unusual and on a scale you have never experienced," he said of the storm.

He asked people to prepare escape routes to safety in advance.

"Do not let your guard down," he said.

Large parts of Okinawa, including the main city of Naha, was being slammed by extremely heavy rainfall, according to weather reports.

The storm hit the same area last week, killing two people, injuring dozens of others and squelching power temporarily to tens of thousands of homes, according to the Okinawa government.



This undated file photo shows a shadowy shape that some people say is the Loch Ness monster in Scotland, later debunked as a hoax. The Loch Ness Centre in Scotland is calling for 'budding monster hunters' and volunteers to join in what it dubs the largest search for the Loch Ness Monster since the 1970s. The visitor attraction said Thursday, Aug. 3 that modern technology such as drones that produces thermal images of the lake will 'search the waters in a way that has never been done before.' (AP)

'Monster hunters' wanted in new search for mythical Loch Ness beast

The Loch Ness Centre in Scotland is calling for "budding monster hunters" and volunteers to join in what it dubs the largest search for the Loch Ness Monster since the 1970s.

The visitor attraction said this week that modern technology such as drones that produces thermal images of the lake will "search the waters in a way that has never been done before."

The new surface water search for the fabled "Nessie," planned for the weekend of Aug. 26 and

27, is billed as the largest of its kind since the Loch Ness Investigation Bureau studied the loch for signs of the mythical beast in 1972.

The Loch Ness Centre is located at the old Drumadrochit Hotel, where in 1933 manager Albie Mackay reported spotting a "water beast" in the loch, the largest body of freshwater by volume in the United Kingdom and one of its deepest.

The story kicked off an enduring worldwide fascination with finding the elusive monster, spawning

hoaxes and hundreds of eyewitness accounts. Numerous theories or explanations have been put forward over the years, including that the creature may have been a plesiosaur, a prehistoric marine reptile, giant eels or even swimming circus elephants.

The Loch Ness Centre said its team will deploy drones equipped with infrared cameras so they can produce thermal images of the water from the air.

A hydrophone will also be used to detect acoustic signals under the water. (AP)



A flooded area is seen in Ravne na Koroskem, some 60 km (38 miles) northeast of Ljubljana, Slovenia, Friday, Aug. 4. Heavy rains caused flash floods and landslides in parts of Slovenia, blocking roads and bridges, flooding buildings and forcing evacuations on Friday. Slovenia's environmental agency, ARSO, raised the weather alert to the highest level after a month's amount of rain fell within 24 hours in northern, northwestern and central parts of the country. (AP)



Kotek



Allen

Ecology

Ore extends fishing restrictions:

Oregon has extended rules restricting the state's lucrative Dungeness crab fishery in order to protect humpback whales from becoming entangled in ropes attached to crab traps, the state's fish and wildlife department has announced.

Humpbacks, which migrate off Oregon's coast, and other whales can get caught in the vertical ropes connected to the heavy traps and drag them around for months, leaving the mammals injured, starved or so exhausted that they can drown. Oregon's Dungeness crab fishery is one of the backbones of the Pacific Northwest's fishing industry, but crabbers fear that over regulation will harm the industry.

The Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission voted late Friday to extend, with no sunset date, measures that were originally supposed to end after this season, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife said in a statement. The measures include limiting the number of crab traps in the water and how deep they can be placed in the months when humpback whales are more likely to swim there. **Tina Kotek** is the governor of Oregon.

Commissioners also requested that the rules be reviewed after two years.

Whale entanglements started to increase in 2014 along the West Coast but remained low and stable in Oregon. Humpback whales, a federally-listed species with a growing population off the West coast, are the whales most frequently entangled.

The whales can get caught in the vertical ropes connected to the heavy traps and drag them around for months, leaving the mammals injured, starved or so exhausted that they can drown.

The debate in the Pacific Northwest is a microcosm of the broader struggle nationwide to address the urgent problem of

whale entanglements without wiping out commercial fishermen. California and the US East Coast have taken similar actions to protect whales. (AP)

Zoo serves up frozen meals: At first sight, Tiembe studies his frozen breakfast



Sorelly Restrepo, of Colombia, shields herself from the sunlight in the Little Tokyo district of Los Angeles, July 27, 2023. Across the US, many people are living through one of the most brutal summers of their lives and reckoning with the idea that climate change is only going to make matters worse in the coming decades. (AP)

The Conversation

Immune cells get exhausted after encountering tumors

Why some 'immunotherapies' fail?

By Mary Philip and Michael Rudloff
Vanderbilt University

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

A key function of our immune system is to detect and eliminate foreign pathogens such as bacteria and viruses. Immune cells like T cells do this by distinguishing between different types of proteins within cells, which allows them to detect the presence of infection or disease.

A type of T cell called cytotoxic T cells can recognize the mutated proteins on cancer cells and should therefore be able to kill them. However, in most patients, cancer cells grow unchecked despite the presence of T cells.

The current explanation scientists have as to why T cells fail to eliminate cancer cells is because they become "exhausted." The idea is that T cells initially function well when they first face off against cancer cells, but gradually lose their ability to kill the cancer cells after repeated encounters.

Cancer immunotherapies such as immune checkpoint inhibitors and CAR-T cell therapy have shown remarkable promise by inducing long-lasting remission in some patients with otherwise incurable cancers. However, these therapies often fail to induce long-term responses in most patients, and T cell exhaustion is a major culprit.

We are researchers who study ways to harness the immune system to treat cancer. Scientists like us have been working to determine the mechanisms controlling how well T cells function against tumors. In our newly published

research, we found that T cells become exhausted within hours after encountering cancer cells.

By the time most patients are diagnosed with cancer, their immune system has been interacting with developing cancer cells for months to years. We wanted to go back earlier in time to figure out what happens when T cells first encounter tumor cells.

To do this, we used mice genetically engineered to develop liver cancers as they age, similarly to how liver cancers develop in people. We introduced trackable cytotoxic T cells that specifically recognize liver cancer cells to analyze the T cells' function and monitor which of the genes are activated or turned off over time.

Function

We also used these same trackable T cells to study their response in mice infected with the bacteria *Listeria*. In these mice, we found that the T cells were highly functional and eliminated infected cells. By comparing the differences between dysfunctional T cells from tumors and highly functional T cells from infected mice, we can home in on the genes that code for critical proteins that T cells use to regulate their function.

In our previous work, we found that T cells become dysfunctional with dramatically altered genetic structure within five days of encountering cancer cells in mice. We had originally decided to focus on the very earliest time points after T cells encounter cancer cells in mice with liver cancer or metastatic melanoma because we thought there would be fewer genetic changes. That would have allowed us to identify the earliest and most critical regulators

of T cell dysfunction.

Instead, we found multiple surprising hallmarks of T cell dysfunction within six to 12 hours after they encountered cancer cells, including thousands of changes in genetic structure and gene expression.

We analyzed the different regulatory genes and pathways in T cells encountering cancer cells compared to those of T cells encountering infected cells. We found that genes associated with inflammation were highly activated in T cells interacting with infected cells but not in T cells interacting with cancer cells.

Next, we looked at how the initial early changes to the genetic structure of T cells evolved over time. We found that very early DNA changes were stabilized and reinforced with continued exposure to cancer cells, effectively "imprinting" dysfunctional gene expression patterns in the T cells. This meant that when the T cells were removed from the tumors after five days and transferred to tumor-free mice, they still remained dysfunctional.

Altogether, our research suggests that T cells in tumors are not necessarily working hard and getting exhausted. Rather, they are blocked right from the start. This is because the negative signals cancer cells send out to their surrounding environment induce T cell dysfunction, and a lack of positive signals like inflammation results in a failure to kick T cells into high gear.

Our team is now exploring strategies to stimulate inflammatory pathways in T cells encountering cancer cells to make them function as though they are encountering an infection. Our hope is that this will help T cells kill their cancer targets more effectively. (AP)

fed frozen meals Friday as temperatures around the country reached 40 C (107.5 F) and were set to rise further, in the fourth heat wave in less than a month.

The extreme temperatures and wildfires — a growing concern for biodiversity in southern Europe — have had an impact on Greek wildlife.

A fire on the island of Rhodes burned for 11 successive days, triggering the evacuation of 20,000 people, mostly tourists.

The island's animals were less fortunate.

As the fire tore through mountain forests and a nature reserve, an estimated 2,500 animals and beehives were burned, along with 50,000 olive trees, according to Agriculture Ministry officials. Fallow deer, a symbol of Rhodes, were found lying dead on the roadside.

The zoo, which is about 30 kilometers (20 miles) east of Athens, is looking after an injured deer and several turtles — some fitted with wheels prized from toys to help with their mobility — which suffered burns and other injuries during the Rhodes fire. Zoo curator Antonis Balas urged pet owners to be more mindful of their animals at times of extreme heat, noting that many of the popular breeds of pets are from native cooler climates in Northern and Central Europe.

Elisa Allen, the group's vice president for programs, said the fires also served as a reminder that the animal farming industry is a major global contributor to climate change. (AP)

MLB Results/Standings

WASHINGTON, Aug 6, (AP): Results and standings from the MLB games on Saturday.

NY Yankees	3	Houston	1	Baltimore	7	NY Mets	3
Detroit	4	Tampa Bay	2	Chicago W. Sox	7	Cleveland	4
Texas	9	Miami	2	Seattle	3	LA Angels	2
Toronto	5	Boston	4	Chicago Cubs	8	Allants	6
Philadelphia	9	Kansas City	6	Washington	7	Cincinnati	3
Minnesota	12	Arizona	1	Milwaukee	3	Pittsburgh 10 inn	2
Oakland	2	San Francisco	1	San Diego	8	LA Dodgers	3

American League				National League					
East Division				East Division					
W	L	Pct	GB	W	L	Pct	GB		
Baltimore	69	42	.622	—	Atlanta	70	38	.648	—
Tampa Bay	67	46	.593	3	Philadelphia	60	51	.541	11-1/2
Toronto	62	50	.554	7-1/2	Miami	58	54	.518	14
New York	58	53	.523	11	New York	50	60	.455	21
Boston	57	53	.518	11-1/2	Washington	48	63	.432	23-1/2

Central Division				West Division					
W	L	Pct	GB	W	L	Pct	GB		
Minnesota	58	54	.518	—	Milwaukee	60	52	.536	—
Cleveland	54	57	.486	3-1/2	Cincinnati	59	54	.522	1-1/2
Detroit	49	61	.445	8	Chicago	57	54	.514	2-1/2
Chicago	44	68	.393	14	Pittsburgh	49	61	.445	10
Kansas City	36	76	.321	22	St Louis	49	63	.438	11

American League				National League					
West Division				West Division					
W	L	Pct	GB	W	L	Pct	GB		
Texas	65	46	.586	—	Los Angeles	63	46	.578	—
Houston	63	49	.563	2-1/2	San Francisco	61	50	.550	3
Seattle	59	52	.532	6	Arizona	57	55	.509	7-1/2
Los Angeles	56	56	.500	9-1/2	San Diego	55	56	.495	9
Oakland	31	80	.279	34	Colorado	43	67	.391	20-1/2

Justin pitches 7 innings to start 2nd stint with Astros but loses to Yanks

Storm overcome Mercury despite 28 pts by Taurasi

PHOENIX, Aug 6, (AP): Jewell Loyd scored 17 of her 32 points in the fourth quarter and Sami Whitcomb hit a 3-pointer with 27 seconds left to lift the Seattle Storm to a 97-91 win over the Phoenix Mercury on Saturday night.

Brittney Griner had 22 points for the Mercury after sitting out the previous three games for a mental health break. Diana Taurasi had 28 points after she scored 42 on Thursday night and surpassed 10,000 in her legendary career, but it wasn't enough against the last-place Storm.

Phoenix guard Shey Pedy was hit in the head by an elbow before halftime, removed from the court on a stretcher and taken to a hospital. The Mercury said she had movement in her limbs.

Seattle is now 7-20 this season with three wins coming over the Mercury. Unlike the first two matchups, won by an average of 18.5 points, this game had seven ties and 12 lead changes. Loyd had six points in an 8-0 run that put Seattle up 87-81 with 3:18 to play.

BASKETBALL

A Griner three-point play made it 89-87 with 2:31 to go, but Loyd banked in 3-pointer at 1:03. Taurasi scored on a drive but Whitcomb beat the shot clock with a 3 for a 95-89 lead.

Ezi Magbegor had 19 points for Seattle and Whitcomb and Gabby Williams added 14. Loyd had three 3-pointers, giving her 85 on the season, two more than the team record she established last season. Loyd went 13 of 14 from the foul line, while the Mercury were 13 of 15.

Sophia Cunningham and Megan Gustafson both had 13 points, all in the first half, while Taurasi had 12.

Padres snap six-game losing streak to Dodgers

NEW YORK, Aug 6, (AP): Justin Verlander began his second stint with the Houston Astros by pitching seven solid innings, but he gave up a go-ahead homer to Jake Bauers that sent the New York Yankees to a 3-1 victory Saturday.

Verlander (6-6) allowed seven hits, his second most this season and lost a regular-season start to the Yankees for the first time since June 19, 2015, with Detroit. He struck out four and walked two and fell to 10-8 lifetime against the Yankees in the regular season.

Rookie Anthony Volpe lifted a sacrifice fly in the second against Verlander for the Yankees, who won for the third time in four games. Gleyber Torres added a homer to open the eighth off Kendall Graveman.

Ian Hamilton (2-1) pitched two innings to earn the win, Tommy Kahnle pitched the seventh and Michael King struck out Altuve looking at a full count changeup to end the eighth with a runner on. Clay Holmes earned his 16th save.

Cubs 8, Braves 6
In Boston, Dansby Swanson homered against his former team in a five-run first inning and Chicago's bullpen staved off the major league-leading Atlanta in a rain-soaked win.

Jeimer Candelario hit his first home run since being reacquired by the Cubs, and Ian Happ also went deep.

Chicago went into the game leading the majors in runs since the All-Star break and bounced back after getting shut out 8-0 by Atlanta on Friday. The Cubs began the day 2 1/2 games behind NL Central-leading Milwaukee and two games out of a wild-card spot.

Chicago opened a 5-0 lead early and never looked back. After an error by first baseman Matt Olson allowed two runs to score, Swanson hit his 17th home run off All-Star Bryce Elder (8-3) to make it 4-0. Elder went 4 1/3 innings and permitted seven runs (five earned) on seven hits.

Orioles 7, Mets 3
In Baltimore, Gunnar Henderson and Anthony Santander homered, Kyle Gibson pitched seven innings of four-hit ball to earn his 100th win and the surging Baltimore strengthened its position atop the AL East.

Gibson (11-6) gave up three runs, struck out nine and walked one. Over 11 seasons with Minnesota, Texas, Philadelphia and Baltimore, the 35-year-old righty is 100-97 in 291 games.

New York's Jeff McNeil hit a two-run homer in the fourth inning and added an RBI single in the sixth. But that wasn't enough punch for the Mets, who have been outscored 37-14 during their current skid.

Tigers 4, Rays 2
In Detroit, Jake Rogers drove in three runs and Akil Baddoo homered and Detroit won after losing its previous four meetings with Tampa Bay.

Tarik Skubal (2-1) picked up the win, allowing an unearned run and six hits in 5 1/3 innings. He struck out six while walking one. Beau Brieske earned his first career save.

Aaron Civale (5-3) lost for the first time to the Tigers in his 11th start, giving up three runs and nine hits in 4 1/3 innings. Civale, who was making his Rays debut, had gone 7-0 with a 2.06 ERA in 10 starts against Detroit for Cleveland. The Guardians won all 10 games.

Padres 8, Dodgers 3
In San Diego, Manny Machado homered into the second deck in left field in the fourth inning and then hit a go-ahead, two-run single in the seven-run eighth inning for San Diego, snapping a six-game losing streak to Los Angeles.

With the Dodgers leading 3-1, Yency Almonte (3-2) loaded the bases with one out and was replaced by Caleb Ferguson. Juan Soto hit an RBI infield single and a throwing error by second baseman Kiké Hernández on the play brought in the tying run. Machado then singled to left to bring in two more runs for a 5-3 lead.

The rally got big league ERA leader Blake Snell off the hook for a loss and spoiled the Dodgers debut of Ryan Yarbrough, who was impressive in his Dodgers debut. Nick Martinez (5-4) got the win.

Rangers 9, Marlins 8
In Arlington, rookie Josh Jung hit the third of three multi-run home runs for Texas in the middle innings and the Rangers overcame Miami for their fifth consecutive victory.

Robbie Grossman hit a three-run homer in the fourth, and Corey Seager had a two-run homer in the fifth preceding Jung's first-pitch, two-run shot.

Jon Gray (7-5) earned his first victory since June 2, allowing five runs - three earned - on six hits and two walks. Gray pitched on 11 days of rest, missing his previous rotation turn with lingering effects of a liner off his left shin July 19.

Will Smith got his 20th save in 22 opportunities despite allowing a two-run homer to Jake Burger.

Athletics 2, Giants 1
In Oakland, Seth Brown hit a tie-breaking single in the eighth inning and Oakland snapped a four-game losing streak.

Trevor May (3-4) recorded the final five outs for the win. Joe Pederson hit a tying sacrifice



San Diego Padres' Juan Soto scores off a two-RBI single by Manny Machado during the eighth inning of a baseball game against the Los Angeles Dodgers in San Diego. (AP)

fly in the eighth. The A's rallied in the bottom half against Ryan Walker (4-1). Pinch-hitter Aledmys Diaz singled and pinch-hitter Tony Kemp walked before Zack Gelof was intentionally walked to bring up Brown.

A's starter Paul Blackburn missed a chance to win back-to-back starts for the first time this year. He allowed two hits, struck out seven with three walks over six scoreless innings.

Blue Jays 5, Red Sox 4

In Boston, Brandon Belt hit a solo homer over the Green Monster and had a go-ahead single, and Toronto held off Boston for the second straight day.

Making his first start after a splendid July when he posted a 1.84 ERA in five starts, Toronto's José Berríos (9-7) gave up three runs in 5 2/3 innings on six hits, with six strikeouts and no walks.

Erik Swanson got the final two outs for his fourth save after giving up Luis Urias' RBI single.

Rafael Devers hit his 26th homer, a long, game-tying three-run homer for Boston, which lost for the sixth time in seven games and fell into last place in the AL East.

Belt's bases-loaded single gave Toronto a 4-3 edge against Brennan Bernardino (1-1) in the sixth.

Phillies 9, Royals 6

In Philadelphia, Bryce Harper singled, doubled and homered, Trea Turner doubled, homered and drove in four runs and Philadelphia defeated Kansas City.

Alec Bohm also went deep for defending NL champion Philadelphia, which entered holding the second wild-card spot.

Freddy Fermin homered twice for the Royals, who had won seven consecutive games.

Turner put Philadelphia ahead 8-6 with a three-run shot in the sixth off Angel Zerpa (0-1). It was Turner's 11th drive of the season and first since July 8.

Matt Strahm (7-3) pitched two scoreless innings of relief, and Craig Kimbrel tossed a scoreless ninth for his 19th save in 21 chances.

Brewers 3, Pirates 2, 10 innings
In Milwaukee, Blake Perkins singled with the bases loaded through the right side with two outs in the 10th inning to give Milwaukee a victory over Pittsburgh.

BASEBALL

After pinch-hitter Brian Anderson struck out to open the 10th against Angel Perdomo (2-2), Mark Canha was walked intentionally. Both runners advanced on Christian Yelich's grounder to first. William Contreras was walked intentionally to load the bases and Perkins lined a 2-1 pitch into right to score Victor Caratini.

Devin Williams (6-3) got the win with a perfect 10th.

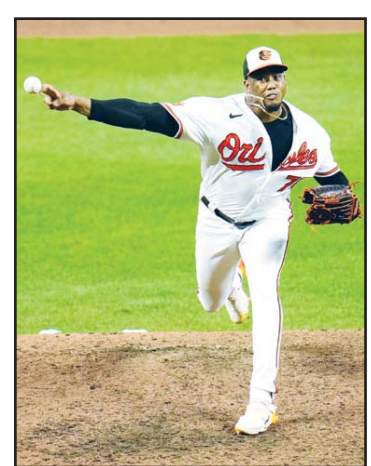
The Brewers tied it in the ninth when Carlos Santana, acquired from Pittsburgh before the trade deadline, singled to open off closer David Bednar. Pinch-runner Perkins advanced on a fly out, took third on a wild pitch and scored on rookie Sal Frelich's RBI single to center.

Brewers starter Corbin Burnes, the NL Pitcher of the Month in July when he went 4-1 with a 1.85 ERA in six starts, allowed just two hits, but needed 107 pitches to get through six innings, striking out five and walking four.

Mariners 3, Angels 2

In Anaheim, George Kirby pitched seven stellar innings of three-hit ball for his career-best 10th victory, and Julio Rodríguez had a two-run double among his three hits in Seattle's fourth straight win.

Randal Grichuk homered and



Baltimore Orioles relief pitcher Yenier Cano throws to the New York Mets during the ninth inning of a baseball game in Baltimore. The Orioles won 7-3. (AP)

Paul wins unanimous decision against Diaz

DALLAS, Aug 6, (AP): Jake Paul bounced back nicely from his first career loss.

Paul won a unanimous decision against Nate Diaz in a cruiserweight fight Saturday night.

The 26-year-old social media YouTube personality who has turned himself into a prizefighter clearly held the advantage for much of the 10-round event. However, Diaz, a mixed-martial arts fighter who left the UFC in 2022, was on the verge of a knockout at several moments.

"It's what I expected. That's what he's known for," Paul said of Diaz. "I don't know how he survived that first round but he's a dog and I walked the dog."

Paul (7-1) showed he was better conditioned through-

out in his first fight after a split-decision loss against Tommy Fury in Saudi Arabia in February. The three judges scored this one in Paul's favor, 97-92, 98-91, and 98-91.

The 38-year-old Diaz, making his pro boxing debut, struck several blows near the end of the third round, briefly leaving Paul wobbly before the bell. Diaz continued his offensive in the fourth round, landing several jabs to the roars of the decidedly pro-Diaz crowd.

BOXING

"He did a great job, he's an athletic, strong dude," said Diaz, who lamented not training harder for the event.

In the fifth round, Diaz

appeared fatigued and Paul jumped on the opportunity. He sent Diaz briefly to the floor with a clean left hook before leveling successive blows to Diaz's head later in the round.

"I didn't want to burn out and then let him catch a wind and come back with something," Paul said of the knockdown. "So I was being patient, being smart, and was looking for the kill, but he withstood a bunch of big punches."

Neither fighter scored big in the sixth round, though Diaz was battling puffiness in both eyes.

Diaz scored with a combination of punches in the seventh, and both fighters exchanged blows during a particularly eventful eighth round.

Diaz did plenty of show-boating in the ring, taunting Paul in the ring at times and turning his back on him. He also mocked one of Paul's punches in the ninth round.

However, Diaz looked like he was moments from being knocked out on several occasions. Even as he preened toward the crowd and away from Paul, Diaz appeared less and less steady on his feet throughout the later rounds.

"It was fun. I knew he was trying to take breaks so I would pounce on him when he was doing that," Paul said.

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Nigeria buzzing again: Waldrum

Australia, England were shaky early, need balanced play in KO round

AUCKLAND, New Zealand, Aug 6, (AP) — The verdict is still out on the legitimacy of both Australia and England at the Women's World Cup, where each team has a chance Monday to move into the quarterfinals and make a claim as true tournament contenders.

England swept through three games of Group D play and allowed just one goal, which came in an emphatic 6-1 victory over China. But the European Champions were a bit flat in earlier 1-0 wins against Haiti and Denmark.

Either way, England joined Japan and Sweden as the only three teams to go a perfect 3-0 in group play. Next up for the Lionesses is a knockout game against Nigeria, which used a 3-2 upset over Australia to move into the round of 16.

Nigeria has qualified for the World Cup in all nine of its editions but has reached the quarterfinals only once, in 1999. Nigeria is the only African team to ever advance to the quarterfinals, and will try to do it again against England.

"They are the European champions and we just have to try our best to make Nigeria proud again. We are expecting nothing but a difficult game, to be sincere with you," Nigeria goalkeeper Chiamaka Nnadozie said. "But we believe in ourselves. We are Nigerians and we will come out strong."

Australia, meanwhile, had a nerve-racking time in group play. Without

injured striker Sam Kerr, the Matildas looked only mediocre in a 1-0 win over Ireland, then were shocked by their loss to Nigeria. It sent Australia into a must-win Group B finale against Canada, and Australia eliminated the Tokyo Olympics gold medalists 4-0.

Australia now faces Denmark in a must-win game for the World Cup co-hosts to continue in this tournament. Denmark beat Haiti and China in group play, but lost to England.

England vs Nigeria

England did not play at the level expected of the European Champions in

conceding a red card in the opening game against Canada. Desire Oparanogie, another forward, has also been injured for Nigeria but is expected to be available against England.

"She's had a few days of good training in between Ireland and England," Nigeria coach Randy Waldrum said Sunday. "The game is going to dictate how we make our moves. But the good thing is she is now available. That's the good news."

Waldrum is unlikely to alter the lineup much and will probably have Abiodun and Oparanogie on the bench for the start.

"I think already with what we've accomplished, Nigeria is buzzing again," Waldrum said. "I don't think people expected us to get out of the group, or to get the results that we've gotten. So it's already been a big success. Not only have we now beaten the Olympic gold medalist, but if you can turn around and beat the European champions, it would be something extremely special for the people in Nigeria and, more importantly, for this squad. It could certainly be transformational in a lot of different ways."

Keira Walsh gave England a potential boost when the midfielder was able to practice with the team Sunday. Walsh sustained a knee injury in England's 1-0 win against Denmark during the group stage and her status for the

remainder of the tournament was in doubt. Walsh participated in individual training before rejoining her teammates on the eve of the match. England did not reveal if Walsh will play against Nigeria.

Australia vs Denmark

Australia managed to win Group B despite mediocre play and the absence of star Sam Kerr, who was out with a calf injury for all three games.

The surprising 3-2 loss to Nigeria had Australia on the ropes, but the win over Canada was enough to earn the Matildas the knockout round match against Denmark in Sydney. Kerr, who said ahead of the Canada game she was fit but didn't play, is expected to be used against Denmark.

"This is do or die now," said Australia goalie Mackenzie Arnold. "Historically, we've always really performed well with our backs against the wall."

Australia was last in the knockout stage of the World Cup in 2019, losing to Norway on penalty kicks. The match is the second time Denmark and Australia will play in a year; the Matildas earned their first win ever over the Danes in a 3-1 friendly played Viborg, Denmark, last October.

Denmark is back in the tournament for the first time since 2007, and the team made it to the quarterfinals in 1991 and 1995, but didn't make it out of group play again until this year. Denmark only



A fan cheers during the Women's World Cup round of 16 soccer match between the Netherlands and South Africa at the Sydney Football Stadium in Sydney, Australia. (AP)

allowed one goal over three games to advance, and is powered by forward Pernille Harder, who has scored 71 goals in her international career. Harder scored on a penalty kick against Haiti in last week's final game of group play.

"Denmark have a lot of quality players all over the pitch and world-class in their final third," Matildas' defender Clare Polkinghorne said. "It's definitely going to be a tough job for us to keep them contained, but I think as the games go on, obviously, your defense is going to be key."

SOCCER



United States' Megan Rapinoe misses from the penalty spot during the Women's World Cup round of 16 soccer match between Sweden and the United States in Melbourne, Australia. (AP)

Denmark avenge loss to Italy as Holl defends title at worlds

Hatton pulls off upset, favorites claim women's team pursuit gold

GLASGOW, Aug 6, (AP) — The Danish men's pursuit team avenged its loss to Italy at the Tokyo Olympics.

Just in time to send Denmark toward the next Summer Games with some momentum.

The team of Niklas Larsen, Carl-Frederik Bevert, Lasse Leth and Rasmus Pedersen trailed the Italians after the first 1,000 meters of the 4,000-meter race at the world championships in Glasgow, Scotland. But a more balanced Danish lineup pulled even by the halfway point, quickly went ahead and eventually stretched its advantage to two seconds by the finish.



Larsen

Denmark stopped the clock in 3 minutes, 45.161 seconds to take the gold medal, which has eluded the proud track cycling nation for

years. The Danes finished second to Italy in Tokyo and were third behind Britain and Italy at last year's world championships, but now they set their sights on next summer's Olympics in Paris as the favorites.

"I'm really exhausted but also, just all the adrenaline kicks in," Bevert said. "It's really unbelievable that we're world champions."

The Italian team of Filippo Ganna, Francesco Lamon, Jonathan Milan and Manlio Moro finished in 3:47.396 for silver, while New Zealand took advantage of a mechanical problem on the Australian team to cruise to the bronze medal in their show-

CYCLING

down.

In the women's team pursuit at the Sir Chris Hoy Velodrome, the favored British team inserted powerful Katie Archibald into its lineup in place of Megan Barker, and she helped the Olympic silver medalists claim gold at the world championships.

New Zealand led the British squad of Archibald, Elinor Barker, Josie Knight and Anna Morris early before falling behind at the halfway point. Britain pulled away over the final 2,000 meters to win by nearly five seconds in a time of 4:08.771.

France won its second consecutive bronze medal when it rallied to beat Italy, the defending world champions.

The world titles also were decided Saturday in downhill mountain biking, which is not a part of the Olympic program, over a rocky and highly technical course at Fort William in the western Scottish Highlands.

In the men's race, Britain's



Austria's Valentina Holl celebrates after winning gold in the Women's Elite Final during day three of the 2023 UCI Cycling World Championships at the Ben Nevis Range, Fort William, Scotland. (AP)

Charlie Hatton pulled off the upset by navigating the wet and deteriorating course in 4:26.747, a time that was two seconds faster Austria's Andreas Kolb, who had posted the second-fastest time in qualifying.

"I know Fort William rides really good in the wet, so I just attacked the same as yesterday," Hatton said. "I had some people in the woods that said the mud was really thin so there was still grip, and I just took my lines and yeah, had a really good run."

Laurie Greenland gave the host nation two on the medal stand with his bronze, while two of the favorites failed to crack the top three. Five-time and defending champion Loic Bruni of France, who was fastest in qualifying, finished fourth and world No. 1 Loris Vergier, who claimed the bronze medal last year, finished in sixth.

In the women's race, Valentina Holl of Austria defended her title with a time of 4:58.242. The 22-year-old Holl, who started racing bikes when she was just 3 years old, was two seconds faster than Camille Blanche of Switzerland.

Marine Cabirou of France added a bronze medal to the silver she won two years ago.

"I was so tired today. I had no energy. And then I messed up a really important corner just before the pedaling section and I was like, 'Oh, that's it. So stupid.'" Holl said with a smile. "Somehow I rode it out."



First placed Henrique Avancini from Brazil crosses the finish line of the men's UCI Cross Country Marathon Mountain Bike world championship race in Glentworth, Scotland. (AP)



Britain's Charlie Hatton celebrates winning gold in the downhill mountain bike on day three of the 2023 UCI Cycling World Championships at the Ben Nevis Range, Fort William, Scotland. (AP)

Ireland handle Italy Springboks bounce back to 'dominate' Argentina

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina, Aug 6, (AP) — South Africa turned the tables on Argentina by dominating their Rugby World Cup warmup for a 24-13

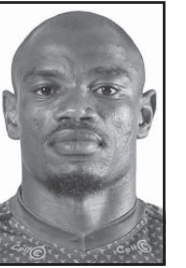
rebound win at Estadio Velez Sarsfield on Saturday.

The Pumas were barely contained by South Africa in a 22-21 win at Ellis Park last weekend at the end of the Rugby Championship.

But trailing 10-3 at halftime, Springboks tries by wingers Makazole Mapimpi and Canan Moodie in the first six minutes of the new half rewarded the platform that was laid in the first half. They had three other tries ruled out, two held up over the line in the first half and one for obstruction.

Manie Libbok added four penalty kicks but also missed four kicks at goal. But by finishing with three consecutive successes he put the result out of reach of the Pumas.

A couple of early Libbok misses from the tee piled on the frustration of No. 8 Jasper Wiese being held up after 15 phases in the fourth minute, and lock Jean Kleyn suffering the same fate in the 27th.



Mapimpi

Meanwhile, the Pumas' Gonzalo Bertranou scored the first try of the match from a quick tap penalty and flanker Franco Mostert was sin-binned for a late tackle on Pumas flyhalf Santiago Carreras. Emiliano Boffelli's penalty gave them a seven-point lead at halftime.

The Boks reset at the break and produced exhilarating tries off both wings.

Replacement center Jesse Kriel offloaded to fullback Damian Willemse who sent in Mapimpi. Then Moodie claimed a cross-field kick from Libbok and ran in.

RUGBY

Nemechek earns 5th Series victory of year

BROOKLYN, Mich., Aug 6, (AP) — John Hunter Nemechek raced to his fifth NASCAR Xfinity Series victory this year, pulling away over the last seven laps after making contact with a teammate early in the competition Saturday at Michigan International Speedway.

Josh Berry was second, followed by Brandon Jones and Ty Gibbs, who was bumped from behind by Nemechek, his Joe Gibbs Racing teammate, on Lap 12.

"I take full accountability for the incident," Nemechek said.

AUTO RACING

Nemechek, in the No. 20 Toyota for Joe Gibbs Racing, led 65 of the 125 laps on the two-mile oval and went ahead for the second and final time on Lap 103. Following a seventh caution, he stayed up front with little resistance from the field.

Nemechek pulled into a first-place tie in the standings with Richard Childress Racing's Justin Hill, who was 11th at Michigan and lost a 14-point lead.

"It's nice to rebound and put ourselves back in position," Nemechek said. With all the success Nemechek has had this year and with seven career wins in the Xfinity Series, there is growing interest in what his plans are next year perhaps as a Cup driver.

"I'm 100% focused on this year and trying to win the Xfinity championship," he said. "I don't know what my plans are for '24. I have no clue."

Their superiority wasn't obvious on the scoreboard until Libbok got his radar back on to extend the lead to 24-13 with 10 minutes to go.

An injury scare for back-rower Jack Conan took the shine off Ireland's comfortable 33-17 win over Italy in a Rugby World Cup warmup at Lansdowne Road.

Conan departed shortly before halftime and was later pictured in a protective boot on the bench.

Fullback Jimmy O'Brien and scrumhalf Craig Casey were also withdrawn for treatment to give coach Andy Farrell cause for concern just five weeks before the World Cup in France.

An experimental side missing rested stars plus suspended captain Jonathan Sexton overcame a sloppy beginning to cruise to a 15th successive home victory.

Doris' two tries, plus scores from Dave Kilcoyne, Stuart McCloskey and Cian Healy earned the victory, while Jack Crowley and debutant Ciaran Frawley shared eight points from the boot.

Substitute Lorenzo Pani and midfielder Tommaso Menoncello claimed consolation tries for Italy, which trailed 21-3 at halftime.

Farrell retained only three players who started the Six Nations Grand Slam clincher in March against England, while Italy included England-born debutants Paolo Odogwu and Dino Lamb in a strong selection.

Italy lost Saracens prop Marco Riccioni to injury inside 10 minutes and that setback was quickly compounded by Kilcoyne burrowing over at the other end to register his first test try since 2014.

The score settled Ireland down to an extent and they capitalized on Italian indiscipline just before the half-hour mark when Doris crashed over wide on the right, moments after Italy loosehead Danilo Fischetti was sin-binned for failing to retreat.



Manchester City's Rodrigo (left) jumps for the ball with Arsenal's Gabriel during the English FA Community Shield final soccer match between Arsenal and Manchester City at Wembley Stadium in London. Arsenal won 4-1 to win the Community Shield after 1-1 draw (AP)

Sports

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Sweden knock US out of Women's WCup

Earliest exit in tournament history for Americans

MELBOURNE, Australia, Aug 6, (AP): The United States played its best game of this Women's World Cup and it's wasn't good enough to stop the two-time reigning champions from being eliminated from the tournament.

The Americans' bid to win an unprecedented third consecutive title ended Sunday night on penalty kicks when Lina Hurtig converted and Sweden knocked the United States out of the World Cup 5-4 after a scoreless draw.

It is the earliest exit in tournament history for the United States, four-time winners of the World Cup.

"Just devastated. It feels like a bad dream," said captain Alex Morgan. "The team put everything out there tonight, I feel like we dominated, but it doesn't matter. We're going home and it's the highs and lows of the sport of soccer. So, yeah, it doesn't feel great."

U.S. goalkeeper Alyssa Naeher fruitlessly argued she had saved Hurtig's attempt, but it was ruled over the line. The stadium played Abba's "Dancing Queen" in the stadium as the Swedes celebrated.

SOCCER

The United States was eliminated in the Round of 16 for the first time in team history. The American's worst finish had been third place, three times.

"We didn't put anything in the back of the net," sobbed Julie Ertz after the loss. "The penalties were tough. It's just emotional because it's probably my last game ever. It's just tough. It's an emotional time. It obviously sucks. Penalties are the worst."

The loss was somewhat expected based on the Americans' listless play through three group stage matches. But they played their best game of this World Cup against Sweden, only to have it decided by penalties.

Megan Rapinoe, Sophia Smith and Kelly O'Hara all missed penalty kicks that could have given the United States the win.

"I am proud of the women on the field," said U.S. coach Vlatko Andonovski. "I know we were criticized for the way we played, and for different moments in the group stage. I think we came out today and showed the grit, the resilience, the fight. The bravery showed we did everything we could to win the game. And, unfortunately, soccer can be cruel sometimes."

It was the first match at this World Cup to go to extra time.

It was the fourth time the Americans went to extra time at the World Cup. All three previous matches went to penalties, including the 2011 final won by Japan. The U.S. won on penalties in a 2011 quarterfinal match against Brazil, and in the 1999 final at the final at the Rose Bowl against China.

Sweden knocked the United States out of the 2016 Olympics in the quarterfinals on penalties.

Sweden goes on to the quarterfinals to play Japan, the 2011 World Cup winner, which defeated Norway 3-1 on Saturday night.

Sweden has never won a major international tournament, either the World Cup or the Olympics. The closest the team has come is World Cup runner-up in 2003. They finished in third in the 1999, 2011 and 2019 editions, and won silver medals in the last two Olympics.

The result ended the international career of Rapinoe, the Golden Boot winner of the 2019 tournament who is retiring after the World Cup. She had taken on a smaller role for the Americans in her final tournament and was a substitute in the United States' first and third games of group play, and didn't get off the bench in the middle match.

She came on in extra time against Sweden and in her final game and few minutes of action, she failed to control a ball played in deep, whiffed on a rebound, hit the side of the net with a corner and then missed the penalty that would have won the game for the United States.

The Americans struggled through group play with just four goals in three matches. They were nearly eliminated last Tuesday by first-timers Portugal, but eked out a 0-0 draw to fall to second in their group for just the second time at a World Cup.

The Americans looked far better against Sweden, dominating possession and outshooting the Swedes 5-1 in the first half alone. Lindsey Horan's first-half header hit the crossbar and a second-half blast was saved by goalkeeper Zecira Musovic, who had six saves in regulation.

Sweden won all three of their group



Sweden's team celebrate after defeating the United States in a penalty shootout in their Women's World Cup round of 16 soccer match in Melbourne, Australia. (AP)



United States' Alex Morgan heads the ball at goal as Sweden's Amanda Ilestedt competes during the Women's World Cup round of 16 soccer match between Sweden and the United States in Melbourne, Australia. (AP)



Dutch fans cheer before the Women's World Cup round of 16 soccer match between the Netherlands and South Africa at the Sydney Football Stadium in Sydney, Australia. (AP)

games, including a 5-0 rout of Italy in its final group match. Coach Peter Gerhardsson made nine lineup changes for the match, resting his starters in anticipation of the United States.

It was tense from the opening whistle.

Naeher punched the ball away from a crowded goal on an early Sweden corner kick. Three of the Swedes' goals against Italy came on set pieces.

Trinity Rodman's shot from distance in the 18th minute was easily caught by Musovic, who stopped another chance by Rodman in the 27th.

Horan's header off Andi Sullivan's corner in the 34th hit the crossbar and skipped over the goal. Horan was on target in the 53rd minute but Musovic dove to push it wide. Horan crouched in the field in frustration while Musovic was swarmed by her teammates.

The United States was without Rose Lavelle, who picked up her second yellow card of the tournament in the group stage finale against Portugal and has to sit out against Sweden.

Van de Donk to serve one-match suspension

Netherlands blank South Africa, advance to quarters

SYDNEY, Aug 6, (AP): Netherlands had just advanced to the quarterfinals of the Women's World Cup, yet star midfielder Danielle van de Donk looked inconsolable.

Her yellow card in the second half of the 2-0 win over South Africa on Sunday means she will serve a one-match suspension. Her tears were likely in realization that she may have played her final match of the tournament if the Dutch lose to Spain in the quarterfinals.

But Netherlands coach Andries Jonker had no time for any negativity.

"We've come with the conviction that we can beat everybody. And if you say we can beat everybody, it includes all teams, South Africa, but also Spain," he said. "So it means it's not the last game for Danielle. We want to beat Spain, then she can come back into the tournament."

The Dutch certainly appear to be contenders again after losing to the United States in the World Cup final four years ago.

SOCCER

After finishing above the Americans in Group E this time, they overcame South Africa at Sydney Football Stadium through goals from Jill Roord in the first half and Lineth Beerensteyn in the second.

Spain is among the title favorites, and backed up its billing with a 5-1 win over Switzerland in the round of 16.

Netherlands had to work harder for its place in the last eight, with goalkeeper Daphne van Domselaar producing a player-of-the-match performance with a string of saves to keep South Africa at bay.

Her teammates were quick to acknowledge her game-saving efforts, rushing to embrace her after the final whistle.

"We felt we could have won this game and if I look back, we should have with the opportunities that we had, but we didn't take them," South Africa coach Desiree Ellis said. "If you look at their goalkeeper getting the player of the match, it tells you how well we played."

Netherlands was also aided by an error from South Africa keeper Kaylin Swart, who let Beerensteyn's weak effort squirm out of her grasp and over the line.

Just like van de Donk, Swart appeared devastated after the final whistle as teammates and staff consoled her.

"Nobody in the world has a perfect game," Ellis said. "You are going to make a mistake and unfortunately that happened, but she kept us in the game as well."

South Africa had already exceeded expectations by advancing to the knockout stage for the first time after its dramatic 3-2 win over Italy in its final group game.

But the goals from Roord in the ninth minute and Beerensteyn in the 68th ended its unlikely run.

Netherlands went close immediately before Roord's goal when Esmee Brugts swung in a curling shot that Swart had to push over the bar.

Roord struck from the resulting corner.

Sherida Spite's cross was headed toward goal by Lieke Martens, which forced Swart into action again. But

from her save, the ball looped in the air and Roord headed over the line from close range for her fourth goal of the tournament.

Van de Donk was close to extending the lead but was denied by the feet of Swart from inside the box, and Kgatlana tested Van Domselaar as South Africa showed its threat on the break.

Kgatlana went closer still when through on goal just before the half-time, but couldn't find a way past Van Domselaar. The South Africans ended the half the stronger as Kgatlana repeatedly burst beyond the defense.

Its response to going behind was even more impressive, considering it had to contend with injuries to Jermaine Seoposenwe and Bambanani Mbane in the first half.

The Netherlands lineup regained control after the restart and thought they'd doubled their lead when Martens turned and converted in the

54th. But their celebrations were cut short when it was ruled out on VAR review for offside.

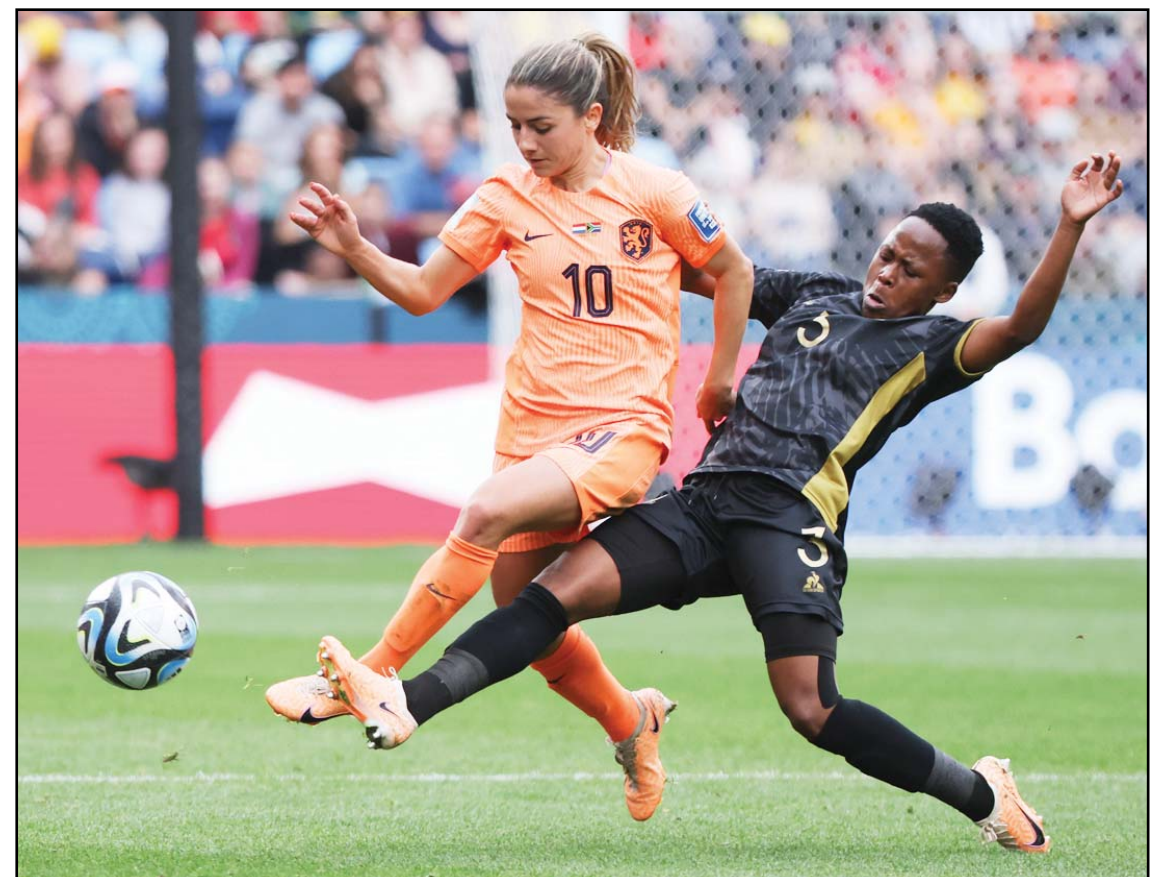
South Africa offered less threat as it struggled to get possession and Netherlands scored its second after Swart's error.

Next up for Netherlands is Friday's highly anticipated match against Spain in Wellington, New Zealand.

"It's a massive game and I'm really excited about it because Spain, it's a really strong team," Beerensteyn said. "But I also know that we are a strong team, so it will be like a real final actually."

South Africa, meanwhile, exits after making a big impression on a tournament where some of the traditional favorites like Olympic champion Canada, Germany and Brazil were eliminated in the group stage.

"Very proud," Ellis said. "I think as a team we need to hold our heads very high."



Netherlands' Danielle Van de Donk (left) competes for the ball with South Africa's Bongeka Gamede during the Women's World Cup Group round of 16 soccer match between Netherlands and South Africa at the Sydney Football Stadium in Sydney, Australia. (AP)