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basketball



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baseball

F-16s set to stem Iran tankernapping

Norway tops

Kuwait Sovereign Fund ranks fifth in world, 2nd regionally

KUWAIT CITY, July 15: The latest update of the values of assets compiled by the International Institute of Global Sovereign Funds indicates the Kuwaiti Sovereign Fund (Al-Ajyal Fund) has increased to about \$803 billion from \$750 billion last April, reports Al-Qabas daily.

Thus the "Ajyal Fund" stands fifth in the world and second in the Arab world after the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority, which takes the top spot among Arab countries and fourth in the world, with an asset value of \$853 billion bringing the difference between the Ajyal Fund and ADIA to \$50 billion.

According to the institute's updated data, the arrangement and values of the assets of global sovereign funds have not witnessed significant changes at the present time, except for the increase in the value of the assets of the Al-Ajyal Fund.

The institute said the Norwegian Sovereign Fund maintained its global leadership with assets exceeding \$1.371 trillion, followed by the China Investment Authority with assets of more than \$1.350 trillion, while the Chinese SAFE Fund came in third place with assets of more than \$1 trillion.

The classification of the Saudi Public Investment Fund on the GIC fund of Singapore advanced to sixth place, with the value of the assets of the Saudi fund increasing to \$700 billion now, compared to \$650 billion in

April, while the value of the assets of the Singaporean fund, which came in seventh place, remained at \$690 billion.

The Hong Kong Sovereign Fund ranked eighth in the world, with assets of more than \$514 billion, followed by Singapore's Temask Fund, ninth, with assets of more than \$492 billion, while the Qatari Sovereign Fund came tenth in the world, with assets remaining constant at \$475 billion.

The International Institute of Global Sovereign Funds revealed that the assets of the total sovereign funds classified with it remained stable at more than \$11.5 trillion.

Meanwhile, the Kuwaiti Sovereign Wealth Funds, the oldest and largest funds in the world, are outperformed by its more ambitious peers in neighboring countries and according to "Bloomberg" news agency the sovereign wealth funds in the Middle East are emerging as investors heading to acquire some of the largest investment deals, reports Al-Anba daily.

Bloomberg indicated that the Kuwait Investment Authority (KIA), which manages the \$700 billion sovereign wealth fund, invested only \$2.8 billion last year, compared to \$25.9 billion by the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority and \$20.7 billion by the Saudi Public Investment Fund, the agency quoted Diego Lopez, a consultant at data firm SWF Global as saying.



A U.S. Air Force F-16 fighter jet is on display during the Paris Air Show in Le Bourget, north of Paris, France, Monday, June 19, 2023. The U.S. is beefing up its use of fighter jets around the strategic Strait of Hormuz to protect ships from Iranian seizures, a senior defense official said Friday, July 14. (AP)

'Top gun' Russian harassment of US drones also a concern

WASHINGTON, July 15, (AP): The U.S. is beefing up its use of fighter jets around the strategic Strait of Hormuz to protect ships from Iranian seizures, a senior defense official said Friday, adding that the U.S. is increasingly concerned about the growing ties be-

tween Iran, Russia and Syria across the Middle East. Speaking to Pentagon reporters, the official said the U.S. will send F-16 fighter jets to the Gulf region this weekend to augment the A-10 attack aircraft that have been patrolling there for more than a week. The move comes after Iran tried to seize two oil tankers near the strait last week, opening fire on one of them.



Anti-U.S. protesters holding a portrait of Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei during a protest in Baghdad, Iraq, Friday, July 14, 2023. (AP)

Financial system 'overhaul' urged

BRUSSELS, July 15, (KUNA): UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres called for a transformation of the global financial system to rescue the Sustainable Development Goals.

"To rescue the Sustainable Development Goals, we need a transformation of the global financial system, so that it works for everyone and fulfills its role as a global safety net," he told a press conference ahead of an EU-UN High-Level Dialogue in Belgium on Thursday evening.

"And I see the European Union as a potential engine for that transformation based on equity and solidarity," he said speaking in the Chateau de la Hulpe outside Brussels.

"We live in an ever more multipolar world. This calls for enhanced forms of cooperation and multilateral governance - anchored in international law. And the European Union must be an essential pillar of this new global order," said Guterres, a former Prime Minister of Portugal.

On her part, President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen standing next to the UN chief said the EU-UN Dialogue today and tomorrow has "a packed agenda."

She announced that they will discuss four main topics: Ukraine, climate change and preparations for COP28 in the UAE, global digital transition and the increasing power of artificial intelligence, and how to re-energise global efforts to meet the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

"The world needs the United Nations now more than ever. I want to emphasise the European Union's steadfast commitment to our strong partnership," she concluded.



Guterres

Struggle in balance between key allies

Iraq-Iran gas-for-oil barter no breach of sanctions: Baghdad

BAGHDAD, July 15, (Agencies): Iraqi officials on Thursday defended a deal linked this week to barter oil for gas with Iran, saying that the deal does not violate U.S. sanctions on Tehran and that it will help alleviate a worsening electricity crisis in Iraq.

The remarks come as the government in Baghdad struggles to maintain a balance between its two key allies, Washington and Tehran. A previous arrangement in which Iraq was buying gas from Iran and paying dollars for it was held up because Washington declined to approve sanctions waivers. That in turn led Iran to cut the gas supply, triggering severe power shortages in Iraq.

After decades of electricity shortages because of war, corruption and mismanagement, oil-rich Iraq has become heavily reliant on imported Iranian gas to meet its electricity needs. The shortages in recent months are in part due to U.S. restrictions on transferring funds to Iran.

Imports from Iran are especially vital during the scorching summer months when Iraqis are forced to pay for private diesel generators or suffer through temperatures that often exceed 50 degrees Celsius (122 degrees Fahrenheit). Washington has granted some exemptions to its sanction on Iran over Tehran's disputed nuclear program to allow Iraq to meet its energy needs.

On Tuesday, Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammed Shia Al-Sudani announced the barter deal with Iran but warned that Washington still has not granted a waiver for Baghdad to pay \$11 billion it currently owes to Tehran, leaving the money trapped in Iranian accounts in the state-owned Trade Bank of Iraq.

As a result, he said Iran had cut its gas exports since the beginning of July, and Baghdad's supply has declined by over 50%. After the barter deal, Al-Sudani said the "supply of Iranian gas has resumed" and would "return to the same quantities as previously."

According to a senior political official close to Al-Sudani's government, the barter

agreement would see Iraq send 250,000 barrels of crude oil to Iran daily. The official spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity to discuss the deal.

The official said U.S. sanctions would not be violated because they apply to financial transactions - and not barter deals. Still, Iraq has not officially notified Washington of the arrangement, he said.

A State Department official told the AP that the agency had no comment about the barter deal, and that Washington regularly follows up with Baghdad about sanctions on Iran. The official spoke on condition of anonymity, citing agency practice.

There was no immediate comment from Tehran.

Washington has been concerned about Iran's relationship with Iraq, especially with a large number of Iran-backed groups in its government and parliament.

The United States in late 2022 tightened measures on Iraq accessing its foreign reserves housed in the Federal Reserve, after suspecting money was being transferred to Iran, Syria, and other sanctioned entities. The move led to a drop in the value of the Iraqi dinar and a spike in public anger in Iraq.

Yesar Al-Maleki, an analyst at the Middle East Economic Survey, said cash-strapped Iraq has been putting pressure on Baghdad to urge Washington for waivers.

"With Iraq unable to transfer funds due to sanctions on Iran's banking sector, Tehran has been prioritizing its local consumers," Al-Maleki told the AP.

The news of the barter deal comes days after Iraq announced the signing of a massive \$27 billion energy deal with French giant TotalEnergies that would bolster projects for local electricity production. Analysts say that deal gave Western countries hope it would shift Iraq away from needing Iranian gas imports.

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News watch

KUWAIT CITY: The Amiri Diwan on Saturday mourned the demise of Sara Ali Fahad, widow of Sheikh Saud Malek Humoud Mohammad Al-Salman Al-Sabah.

The Amiri Diwan said she died at the age of 91 and that her burial would be on Sunday. (for more details check the Arabic item). (KUNA)

KUWAIT CITY: Kuwait's Ministry of Interior (MoI) Friday called on people to be cautious and deal with neither fake messages nor unknown websites.

These fake messages or unknown websites deceive people that they are supposed to pay fines for traffic violations, the Ministry said in a news statement issued by its security media and public relations department, stressing that it is fraud.

The ministry reminded individuals of the messages on the government service app. "Sahel" in case of traffic fine they should pay, the statement said.

It added that required measures in this regard are being taken. (KUNA)

KUWAIT CITY: The Civil Service Commission announced Wednesday, July 19, is a public holiday and that work will be suspended in all ministries, government agencies, public bodies and institutions on the occasion of the Hijri New Year, and Thursday will be considered a day of rest, reports Al-Qabas daily.

The CSC stated today, that work will resume on Sunday, July 23.

KUWAIT CITY: The Assistant Undersecretary for the Customer Service Sector in the Ministry of Electricity and Water, Eng. Falah Al-Mutairi, said the ministry has recommended floating the tender for the second phase of smart meters to the Central Agency for Public Tenders, reports Al-Qabas daily.

Al-Mutairi told the daily that in preparation for awarding the tender for the company that meets the specifications. The second phase tender is concerned with the supply of 500,000 smart electricity meters and 200,000 water meters, with a total of 700,000 meters to cover the rest of the country's regions.

He explained that if the pro-

cedures go according to plan, the contract is expected to be signed during September or October, while the supply is expected to start with the beginning of the New Year.

KUWAIT CITY: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs expressed on Thursday comfort for Egypt hosting the summit on Sudan's neighboring countries, which concluded its work earlier in Cairo.

In a statement, the ministry expressed comfort for enabling parties involved to discuss ways to end the conflict there, including its negative repercussions on neighboring countries and on the security and stability of the region. (KUNA)

IRBIL: A 3.9 magnitude earthquake jolted Iraq's northern Province of Sulaymaniyah on Friday, leaving no casualties.

The Iraqi Ministry of Transport announced that the quake was registered at 10:56 pm (local time).

It stated that people felt the quake but no casualties were reported. (KUNA)

STOCKHOLM: Stockholm police on Friday said they have authorized a protest this weekend by a man who has stated that he wants to burn the Torah and the Bible outside of the Israeli Embassy in Stockholm.

Israeli officials called on the Swedish government to stop the protest, which is scheduled to take place Saturday outside the diplomatic mission. (AP)

JERUSALEM: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was rushed to a hospital on Saturday, but was in "good condition" as he underwent a medical evaluation, his office said.

The Israeli leader's office said he was being treated at Israel's Sheba Hospital, near the coastal city of Tel Aviv, but gave no further details. (AP)

BRUSSELS: The European Union's new Coordinator on combatting anti-Muslim hatred Marion Lalissee has expressed her strong determination to deal and tackle the rising Islamophobia in Europe through an evidence-based policy and by dialogue with the Muslim community and with multiple actors and experts. (KUNA)



Iraqi men swim in the Tigris River to beat the heat in Baghdad, Iraq, Thursday, July 13, 2023. (AP)

The defense official, who spoke on condition of anonymity to provide details of military operations in the region, said the F-16s will give air cover to the ships moving through the waterway and increase the military's visibility in the area, as a deterrent to Iran.

The U.S. Navy said in both instances the Iranian naval vessels backed off when the USS McFaul, a guided-missile destroyer, arrived on the scene.

In addition, the defense official told reporters the U.S. is considering a number of military options to address increasing Russian aggression in the skies over Syria, which complicated efforts to strike an Islamic State group leader last weekend. The official declined to detail the options, but said the U.S. will not cede any territory and will continue to fly in the western part of the country on anti-Islamic State missions.

The Russian military activity, which has increased in frequency and aggression since March, stems from growing cooperation and coordination between Moscow, Tehran and the Syrian government to try to pressure the U.S. to leave Syria, the official said.

The official said Russia is beholden to Iran for its support in the war in Ukraine, and Tehran wants the U.S. out of Syria so it can more easily move lethal aid to Lebanese Hezbollah and threaten Israel. The U.S. has seen more cooperation, collaboration, planning and intelligence sharing, largely between mid-level Russian and Iranian Quds force leaders in Syria, to pressure the U.S. to remove troops from Syria, the official added.

There are about 900 U.S. forces in the country, and others move in and out to conduct missions targeting Islamic State group militants.

The U.S. does not believe Russian aircraft plan to drop bombs on U.S. troops or shoot down manned aircraft. But there are concerns that Russian pilots will knock a Reaper drone out of the sky and that Moscow believes that type of action would not get a strong U.S. military response, the official said.

As an example, in March, a Russian warplane poured jet fuel on a U.S. surveillance drone and then struck its propeller, forcing the U.S. military to ditch the MQ-9 Reaper into the Black Sea. The incident spiked tensions between the two countries and triggered a call between their defense chiefs, but led to no direct military response.

Last week, Rear Adm. Oleg Gurinov, head of the Russian Reconciliation Center for Syria, said the Russian and Syrian militaries have been doing joint training. In comments carried by Syrian state media, he said Moscow is concerned about drone flights by the U.S.-led coalition over northern Syria, calling them "systematic violations of protocols" designed to avoid clashes between the two militaries.

U.S. and Russian military commanders routinely communicate over a deconfliction phone line that has been in place for several years to avoid unintended clashes in Syria, where both sides have troops on the ground and in the air.

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OPINION OTHER VOICES



A photograph of Iraqi firemen evacuating an injured person after a car bomb exploded in a commercial neighborhood of central Baghdad, Iraq, Saturday, May 7, 2005, is inserted into the scene at the same location on Tuesday, March 10, 2023, 20 years after the U.S. led invasion on Iraq and subsequent war. (AP)



A photograph of a US soldier securing the area near a destroyed building after two car bombs detonated in a central Baghdad residential neighborhood, Friday, Nov. 18, 2005, killing at least six people and wounding dozens. (AP)



A photograph of Mohhamed, left, and Adil Omar, who lost their father in sectarian violence, looking out of their home in a predominantly Sunni neighborhood of Fadhil in Baghdad, Monday, Dec 1, 2008. (AP)



A photograph of a 172nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team soldier removing barbed wire after the troops ended search for a missing soldier in Baghdad's Karradah neighborhood Tuesday, Oct. 31, 2006. (AP)



A photograph of an army vehicle securing the area where a suicide car bomber targeted a government convoy, in Bab al-Sharji area, central Baghdad, Thursday, Oct. 23, 2008. (AP)



A photograph of U.S. troops taking positions during a gunfight with militants in the predominantly Sunni neighborhood of Fadhil in Baghdad, Iraq, Sunday, March 29, 2009. (AP)

Carnage edged on Baghdad Street

A 'passing' ... a prayer

By Hadi Mizban

There are places around Baghdad where I'll sometimes say a silent prayer for the dead when I pass - on certain residential streets, at a particular restaurant, in a square where minibuses gather.

Today, people go about their daily business in these places, perhaps no longer thinking of the horror that took place years ago right where they are walking. For me, each site has become indelibly linked to the carnage I saw and the pain people suffered there.

As an Associated Press photographer, I covered 20 years of turmoil since the U.S.-led invasion of my country. At the height of the sectarian butchery following the invasion, I and other photographers rushed to the scenes of suicide bombings, rocket strikes and shootings around Baghdad nearly every day, sometimes multiple times a day.

Iraqis today remember the pervasive fear of that era, but with so many bombings, the specifics of individual attacks may have faded. This series of composites joins some of my photos from the years of the U.S. occupation and new ones from today, aiming to bring together past and present. Here are the stories behind a few of them.

In this large intersection jammed with minibuses loading up passengers, a car bomb ripped through the crowds on April 18, 2007, killing at least 140 in what was then one of the deadliest single bombings since the U.S. invasion.

When it went off, I was at the site of that morning's first bombing, which had killed dozens, and as the firefighters rushed to the second blast, I hitched a ride with them. We were among the first on the scene at Sadriyah. The stench of burned flesh filled my nostrils. Blackened bodies were strewn among twisted, smoldering minibuses. Survivors loaded pieces of human beings onto wooden vegetable pushcarts to take away.

The next day when I went back, I saw the girl. She was with her mother, searching among the remaining debris and body parts. The mother's feet were bare, covered in ash. She smeared ashes on her face as she

screamed for her missing husband: "Ahmed, where did you go? I can't do it without you. Your daughters need you."

I saw the look of silent terror in the eyes of the girl as she trailed her mother, holding her little sister and absorbing the scene. I took her picture.

I went back to Sadriyah several weeks ago. The minibuses blared their horns, and people thronged a nearby street market. I relived that day 16 years ago like I was watching it in a cinema. Those closest to a bomb seem to evaporate without a trace, I thought. This intersection was their last resting place.

Camp Sara

This Baghdad district got its name from a wealthy Armenian Christian woman who once owned the area when it was farmland. As Armenians fled oppression in Turkey and elsewhere in the early 20th century, she let refugees settle on her land, and by the 1950s, it was built up as an almost entirely Christian neighborhood.

On Oct. 4, 2006, two car bombs went off within minutes of each a few dozen meters apart on a main commercial street of the district. All along a block of the avenue, buildings were shattered, blackened, a few collapsed almost completely. At least 16 people were killed and dozens wounded. Some young men carried a frail elderly woman on a chair to safety. Others used tarps to carry pieces of bodies. Everyone was running - either away from danger or toward loved ones to see if they were alive.

"You have no God," a resident named Dureid shouted in his shock as if the militants behind the blast were there to listen. "You are not Muslims. Aren't these Iraqis? What is their crime?"

The explosion was only one of many by Sunni Muslim extremists that hit Christian areas over the years. Camp Sara was once one of the nicest parts of Baghdad, with good restaurants and a different vibe from the rest of the city. Today, the buildings are cleaned up, but the street looks the same, down to the electricity poles that haven't moved.

Still, everything has changed. Most of Camp Sara's Christians have

been driven away by violence. Dureid has moved to another part of Baghdad; a man in a striped shirt who stood next to him in my photo is in the United States. Camp Sara has become like any other part of Baghdad, its distinctiveness another victim of that bloody time.

It was Army Day, Jan 6, 2008, marking the founding of the Iraqi army, and a little celebration was being held on a street in Karradah, a middle-class area of Baghdad. I was one of several media cameramen there as residents came out to cheer for soldiers. The doorman from one of the houses, Abu Adel, put a flower into the barrel of one soldier's rifle and kissed him on the cheeks. The next instant, a suicide bomber unleashed his blast.

Only a few yards away, I was thrown to the ground, wrenching my back, but kept taking pictures. The celebration had been transformed into mayhem, with scorched cars and buildings and the torn bodies of 11 dead. Among the dead was Abu Adel.

I went back to the site recently. It's once again a quiet street with its villas and houses. As I took pictures, a doorman from one of the houses approached me. His name was Ali Ahmed. I asked him if he had been here that day and showed him my old photos of the explosion.

Ahmed started to weep. "I should have died that day," he said. He had been about to go with Abu Adel to put a flower in the soldier's rifle, but first had to deal with a broken generator. "There were only seconds between me and death," he said. We found him in the background of one of my photos, behind some bloodied soldiers. I took a new picture of him in the same spot: his older self stepping back into his younger self.

I too nearly died that day. At other times, I felt I was only inches from death, seeing those who by chance were on the wrong side of that thin line. I tell myself God kept me here for my children and my wife. Every day I have with them is a gift.

A place can be bonded to an emotion, like when a couple revisits all the sites where they first fell in love.

Sometimes, that emotion is horror. (AP)

editor's choice



Prayer Timings

Fajr	03:26	Asr	15:28
Sunrise ..	04:59	Maghrib ..	18:49
Zohr	11:54	Isha	20:19

Local

Expected weather for the next 24 hours:

By Day: Very hot and relatively humid over coastal areas with light to moderate northwesterly wind to light variable wind with speeds of 10-35 km/h.

Weather

By Night: Hot to rather hot and relatively humid over coastal areas with light variable wind to light variable wind with speeds of 08-28 km/h.

Station Max Exp Min Rec
Kuwait City 49 37

Kuwait Airport	49	33
Abdaly	50	28
Jahra	50	34
Salmiyah	45	37
Ahmadi	42	33
Nuwaisib	47	30
Wafra	49	31

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

HH Amir congrats France on Nat'l Day

KUWAIT CITY, July 15, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent on Friday a cable to French President Emmanuel Macron congratulating him on the country's national day.

His Highness the Amir wished President Macron good health, the French Republic and its people further progress and prosperity, and the special relations between the two nations more development and growth.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent on Friday a congratulatory cable to French President Emmanuel Macron on occasion of his country's national day, and wished the President good health.

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah sent Friday a cable to French President Emmanuel Macron congratulating him on his

country's national day.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Ahmad Fahad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah sent a cable of congratulations to French Minister of the Armed Forces Sebastien Lecomu on his country's national day.

In a statement on Friday, the Ministry of Defense said that Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad hailed the strong Kuwaiti-French ties, hoping to further strengthen cooperation between the two countries.

The Defense Minister also wished France and its people more prosperity and development.

Speaker of the Kuwaiti National Assembly (parliament) Ahmad Al-Sa'adoun on Friday sent a couple of cables to French National Assembly Speaker Yael Braun-Pivet and Senate Speaker Gerard Larcher, congratulating them on the occasion of their country's National Day.



A force from the 25th Commando Brigade heads to Jordan to participate in the joint exercise Ramah al-Haq.

KUNA photo

Special troops partake in drill with Jordan forces

A squad of Kuwait 25th Commando Brigade of the Kuwait Army, commonly known as the 25th Commando, is partaking in a joint drill with Jordanian forces in Jordan, due from today (July 15) until July 28.

The Ministry of Defense indicated in a statement that the squad had

already departed to the Kingdom of Jordan.

The joint maneuvers, due to kick off later today, aims at unifying some administrative and operational concepts for further coordination and harmony in the environment of joint operations. (KUNA)

Other Voices

Why Kuwaitis go to Spain?

By Ahmad alsarraf

A remarkable number of Kuwaitis have chosen Spain as their holiday destination and second home. I visited it for the first time in the 1980s, and fell in love with it because of my old friend Sabah Al-Rayes and other dear ones.

Among the celebrities who chose to visit Spain continuously made Spain their second home for several reasons.

Frederic Chopin, the Polish composer, who loved the island of Majorca, and found inspiration there between 1838 and 1839, and composed some of his most beautiful musical works, such as the Raindrop instrumental.

Ernest Hemingway, the most famous American writer, who was attracted to the culture of the Spaniards, their way of life and bullfighting, wrote his famous novel "The Sun Also Rises" (1926).

Oscar Wilde, the Irish writer who was famous for his admiration for Spain, and wrote about his travels between its cities, and about Spanish art and culture, and visited a prison in Cárcel de Cádiz, from which he wrote his famous play The Ballad of Reading Gaol.

George Orwell, the British writer spent time in Spain during the Spanish Civil War (1936-1939), and his political views were influenced by it, and he wrote his two masterpieces, "A Tribute to Catalonia" and "Animal Farm."

When Europe opened its doors to Salvador Dali, the surrealist painter, and the great Pablo Picasso, they chose to live in their homeland, Spain.

Ava Gardner, the American actress, loved Spain during the filming of "Pandora and the Flying Dutchman" (1951), and chose to live there for forty years, until her death in 1990.

Richard Ford, the American author, derived the events of his novel (The Ultimate Good Luck 1981) in Mexico and Spain.

Tennessee Williams, the American

playwright, spent a long time in Spain, where he put his plays, such as "The Night of the Iguana" (1961) and "The Milk Train Doesn't Stop Here Anymore" (1963).

Orson Welles, the American director and actor, who had a deep affection for Spain and its culture, directed and starred in the movie Chimes at Midnight (1965).

Jean Cocteau, the French poet, writer, and director, was in love with Spain, and was inspired by many of his works.

Bruce Springsteen, the American rock singer, loved Spain and its music, and gave several concerts there.

These are just examples of famous people who have chosen Spain as their home, haven and source of inspiration.

Friend Shakir Abel asks why Spain has lost its position as the most powerful and richest country in the world, and answers that the separation of England, the Netherlands, Germany and others from the Roman Church in the period known as the Protestant Reformation greatly affected its civilized development.

The transition to Protestantism, as a new form of Christian belief, led to changes in religious beliefs and practices, and contributed to shaping the identity of their states and its impact on civilized development, as the separation from the Roman Church contributed to the development of the concept of religious democracy, as everyone has "greater freedom in choosing beliefs" and the practice of worship and the establishment of new churches and denominations, and the creation of an environment that encourages economic and scientific development, and encourages exploration, trade and technological development.

Separation also contributed to the occurrence of cultural and artistic changes, and produced new cultures and a great diversity in the arts, and the emergence of new intellectual and literary currents, and contributed to the development of works of art and music in new forms. Artists and thinkers from these countries made important contributions to philosophy, literature and art.

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Bail plea for judges rejected

Oct 19 hearing set in 'Bneider' bribery case

KUWAIT CITY, July 15: The Court of Cassation has set Oct 19, 2023 to look into the second 'Bneider Network' lawsuit and rejected a request by the defense counsel to release 8 judges, businessmen, and other defendants on any guarantee in the so-called 'bribery case' in which the Iranian Salehi is the prime suspect, reports Al-Qabas daily.

This came after about 10 months since the Court of Appeal upheld the verdict of the lower court sending a number of judges to jail while others were dismissed from their jobs and obliged to hand over the gifts they received including vehicles from the Iranian Salehi.

Thursday, the convicts were produced before the court from the prison and placed inside the prison cage. During the proceedings the defense counsel demanded the release of their clients and the request was turned down by the court.

Case papers show during an extensive investigations into the second Iranian Salehi case, the Public Prosecution Office discovered 10 judges were involved and two of them were referred to the disciplinary board and the rest of them in addition to 3 lawyers, Salehi, and 15 others were referred to the Criminal Court..

The Court of Appeal in its verdict and sentenced the guilty to maximum imprisonment and reduced the prison term from 10 years to seven years for others.

'Nazaha' statistics: Kuwait Anti-Corruption Authority (Nazaha) revealed that it had received 542 communications over the past six years, including 64 on suspicion of corruption last year alone, reports Al-Qabas daily.

In its third report on Kuwait's strategy to promote integrity and combat corruption, Nazaha explained that 15 of the complaints received last year were related to waste of public money, 10 for fraud crimes, 4 for facilitation of the appropriation of public money, and one each for financial offense, bribery, tax evasion and damage to public money, profiteering and illegal gain.

Nazaha also received 12 requests last year to provide protection after submitting reports of suspicions of corruption.

The total number of protection requests received in the last seven years reached 43.

Regarding the forgery of academic certificates, the report revealed that the total number of forged academic certificates seized, since the issuance of the mechanism to combat forgery in university and professional certificates by the Ministry of Higher Education, amounted to 45 certificates.

Two certificates were recorded last year alone. The highest percentage of forgery cases was recorded in 2019 with a total of 28 fraud cases.

Regarding Kuwait's strategy to enhance integrity and combat corruption, Nazaha indicated that there is a delay in achieving the target completion rates in three out of four main axes related to the initiatives put forward.

It highlighted four main challenges that impede the implementation of their provisions.

According to the report, there are 21 initiatives in the strategy that have entered the stage of final implementation and evaluation, and nine that have completed most of their work, along with the continued implementation of 17 other initiatives.

The rate of achievement achieved in the first axis related to the public sector amounted to 59 percent, while the second axis related to the private sector reached 66 percent, and the rate in the third axis dedicated to society reached 79 percent.



Brigadier General Khaled Al-Najjar and Brigadier General Tariq Al-Sadani after they were awarded the National Service Medal of the Golden Degree.

Bogota awards service medals

Two Kuwaiti officers honored

KUWAIT CITY, July 15, (KUNA): The Colombian Ministry of Interior awarded in the capital, Bogotá, Thursday, the two Kuwaiti officers, Brigadier General Khaled Al-Najjar and Brigadier General Tariq Al-Sadani, the National Service Medal of the golden degree for works related to the police service in the international sports field.

Brigadier General Al-Najjar holds the position of Assistant Secretary-General of the International Police Sports Federation, while Brigadier General Al-Sadani holds the position of Executive Director of Public Relations and Marketing at the Federation.

On this occasion, Brigadier General Al-Sadani said in a statement to Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) that this tradition comes on the sidelines of the opening of the International Police Sports Federation office for the Latin American continent in the Colombian capital, Bogotá.

He affirmed the keenness of the Kuwaiti political leadership and its interest in advancing police sports and activating its various activities and programs in order to enhance the role of the security man and his

contribution to the development of society.

He pointed to the keenness of the International Police Sports Federation, headed by His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, and its continuous support and interest in the activities of the Police Sports Federation at various levels.

He praised the support of the First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Talal Khaled Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, indicating that this honor will be a motivation for more achievements to raise the name of the State of Kuwait in all sports forums.

He expressed his thanks and appreciation to the Vice President of the International Police Sports Federation, Major General Gonzalo Londoño, for his great support for police sports in all the Federation's member states.

He explained that this honor came on the occasion of the cooperation of the International Police Sports Federation with the Police Federation of Colombia over a period of 15 years, in addition to Colombia's assistance in organizing the International Police Games in the capital, Bogotá.



Director of the Middle East and North Africa Department at the German Foreign Ministry, Dr. Tobias Tonkel, with the Kuwaiti Assistant Foreign Minister for European Affairs, Ambassador Sadeq Ma'arafi at the German Foreign Ministry in Berlin.

Kuwait role in challenges hailed

A German Foreign Ministry official has expressed his country's appreciation to Kuwait's role towards several issues, and international and regional challenges.

This came during a meeting held between Director of Middle East and North Africa Region Department at the German Foreign Ministry Tobias Tonkel and Kuwait's Assistant Foreign Minister for Europe Affairs Ambassador Sadeq Ma'arafi Saturday in Berlin.

Tonkel stressed the deep-rooted and distinguished ties between the two countries, referring to a common desire to develop mutual interests.

Tonkel emphasized that Kuwait has been an effective player in the region and seeking to mediation efforts so as to achieve balanced interests.

Meanwhile, Ma'arafi told KUNA that the meeting was part of some other gatherings he would hold with some officials at the European Foreign Ministries, including Germany, the Netherlands and Spain.

The aim of such meetings is to enhance relations, and discuss international and regional developments and challenges of common concern, Marafi said. (KUNA)



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3rd edition of the Global Women in Leadership Awards held in Dubai

Mercedes Vazquez awarded 'Exemplary Woman in Economic Development'

DUBAI, July 15: Dubai welcomed & awarded 50 women from over 23 countries at the 3rd edition of the Global Women in Leadership Awards, under the patronage of His Highness Engineer Sheikh Salem Bin Sultan Bin Saqr Al Qasimi & His Highness Sheikh Majid Sultan Bin Saqr Al Qasimi. This distinct honor celebrates the collective power of women in shaping the business world globally through diverse industries that form and shape a global economic fabric.



Mercedes Vazquez

does it generate and most importantly how scalable that impact is and how does it strategically transcend borders. To all the women who are striving to make their mark in the economic fabric in general and in technology in particular, remember that your ideas, skills, and expertise have the power to shape the world. Embrace your strengths, overcome challenges, and never doubt the incredible value you bring to the world. Breaking through the glass ceiling demands exceptional skills, constant learning, unwavering determination, courage, persistence, continuous learning and a robust support network, that I am grateful for. To all the courageous women navigating the path to leadership in technology (data always tells the story and statistics are still alarming for multiple barriers & reasons), remember that your struggles hold purpose. Each step forward paves the way for progress, empowering future generations to follow in your footsteps. I relentlessly advocate and work on development matters to increase representation & participation through fair competition in tech with a focus on underrepresented communities."



Group photo during the 3rd edition of the Global Women in Leadership awards.

Photos by Iehab Qurtal

Mercedes Vazquez, a dynamic business and technology executive based in Kuwait for the past seven years and a half, was recognized as Exemplary Woman in Economic Development awardee, as a recognition of her relentless trajectory as an innovative business and technology executive who creates economic-technology bridges across continents with a solid track record of building revenue streams from scratch, with a passionate for constant innovation and enabling the responsible technology use for the greater common good. By advancing

economic diversification and women's economic security, she believes global societies can thrive and global GDP can increase.

As Mercedes had shared, accepting the award: "a journey is about what you do, how you do it, what impact

Arabia, a podcast host "Tapping into the Untapped" as a platform to build bridges between continents while increasing representation and participation in mission-critical industries to reimagine the future and an Industry Advisor Board Member. Last year she was selected to participate at the exclusive Global Women in Leadership program at Georgetown University McDonough School of Business with Qiyadat in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia with 159 women from 17 G20 nations. A strategic program born during the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's presidency of the G20 in 2020.

Mercedes is currently the General Manager of ESK Holding, an innovative Digital Transformation company that builds alliances in innovative U.S. technology with the Kingdom of Saudi

clusive Global Women in Leadership program at Georgetown University McDonough School of Business with Qiyadat in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia with 159 women from 17 G20 nations. A strategic program born during the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's presidency of the G20 in 2020.



KUNA photo

Head of the National Center for Cyber Security with the British Secretary of State for Investment.

Kuwait Nat'l Cyber Security Chief meets British visiting delegation

KUWAIT CITY, July 15, (KUNA): Head of the National Center for Cyber Security Major General Eng. Mohammad Boarki and Britain's Minister of State in the Department for Business and Trade Lord Dominic Johnson

tackled on Thursday ways to bolster cooperation, mainly in cyber security operations.

A press release by the Center said the meeting comes as part of the official visit by the British delegation.

Kuwait's real estate market still witnessing a state of stagnation

Study highlights sector's situation in Q2

KUWAIT CITY, July 15: It seems that Kuwait's real estate market is still witnessing a state of stagnation. This is evident from the continued decline in the number of real estate deals and their value during the second quarter of 2023. The economic crisis and the ensuing inflation and rise in the interest rates played a major role in this decline, in addition to the uncertainty in housing reforms that are yet to see the light, re-

ports Al-Qabas daily.

In a recent study, Al-Hesbah Real Estate Company highlighted the latest developments in the sector in terms of estimated market values of real estate, average rental prices, occupancy rates and annual returns for various real estate sectors.

According to the study, the private housing sector witnessed a decrease in the number of deals by about 34.7 percent in the second quarter of 2023 with 487 deals, compared to 746 deals during the same period in 2022. Their value amounted to KD 262.8 million in the second quarter of 2023 compared to KD 376.7 million in the second quarter of 2022, which is a decrease of 30.2 percent on an annual basis. The marine city of Sabah Al-Ahmad and the coastal strip were excluded in this study.

Regarding commercial real estate, which also includes craftsmanship, recreational activity, stores and car showrooms, it recorded a sharp decline in the number of deals by about 81.7 percent. It recorded only 19 deals in the second quarter of 2023 compared to 104 deals in the same period of 2022. The value of these deals was KD 94.1 million in the second quarter of 2023, compared to KD 294.07 million in the second quarter of 2022, which was a decrease of 68 percent.

It is noteworthy that all the mentioned real estate transactions were completed with a 100 percent sale rate.

Market value

The study revealed the estimated market value of space private housing lands that are located in areas close to the capital on an area of 500 square meters. Shuwaikh Residential topped the list of the ten most expensive residential areas near the capital at a price of KD 1.17 million. In second place came the suburb of Abdullah Al-Salem at a price of KD 965,000, followed by Nuzha in third place with KD 905,000, and then Adaliya in fourth with about KD 845,000.

Shamiya came in fifth place with a price of KD 800,000 for a plot, Khalidiyah in sixth with a price of KD 710,000 and Faiha in seventh with about KD 690,000. Mansouriya, Kaifan and Rawda ranked eighth, ninth and tenth with prices of KD 670,000, KD 650,000 and KD 635,000 respectively.

In a selected sample from the various governorates of Kuwait, the study revealed that the estimated market value of plots in investment properties on an area of 750 square meters during the second quarter of 2023 reached about KD 1.8 million in Kuwait City. It was KD 1.02 million in Salmiya, about KD 1.05 million in Sabah Al-Salem area, and about KD 885,000 in Fahaheel area.

As for Farwaniya and Jahra areas, the price of a plot of land amounted to about KD 900,000.

The annual return of the real estate sectors in the country varied during the second quarter of 2023 according to the location and area. In the investment housing sector, it ranged between 6.75 percent and 8 percent. In the commercial sector, it ranged between 6.25 percent and 8.50 percent. The returns of the craft and industrial sector were higher, as it varied between 7.25 percent and 10 percent.

EKH spends \$46m on plants in Egypt

KUWAIT CITY, July 15, (KUNA): Egypt Kuwait Holding Company has inaugurated and developed plants in Egypt at a cost of USD 46 million through its company, Sprea.

EKH, listed in the Kuwaiti and Egyptian bourses, said in a press release on Saturday that Sprea Misr opened a plant for producing sulfuric acid, simultaneously with increasing productivity of the other factories and expanding production chains.

The press release quoted Sherif Al-Zayat, Managing Director of Egypt Misr, as saying that the new sulfuric acid plant operates at a productivity capacity of 165,000 tons a year. Up to 80 percent of the output would be shifted to a fertilizers factory in Alexandria -- 69 percent stakes of which are owned by the EKH.

Sprea opened six new production chains, including some that produce three million formica boards per annum.

The average rent of apartments with an area of 60-65 square meters in the Capital Governorate, specifically in Kuwait City, as of the end of the second quarter of 2023 was KD 310.

As for the Hawally Governorate, the average rent was KD 290 in Salmiya area, KD 270 in Hawally area, and KD 310 in Jabriya area. It reached KD 290 in Sabah Al-Salem area within the Mubarak Al-Kabeer Governorate.

In Ahmadi Governorate, the average rent of apartments was KD 260 in Fahaheel area, KD 240 in Mangaf area, and KD 210 in Mahboula area. The average rental value was KD 270 in Farwaniya and Khaitan areas within the Farwaniya Governorate.

In Jahra Governorate, the average rent of an apartment was KD 275 in Jahra area during the second quarter of 2023.

These estimates were based on the fact that the aforementioned sites do not have defects, features, or additional services, as they are modern buildings.

The average rental price per square meter in commercial real estate for an area of 30-40 square meters for the ground floor (external facade) amounted to KD 42 in Ahmed Al-Jaber Street in Kuwait City, the same in Salem Al-Mubarak Street in Salmiya, and KD 37 in Tunis Street in Hawally.

The average rental value per square meter amounted to KD 45 in Habib Al-Manawer Street in Farwaniya, KD 40 in an internal street in Egaila, and KD 42 in Al-Dabbous Street in Fahaheel. It reached KD 45 in the commercial and administrative area of Jahra.

The estimated market value of commercial real estate (vacant land) in selected areas of the country amounted to about KD 1.4 million in the market area in Kuwait City and on an area of 200 square meters in an internal street. The value in Salem Al-Mubarak Street in Salmiya reached KD 3.1 million on an area of 750 square meters, and about KD 3.3 million on Habib Al-Manawer Street.

As for Jahra, the price of the land in Marzouq Al-Miteb Street on an area of 1,000 square meters was about KD 3.5 million, and about KD 3.9 million in Egaila.

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NOW	NOW
BHD 69.000/-net	BHD 153.222/-net

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Buildings dot Kuwait's skyline.

The Conversation

Make smart choice to protect your health and sanity this summer

Not all repellents equal - tips to avoid mosquito bites

By Immo A. Hansen and Hailey A. Luker
New Mexico State University

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



Now that summer is in full swing, mosquitoes have come out across the United States. The use of mosquito repellents can protect both your health and sanity this summer.

While mosquitoes leave bothersome, itchy bites on your skin, they When a mosquito bites you, it may transmit harmful pathogens that cause dangerous diseases like malaria, dengue fever, Zika and West Nile.

Mosquito females bite people to get vital nutrients from our blood. They then use these nutrients to make their eggs. One single blood meal can give rise to about 100 mosquito eggs that hatch into wriggling larvae.

There are several ways to avoid getting bitten by mosquitoes, from wearing long, loose clothing and limiting time outside to placing screens over your windows and getting rid of standing water that mosquitoes might use to breed.

However, one of the best ways to protect yourself when you're going to a place where hungry mosquitoes will be buzzing around is by using mosquito repellents.

Our team at the New Mexico State University Molecular Vector Physiology Laboratory has studied different types of mosquito repellents and their efficacy for over a decade. Here's what you need to know to protect yourself this summer:

The use of mosquito repellents goes far back in history, certainly predating written historical accounts. Some of the oldest records of the use of mosquito repellents date back to early Egyptian and Roman history. During this period, smoke from smudge fires was often used to repel mosquitoes.

Today, we have more options than our ancestors when it comes to choosing what type of mosquito repellent to use - sprays and lotions, candles, coils and vaporizers, to name some.

These repellents interfere with a mosquito's sense of smell, taste or both. The repellent either blocks or overstimulates these senses. Scientists understand how certain repellents like DEET work at the molecular level, but for many of them, it is still unknown why exactly they repel mosquitoes.

We used a variety of scientific laboratory experiments and field tests to find out what works. For some products, testing was as simple as putting a volunteer's treated arm into a cage with 25 mosquitoes and waiting for the first mosquito bite.

For others, like citronella candles, we used a slow-speed wind tunnel and put a candle or device between a person and a cage of mosquitoes. Depending on the repellent efficacy of the device, mosquitoes either flew toward the person or away. Another experiment we conducted was the Y-tube choice assay where mosquitoes chose to fly toward someone's hand or, if repelled, fly toward the blank or empty option.

Devices

Bracelets don't work. Department stores and pharmacy chains sell hundreds of different varieties of bracelets. They are marketed as "mosquito repellent" bands, wristbands and watches, and their materials can vary from plastic to leather. Even if they are loaded with repellents, they can't protect your whole body from mosquito bites.

Ultrasonic repellent devices don't work. These come as electrical plug-ins, free-standing varieties or watchlike accessories that claim to emit a high-frequency sound that deters mosquitoes by mimicking bats. However, in scientific studies, ultrasonic repellent devices fail to repel mosquitoes. In fact, when our lab tested one of these devices, we found a slight increase in mosquito attraction to the wearer.

Dietary supplements - vitamin B, garlic and so on - don't work. No scientific evidence shows these supplements protect people from mosquito bites.

Light-based repellents don't work. These devices come as colored light bulbs, and they don't attract insects that fly toward white light. This approach works well on moths, bee-

flies and stinkbugs, but not on mosquitoes.

And here is our ranking of what does work, starting with the best repellent/active ingredient.

1. DEET works. DEET, chemical name, N,N-diethyl-meta-toluamide, was developed in the 1950s by the US Army and is a well-established mosquito repellent with a long history of use. The higher the percentage, the longer the protection time is - up to six hours.

2. Picaridin works. This synthetic repellent can protect for up to six hours at a 20% concentration. This repellent is a promising alternative for DEET.

3. Oil of lemon eucalyptus, or OLE, works. OLE, with the active ingredient PMD, is a plant-based alternative to DEET and picaridin. Its repellent properties can last for up to six hours.

4. Other essential oils - some work, some not so much. We applied 20 different essential oils in a 10% essential oil lotion mixture to volunteers' skin. Here's what we found:

Clove oil works. This oil, with the active ingredient eugenol, can protect from mosquito bites for over 90 minutes at a 10% concentration in lotion. Cinnamon oil works. This oil, with the active ingredients cinnamaldehyde and eugenol, can protect from mosquitoes for over 60 minutes at a 10% concentration in lotion. Geraniol and 2-PEP, or 2-phenylethyl propionate, work for about 60 minutes at a 10% concentration in lotion. Citronella oil works, just not so great. We found citronella oil at a 10% concentration only protected from mosquito bites for about 30 minutes.

If you are planning to mix your own plant-based mosquito repellent this summer, remember that essential oils are complex mixtures of plant-made chemicals that can cause skin irritations at high concentrations.

Based on our study, we recommend using repellents with the active ingredient DEET if you live in or are traveling to regions with a high risk of vector-borne disease transmission. However, plant-based repellents will work just fine to prevent nuisance mosquito bites in low-risk areas, as long as you reapply them as needed. (AP)

The Conversation

Social media pushing back

Fine dining in Europe, US still so Eurocentric

By Daniel Merino and Nehal El-Hadi

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



The history of restaurants, food and, especially, fine dining, is deeply tied to the history of immigration to the US and French cultural power in the early 20th century. Not surprisingly, the story that leads to Yelp and Anthony Bourdain is not without its share of racism that the modern food world and its tastemakers are still grappling with today.

In this episode of The Conversation Weekly, we speak to three experts who study food culture and fine dining about the perceptions and definitions of "good food." We explore how food trends are deeply tied to immigration, how the history of Western culinary techniques limits the creativity and authenticity of modern restaurants and how social media compares with the Michelin Guide as a tool in the quest for good food.

The definition of 'good food'

Between ever-increasing culinary skill and creativity, the boom in organic and seasonal ingredients, a growing interest in ethnic food and flavors, and a glut of food media - from the Michelin Guide and Zagat to Instagram and TikTok - there has arguably never been a better time to eat, drink and appreciate a truly good meal.

What defines "good food"? This is a subjective question in many ways, but a chef's career can single-handedly be made or broken by a review in the esteemed pages of the Michelin Guide or The New York Times food section. Even in the world of social media, some restaurants consistently rise to the top of Yelp and Instagram, so there is some consensus idea of what "good food" is.

To understand where the ideas that define good food come from, it's helpful to understand how the modern restaurant came to be. "At the turn of the 20th century, you have Georges Auguste Escoffier, who, with his friend Ritz, opened the Ritz-Carlton," explains Gillian Gualtieri, a sociologist at Barnard College in New York City. "The Ritz becomes this training ground for European cooks and chefs, and you then send them out to these glamorous hotels all over Europe to cook for the European and American elites."

To this day, the techniques and even the language developed by Escoffier are taught in culinary schools across the world.

As the world urbanized, more and more people began to eat at restaurants, and the concept of the food critic emerged. These critics wield power. When Gualtieri asked 120 New York chefs whose opinions mattered most, they most valued the opinions of their peers - and the Michelin Guide.

Immigration and ethnic food

The Michelin Guide and many of its peers in the legacy food media have historically been gatekeepers of fine dining, focusing on white, Eurocentric restaurants and in many ways controlling what kinds of cuisine are worth paying a premium for. But ethnic food - whether it is Mexican, Japanese

or, in the past, Italian food - is a massive part of the US food scene.

As Krishnendu Ray, a professor of food studies at New York University in the US, explains, the perceptions of immigrant food are closely tied to perceptions of the immigrants themselves.

"What you see is there's a kind of an early popularity of immigrant foods, first inside the community, and then slowly it spreads outward. Other people start eating, journalists are eating and writing about it, but it does not acquire prestige," Ray explains. "That changes over time, depending on which immigrant group is coming into the US in the largest numbers and which cohort is slowly moving up in terms of upward mobility."

After looking at prices of various types of cuisine over the decades and comparing it with immigration trends, Ray found a consistent pattern. Immigrant foods are first considered cheap and not prestigious when lots of immigrants move to the US but slowly gain clout as the people themselves become more culturally established.

Social media influencers as food critics

In an era of social media, many people are now turning to Yelp, TikTok or Instagram to figure out where they want to get a meal. Zeena Feldman is a professor of digital culture at King's College in London, in the UK. She was interested in seeing whether Instagram viewed good food in the same Eurocentric ways as the Michelin Guide, or whether, as she explains it, "because anyone can have a voice on Instagram, underrepresented cuisines from different parts of the world and from less expensive price points might be getting more of the attention there."

To answer this question, Feldman looked at the reviews of Instagram food influencers in London and New York and then compared them with the Michelin Guide.

"Culturally and economically, Instagram food criticism is a lot more inclusive than Michelin," says Feldman. "So you have many more cuisines, and especially cuisines outside of the Global North, being represented."

But Instagram wasn't completely without flaws. "I started out thinking of Instagram food culture as being something created by amateurs, by just people as obsessed with food as I might be," says Feldman. "What I found is actually these are professionals, either people making money from promoting content or people aspiring to make money from promoting content. And so what that means is that there's a certain standardization to how food is being represented on Instagram."

Most people have seen what Feldman has termed the "Instagram gaze." These are the overhead shots of well-lit food that, Feldman notes, almost never feature any people.

Feldman thinks that, with so much food media out there, there is more opportunity to find good food, but the definition of that, as she puts it, is "food that you actually enjoy eating." (AP)



Ambassador of France to Kuwait Claire Le Flecher and His Excellency, Sheikh Jarrah Al-Sabah, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs during the cake cutting ceremony.



Chargé d'Affaires James Holtsnider US Embassy in Kuwait (center) with guests at French Embassy reception to celebrate France's National Day at the Résidence de France.



Photos from the event.

Photos by Iehab Qurtal

EU to ease visas for Kuwaitis

French Embassy celebrates National Day

By Mujahid Iqbal

The French Embassy held a reception to celebrate France's National Day at the Résidence de France on Wednesday. "I am thrilled to witness such a gathering of people. French National Day is a cherished tradition that holds a special place in the hearts of all French citizens, but also of all our French-speaking friends around the world. And I know they are numerous here in Kuwait," Ambassador of France to Kuwait Claire Le Flecher said as she welcomed the guests. Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Jarrah Al-Sabah was the guest of honor, who cut the ceremonial cake with the French ambassador.

"This celebration is an unwavering commitment to the cultural heritage of France. Our streets come alive filled with vibrant parades, people wearing blue, white and red. The melodies of Edith Piaf and Maurice Ravel fill the air. We celebrate the French way of life, which has inspired countless poets, writers, and thinkers throughout history," Le Flecher said.

"On our national day, we commemorate the July 14, 1789, historic storming of the Bastille prison - which marks the beginning of the French Revolution. But we also commemorate Federation Day, a year later, in 1790, which brought French citizens to celebrate together. A Revolution symbolizes the quest for freedom, equality, and fraternity; a celebration, the year after, which conveys messages of unity and harmony. This double meaning of our national day tells a lot about our country and the values it wants to convey. The love of freedom and

democracy, that is vivid in Kuwait, matches this ideal," Le Flecher said.

"This year, like last year, our joy is unfortunately clouded by the unprovoked war in Ukraine launched by Russia, with its load of human rights violations which I have no doubt will be investigated by international criminal courts. We can only hope that this all stops as early as possible, with a victory of Ukraine. And if there are negotiations, it cannot be at the expense of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of a UN member. I know all Kuwaitis share this approach because they have experienced themselves the suffering of an invasion, that is why Kuwait early emphasized the pre-eminence of internationally agreed principles, including the intangibility of territorial integrity," she stressed.

The ambassador said France and Kuwait have a lot in common in their quest for regional stability, and both are sincerely engaged in promoting peace in the Middle East and notably for a viable solution for the Palestinian people. "France and Kuwait share the same outlook on the future of the region. On June 27, His Excellency Sheikh Salem Al-Sabah, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kuwait, traveled to Paris to meet with the French Minister of Foreign Affairs Catherine Colonna, and their views were very close on many topics," she said.

Le Flecher said among other topics, the visa issue was also discussed between the ministers. "I am happy to announce today that a positive judgment was reached in Brussels in order to allow the Cascade visa mechanism for Kuwaiti citizens. It means that Kuwaitis will, hope-

fully soon, be given long-duration visas following their first demand for a Schengen visa," she said.

"The ministers also welcomed our vibrant economic relationship. France has become the largest European client of the clean fuel project. Beyond trade, our long-lasting investment relationship is a testimony of the trust and the depth of interests that govern our relationship. Our historic cultural and educational cooperation is also a testimony to our strong friendship," Le Flecher said.

"It is a joy for me to perform my duties among you, and the daily support you provide to France in Kuwait is invaluable. Your commitment, your dynamism, and your spirit of solidarity greatly contribute to the quality of the relations we have with our Kuwaiti friends, and I thank you for that. The year was rich in events: The final of the World Cup and the month of La Francophonie, brought us together around festive events. The Pearl of the West exercise, which saw the deployment of 500 French soldiers on Kuwaiti soil, and more recently the Arabian Breeze exercise have brilliantly illustrated the knowhow of our armies," the ambassador pointed out.

"I am of course aware of your concerns, particularly on the issues of family visas and driving licenses, and wish to assure you of the embassy's tireless action on these subjects. Our minister raised these issues with the Kuwaiti minister for foreign affairs during his visit to Paris, so be sure that they are taken into account at the highest level, and we have received assurances that the Kuwaiti authorities will work quickly to lift these restrictions," she assured.

Twitter seeks end to US oversight of data use

Twitter wants a federal court to end an order imposed by the Federal Trade Commission that limits its data security practices.

The FTC has been watching the company for years since Twitter agreed to a 2011 consent order alleging serious data security lapses. But the agency's concerns spiked with the tumult that followed Elon Musk's Oct. 27 takeover of the company.

In March it was disclosed that the FTC was investigating Musk's mass layoffs at Twitter and trying to obtain his internal communications as part of ongoing oversight into the social media company's privacy and cybersecurity practices, according to documents described in a congressional report.

Twitter paid a \$150 million penalty in May 2022, about five months before Musk's takeover,

for violating the 2011 consent order. An updated version established new procedures requiring the company to implement an enhanced privacy-protection program as well as beefing up information security.

X Corp., now Twitter's corporate name, has filed a motion with the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California, for a protective order and relief from the consent order.

American Airlines and JetBlue to end partnership

American Airlines and JetBlue Airways will end their partnership in the Northeast next week, after a judge ruled that the deal violates antitrust law.

JetBlue said Friday that it will end codesharing - the practice of selling seats on each other's flights - and reciprocal frequent-flyer benefits on July 21.

Customers who already bought a ticket through the

partnership will have until that date to add their frequent-flyer number to the booking to get points in their account, the airline said.

A federal judge in Boston ruled in May that the airlines must disband their agreement, called the Northeast Alliance.

The Justice Department sued to kill the deal, which began in early 2021 and is focused on flights in New York and Boston,

saying it would limit competition and hurt consumers by driving up prices.

American plans to appeal the ruling, but JetBlue announced last week that it would not appeal and would instead turn its focus to saving its proposed \$3.8 billion purchase of Spirit Airlines. The Justice Department has also sued to block that deal, and a trial is scheduled for October. (AP)

A strategic step in driving digital transformation and ICT growth

Meshary Al-Hamad appointed as new CEO of e-Portal Holding Co

KUWAIT CITY, July 15: Kuwait Telecommunications Company - stc, a world-class digital leader providing innovative services and platforms to customers, enabling the digital transformation in Kuwait, announced the appointment of Meshary Al-Hamad as the new Chief Executive Officer of e-Portal Holding Company (e-Portal), a wholly-owned subsidiary of stc Kuwait.

stc released a statement indicating that Al-Hamad's appointment comes as a strategic move to grow and evolve the Company's operations, especially within the ICT field. Additionally, Al-Hamad will continue to lead and develop the company's digital transformation journey, which also aligns with Kuwait's 2035 vision.

His operational expertise will strengthen e-Portal's value proposition where he will work closely with stc to grow e-portal presence in the market, to and leverage e-portal's capabilities to support the digital transformation process in Kuwait in addition to providing the best services, products and solutions that shall exceed our enterprise and Govt. sector customers' expectations and aspirations.

Meshary joined stc in 2015 as General Manager - Customer Service Department and later ascended to the position of General Manager

of Sales & Account Management at solutions by stc, the specialized business arm of Kuwait Telecommunications Company - stc, that focuses on providing connectivity solutions, fixed, mobile or 5G wireless services, 5G technology led by stc, ICT, IoT, M2M, and the IT products and services. He has consistently delivered outstanding results, contributing significantly to the growth and development of solutions by stc. His wealth of expertise extends across several areas within the company, providing him with a comprehensive understanding that will be integral in leading e-Portal's growth and success. Al-Hamad holds a Bachelor's Degree in Mass Communication from Kuwait University and a Masters of Business Administration's Degree



Meshari Al Hamad

from the Ahlia University in Bahrain.

About stc:

Kuwait Telecommunications Company (stc) is a Kuwaiti shareholding company incorporated pursuant to Amiri Decree No. 187 on 22 July, 2008, to operate and manage the third GSM mobile network in Kuwait as per Law No. 2 of 2007. Accordingly, stc launched its operations in December 2008 and was listed on Boursa Kuwait in December 2014. It is a world-class digital leader providing innovative services and platforms to customers and enabling the digital transformation in Kuwait, and is a subsidiary of stc Group. stc has rapidly reached a leadership stance in the market through its customer and employee centric strategy.

stc offers an innovative range of world-class products, services and solutions with high quality, that cater to the customers' needs and demands, both for individuals and enterprises (solutions by stc). In 2019, stc acquired 100% of the share capital of the Internet Service Provider, Qualitynet General Trading and Contracting Company (solutions by stc) in Kuwait. Further enhancing its digital capabilities, in 2022 stc acquired the entire share capital of e-portal Holding Company and its subsidiaries, one of the most prominent ICT providers in Kuwait.

Kuwait Finance Hse launches Visa 'corporate credit and debit cards'

Bid to help employees manage business expenses

KUWAIT CITY, July 15v: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) has launched its Visa Corporate Credit and Debit Cards with unique and various features, as part of its objective to meet the needs of companies for advanced payment solutions and provide innovative banking solutions and products according to the highest quality standards to enhance the experience of its customers.

Talal Al-Arbeed, Executive Director of Credit Card Products at KFH, said that the Visa corporate credit card is for corporate and business owners, linked to the company account, enabling them to issue the corporate card for the company's employees to manage their business expenses. The credit card allows better cash flow management, greater control over employee expenses, online reporting, and easy access to transaction data.

Al-Arbeed explained that the Corporate Credit cards are offered in two categories: Visa Business Signature and Visa Business Platinum, in addition to corporate debit cards (ATM).

He pointed out that the Visa Business Signature and Visa Business Platinum cards provide critical benefits to company and employees such as company liability insurance against fraud, multi-trip travel insurance for the card holder, global personal assistance service (concierge), purchase protection, additional warranty service, access to 850 airport lounges around the world, and other benefits.

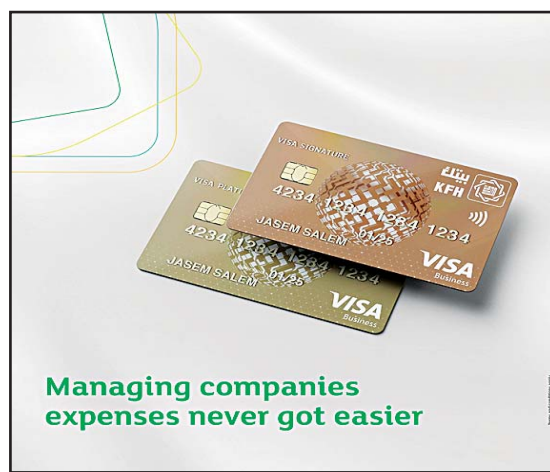
Al-Arbeed added that both Business cards Visa card also provides medical assistance service during travel, and international customer assistance services (GCAS), where the card provides services emergency support when needed while traveling.

Al-Arbeed pointed to the availability of the Visa Explore application, which is the ideal companion for the Visa Business Signature cardholder and provides speed and ease of benefiting from the available international offers and experiences, as each offer has been classified and divided according to geographical location that allows cardholders to find what they want at any time and wherever they are.

Regarding the introduction of corporate debit cards, Al-Arbeed said that KFH is keen to provide all services that meet the needs of



Talal Al-Arbeed



Managing companies expenses never got easier

The corporate credit and debit cards



Part of the General Assmly meeting in progress.

Burgan Bank holds its 59th General Assembly

Burgan Bank held its 59th General Assembly meeting at the Banking Hall of its premises in Sharq Area on Saturday, July 15, 2023, with a quorum of 82.112%.

The Assembly approved the release of the two resigned Board Members, Mr. Masoud M.J. Hayat and Mr. Faisal Al-Radwan, and discharging them from all liability up to the date of the AGM. The Assembly also elected Mr. Abdulaziz Saad Al-Rashed as an Independent Member and Mr. Jamal Abdullah Dashti as a Non-Independent

Member for the remainder of the 2022-2024 term of the Board of Directors.

Burgan Bank Vice Chairman Mr. Faisal Mansour Sarkhou welcomed the new Supplementary Members.

He said: "We are grateful for each board member's commitment to the Bank's vision and responsibility toward protecting our standing as one of the leading conventional banks in Kuwait while further elevating our brand. Trust, dedication, excellence, and progression form the founda-

tion on which we stand today as we follow through on our transformational journey of developing our operational model and investing in digital technologies to grow our market share and remain competitive."

Mr. Sarkhou concluded his statement by expressing good wishes to the new Members of the Board of Directors for the remaining current term, stressing his confidence in their ability to support and add value to the Bank as it continues to deliver on its broad strategy.

its corporate customers. A company can be issued Visa Business Credit and Visa Business Debit for one account to suit the needs of different companies. This makes KFH at the forefront in terms of providing the best payment services and facilities to companies.

Ankush Devadason, Visa's Head of Financial Institutions for Kuwait, said: "We are thrilled to partner with Kuwait Finance

House in bringing these Visa cards to their corporate customer base in Kuwait. With these new commercial Visa cards, businesses of all sizes in Kuwait will have more visibility into spending that will help them to better monitor transactions and increase savings that can be reinvested in the business. The cards are also backed by Visa's security technology and offer businesses the peace of mind of global acceptance

at our 70 million plus merchant locations worldwide as well as international offers to make their business travel more rewarding."

Al-Arbeed stressed that the strategy of developing card products and payment solutions will continue to reflect the outstanding performance of the bank and provide a unique banking experience with enhanced customer service to their customers, thus establishing KFH as the preferred



Johair Marafi and Retail Banking Staff handing over the key to the winner.

'All yours upon salary transfer' campaign

ABK announces quarterly winner of the GMC Yukon

KUWAIT CITY, July 15: Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) recently announced Olga Kourmeleva as the winner of the GMC Yukon vehicle in the quarterly draw pertaining to the Bank's 'All Yours Upon Salary Transfer' campaign, held under the supervision of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

Commenting on this occasion, Johair Marafi, Acting General Manager of Retail Banking at ABK, extended her warm congratulations to the winner. Expressing her content, she said, "I am delighted with the resounding success of our campaign which is demonstrated by the significant number of customers who have eagerly joined the ABK community and benefited from the plethora of advantages available."

Upon salary transfer, ABK awards its new customers an array of benefits including a KD 1,000 cash gift, a free-of-charge ABK Emirates Visa Signature credit card for life, as well as a chance to enter the next quarterly draw to win another GMC Yukon vehicle.

Continuing her statement, Marafi said, "ABK's salary transfer offering embodies one of the Bank's most substantial initiatives aimed at rewarding customers with valuable benefits. Our comprehensive, and personalized package has been meticulously tailored to meet customers' specific needs, and desires."

She expressed the Bank's commitment to ensuring existing customer satisfaction as well as its eagerness to attract new customers to open ABK accounts in an effort to further enhance the Bank's position. She emphasized, "All our endeavors are consistent with the Bank's objective to maintain our standing as one of the most prominent players in the market."

As such, Marafi affirmed, "ABK is continuously analyzing optimal approaches to broaden our range of products and services with the intention of expressing gratitude to our customers and acknowledging their unwavering loyalty and trust. Consequently, the Bank will persist in devising captivating promotional campaigns that

resonate with customer aspirations throughout the year."

Marafi concluded with an invitation to follow the Bank's social media accounts to remain up to date with the latest marketing initiatives and to benefit from the current promotional campaigns and offers throughout the year.

Since its establishment in 1967, ABK has progressed to become one of the leading Kuwaiti banks in the region that is today known for offering a simpler banking experience. The Bank offers personal, corporate, and private banking of which includes a wide array of products and services. ABK also provides a broad range of local, regional, and global investment solutions and services through its subsidiary, ABK Capital. Enjoying equal



Johair Marafi, Acting General Manager of Retail Banking at ABK

stability and strength, the Bank also offers the convenience of banking across the region, servicing other markets in Egypt and the UAE.

For more information about ABK, please follow the Bank's Instagram account @abk_kuwait, visit eahli.com, contact Ahlan Ahli 1 899 899 or visit one of the Bank's branches across Kuwait.

Average long-term US mortgage rate surged to nearly 7% this wk

LOS ANGELES, July 15, (AP): The average long-term U.S. mortgage rate climbed this week to just under 7%, the highest level since November and the latest setback for homebuyers already grappling with a tough housing market constrained by a dearth of homes for sale.

Mortgage buyer Freddie Mac said Thursday that the average rate on the benchmark 30-year home loan rose to 6.96% from 6.81% last week. A year ago, the rate averaged 5.51%.

It's the third consecutive week of higher rates, lifting the average rate to its highest level since it surged to 7.08% in early November. High rates can add hundreds of dollars a month in costs for borrowers, limiting how much they can afford in a market already unaffordable

to many Americans.

The latest increase in rates follows a recent sharp upward move in the 10-year Treasury yield, which climbed above 4% last week for the first time since early March. The yield, which lenders used to price rates on mortgages and other loans, was down to 3.80% in midday trading Thursday following new data pointing to cooler inflation, which led bond traders to trim bets for more rate hikes by the Federal Reserve later this year.

On Wednesday, the U.S. government reported that inflation at the consumer level rose 3% in June from a year earlier, marking its lowest point since early 2021, though it remains above the Fed's 2% target.



A group photo from Gulf Bank's AI Danah millionaire semi-annual draw.

Gulf Bank holds semi-annual draw under the supervision of Ministry of Commerce and Ernst & Young

Sharefa Mohamad Ashraf becomes 20th AIDanah millionaire

KUWAIT CITY, July 15: Following long moments of anticipation, amid a wide audience watching at the screens to discover the name of next millionaire, Gulf Bank has officially announced Sharefa Mohamad Ghloom Ashraf as this year's lucky winner of the semi-annual draw prize of KD 1 million, on Thursday, July 13, 2023.

The draw was broadcasted live in a grand ceremony at the Avenues Mall – in the presence of representatives of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and Ernst & Young – where the winner expressed her happiness for becoming the 20th millionaire in the history of the AI Danah millionaire account, and thanked Gulf Bank for always rewarding its customers.

On this occasion, Gulf Bank's General Manager of Consumer Banking, Mr. Mohammad Al-Qattan, said: "We congratulate Sharefa Mohamad Ghloom Ashraf, the semi-annual prize winner of the AI Danah millionaire account, and we wish the rest of the customers the best of luck in the upcoming draws. The deadline for qualifying and depositing to win the grand prize of KD 2 million is September 30, 2023."

Al-Qattan pointed that on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the AI Danah millionaire account, Gulf Bank recently decided to increase the value of the annual grand prize from

KD 1 million to KD 2 million, thus, maintaining the prize's position as the world's largest cash prize associated with a bank."

He further emphasized Gulf Bank's keenness to provide an exceptional and distinctive banking experience for customers – in parallel with its community role in rewarding savers with monthly, quarterly, semi-annual and annual draws – motivating them to save and encouraging others to follow their footsteps.

The Year of Savings
Gulf Bank's Deputy General Manager of Consumer Banking, Najla Al-Eisa said: "Gulf Bank continues to initiate successful activities in 2023 – The Year of Savings – by celebrating winners like Sharefa Mohamad Ghloom Ashraf, who was announced as the 20th millionaire in the history of the AI Danah account."

She added: "We were keen to create an atmosphere of celebration and excitement for those attending the semi-annual draw, by organizing various activities and distributing cash prizes to the participants – motivating and encouraging the public to adopt and promote a culture of saving."

Al-Eisa further stated that, "For the last 25 years, Gulf Bank has built strong relationships with customers through the AI Danah Millionaire Ac-

count. This falls in line with the bank's keenness to fulfill its community role in rewarding customers for their savings and encouraging a culture of saving – which is also part of consolidating the principles of sustainability in society."

Benefits

The AIDanah account is one of the most rewarding savings accounts in Kuwait, with periodic draws that award valuable prizes and multiple benefits for account holders. Gulf Bank's AIDanah account offers monthly opportunities to win KD 1,000 to ten lucky winners, in addition to two quarterly draws with KD 100,000 prizes each, a semi-annual draw prize of KD 1 million and a grand draw prize of KD 2 Million. It is worth mentioning that the last chance to deposit and participate in this annual grand draw is September 30, 2023.

Moreover, to enter the upcoming draws, Gulf Bank customers can open an AIDanah account at any time, and to increase their chances of winning, account holders must either maintain the minimum deposit amount of KD 200 or increase their AIDanah savings. The higher the balance in an account, the more chances get accumulated over time. Additionally, opening an AIDanah account is now easier than ever, with customers being able to open their accounts online through Gulf Bank's On-



A photo from the event.

line and Mobile Banking services.

Numerous Features

Gulf Bank's AIDanah Millionaire account is the only account that rewards customers for their loyalty – by transferring the chances of winning from the previous year to the next year – as part of a program that rewards customers for their loyalty to Gulf Bank. Accordingly, all chances gained by existing AIDanah clients in 2022 (from January 1 to December 31, 2022) have been transferred and added to the 2023 chances, in accord-

ance with the terms and conditions.

The AIDanah Millionaire account provides a multitude of valuable services to its customers, including access to an exclusive AIDanah ATM card, that is ideal for depositing money into their account, any time. Account holders can now also calculate their chances of winning the monthly, quarterly and annual draws using the AIDanah Calculator, available on Gulf Bank's Online and Mobile Banking App.

To deposit into an AIDanah ac-

count, customers can visit one of Gulf Bank's branches, or transfer directly through Gulf Bank's Online or Mobile Banking services. Customers can also direct their queries via WhatsApp on 1805805 for round-the-clock assistance from Gulf Bank representatives or call the Customer Contact Center on the same number. Additionally, customers can visit the dedicated AIDanah account website to learn more about the account and its winners.

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 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.



Take a 'magical mystery' pizza tour of Italy at Dai Forni this summer.



Traditional pizzas at Dai Forni
Tuck into the Pizza Mania at Four Seasons Hotel Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, July 15: This summer, Four Seasons Hotel Kuwait at Burj Alshaya is offering guests the opportunity to discover Italy through one of the country's most famed gastronomic exports: pizza. From July 15 until August 5, 2023, the Hotel's contemporary Dai Forni restaurant is celebrating the storied Italian dish – with a history stretching back to 16th century Naples – via its "Pizza Mania" menu, with a thrilling culinary adventure available daily from 6:00 pm to 11:00 pm for KD 20.

Italian chef straordinario, Luigi Frassanito, is excited to show diners his country by way of traditional pizzas made to sizzling, crispy perfection in Dai Forni's iconic copper-sheathed ovens, authentically fired with aromatic wood. "Pizza has turned into a global gastronomic force for a very good reason – everybody loves it," says Lecce-born Luigi. "By exploring many variations and adding a unique twist to each pizza, this all-you-can-eat feast is a chance to take guests on a magical mystery tour of my home country."

Participating

Those participating in the special offer will be given a "Go/Stop" sign to place on their table. As long as the table sign is set to "Go", Dai Forni's servers will continue to present the best of Italy, serving up steaming round after round of crispy oven-baked perfection—a bottomless pizza concept known as giro (tour or spin) in Italy, where pizzas come to the table one after the other to be shared by all.

Get set for dazzling exploration of speciality flavours as guests at the Hotel's indoor-outdoor Italian restaurant are invited to surrender to the element of surprise. Traditional

ingredients from across Italy form the basis of every gourmet offering – but each pizza will be unique in size, style, presentation and preparation, giving pizza lovers a thrilling adventure for their tastebuds.

Dominate

Given that the pizza ovens dominate the Sicilian-inspired interiors of Dai Forni, and lend the restaurant its name, pizza was a natural choice of dish to highlight for the summer, says new Italian Junior Sous Chef Enrico Zambi. "I'm really looking forward to showing diners just how amazing our pizza ovens are," he says. "Their perfect temperatures and humidity get the texture of each pizza just right, while the burning wood imparts an inimitable smoky flavour to the dough."

Adventurous Enrico has been honing his culinary skills for over two decades in fine dining establishments across the globe – including Italy, Canada, Australia and Qatar – and brings a passion for elevated, celebratory Italian cuisine to his new role at Four Seasons Hotel Kuwait. From divinely al dente pasta to fragrantly fresh sauces, his talents are set to shine right across the restaurant's famed à la carte menu.

Dai Forni—with its 12-metre-high ceilings and soaring wall of windows on the 21st floor of the Hotel—is one of the best places in Kuwait to savour the remarkable cityscape alongside classic Italian fare. "We're all about the elevation of Italian cuisine at Dai Forni," concludes Chef Luigi. "Pizza Mania is a great opportunity for us to showcase a different side of Italy than guests might expect—and our amazing city views are the perfect final topping."

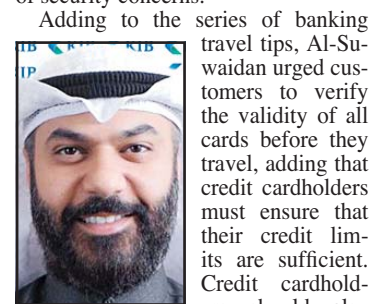
To book a table at Dai Forni's Pizza Mania's limited season, please contact 2200 6000.

KUWAIT CITY, July 15: In its continuous efforts to raise the banking safety awareness of its customers, Kuwait International Bank (KIB) underlined tips and preventive measures through various media channels about the safe use of banking cards of all kinds as the summer holiday and travel season approaches. This initiative reflects the Bank's continuous support of the "Let's Be Aware" (Diraya) national campaign.

In this regard, Basil Al-Suwaidan, General Manager of the Information Security, Privacy and Anti-Fraud Department, said: "Through this social campaign, we aim to educate KIB cardholders on how to safeguard their assets and protect their financial and personal data against the risks of fraud, hacking, theft, etc. Accordingly, we advise our customers to follow some general practices to ensure the optimal use of banking cards and maintain the confidentiality of their data. These include downloading the KIB Mobile application and activating the notification messages or SMS services to monitor the use of cards and banking operations completed through them, while keeping the card away from direct sunlight to prevent any damage."

Cardholders

Al-Suwaidan added that cardholders must learn their passwords by heart instead of writing them down and should not share them with anyone. He also cautioned against sharing One Time Passcodes (OTP) for online payments and purchases. In addition, Al-Suwaidan affirmed that the Bank would never ask its customers for any personal or confidential information or data such as username, password, bank card details, or OTPs, whether via email, SMS, WhatsApp or verbally via a phone call. He also advised against connecting to Wi-Fi networks or computers available in public areas to browse the KIB website or log into bank accounts out of security concerns.



Al-Suwaidan

continuously and notify the Bank of the countries they plan to visit before traveling, in addition to specifying the cards they plan to use abroad. These steps will ensure that their cards remain active during their holiday, as many banks immediately suspend cards when they suspect unfamiliar

'Verify validity of all cards before travel'

KIB provides tips for safe banking during travel and holiday season

KIB's tips for using bank card while traveling

Before traveling:

1. You should consider updating customer information regularly.
2. You should contact your bank to inform them that you will be using your credit card during your travel abroad – and make sure that you mention the countries you intend to visit, in order to avoid blocking the card. That is because banks might stop cards they suspect have made unfamiliar payments or withdrawals in some countries, as a precautionary measure to protect their clients.
3. Informing your bank of your flight prior to departure reduces the chances of unusual transactions being flagged as suspicious.
4. Check the expiration/validity date of your bank cards and make sure they cover the period of your travel.
5. Ensure that you have sufficient credit limits available in your credit cards. Also, make sure to check your bank account balance.
6. Make sure you have your official signature on the back of all your bank cards in the designated field.
7. Make sure to download and activate the KIB Mobile application on your mobile device to keep track of your card usage and expenses while traveling.
8. Make sure you have access to the internet in order to benefit from your online banking services and to facilitate some banking operations.
9. Do not tell anyone your card password or your passcode for 3D Secure.
10. KIB has never and will never ask you for password information via email, text or phone calls. Never click on any internet link received from emails that you do not know or do not trust.
11. Write down the bank's contact

numbers and keep them with you in a safe place away from the cards. Do not write your password anywhere, but memorize it well.

12. Make sure to activate the SMS text messaging service in order for you to be notified of the transactions made on your accounts and cards.

While traveling:

1. It is preferable not to use Wi-Fi services or public computers to access the bank's website and login to bank accounts, or open any message that requires clicking on any internet link on the smartphone or computer.
2. All cards must be kept in a safe place and not left away from you for any reason.
3. Cards should not all be kept in one place or in your wallet. They should be kept out of direct sunlight to prevent damage.
4. Do not give your card or password to anyone. And be sure to keep your card in your hand when you are making purchases. Note that lending your card to a family member or friend, with or without your knowledge, holds you fully responsible for all transactions made on it.
5. When using an ATM, make sure the machine is checked and there are no foreign objects or data theft devices installed on the machine. Your password must also be protected and prevented from being accessed by fraudsters, you can use your shoulders as a curtain or your other hand while entering the password to prevent intruders.
6. Do not ask for help from anyone, even if they are wearing clothes that are similar to the bank employees or security guards, and remember not to leave the receipt on the machine after the withdrawal process.
7. In case the card gets stuck in an

ATM, please contact KIB immediately without leaving the ATM to ensure that the card is blocked by the bank.

8. It is always preferred to pay in the local currency of the country in which you are located and not in the Kuwaiti dinar.

9. Check the screen of the "Point of Sale" device to confirm the amount that you will pay before entering the password.

10. Review your receipts carefully before signing them and before entering your password, and do not leave the line for service fees ("tips" or "total amount") blank without data, and if you do not want to put a specific amount, you must put a line on it so as not to fall victim to fraud.

11. Uphold all your receipts and receipts of rejected transactions, and review your operations and expenses regularly through the KIB Mobile application or SMS text message service.

12. Activate the mobile service (roaming service) or provide an alternative contact number for the bank to enable it to contact you when you are abroad.

13. If your card was lost, or if you face any problem related to credits cards, contact the call center immediately on: (+96522957300), designated for international calls.

After returning from travel:

1. We recommend that you change your password after returning from travel, through the bank's branches or the ATMs deployed by the bank.
2. Check all statements of accounts for your cards and review all receipts carefully along with your monthly statements when you return to Kuwait, and in case of any discrepancies or suspicious transactions, you must contact the bank immediately.

payments or withdrawals.

As part of his awareness-raising statement, Al-Suwaidan called on travelers to choose the destination country's local currency when making payments through points of sale (POS) devices rather than Kuwaiti dinars, to avoid incurring additional exchange and transfer fees. He also reminded them to examine the POS device screen to confirm the payment amount before completing the transaction. In addition, he recommended not to leave empty spaces on bills that customers fill for tips, or the total amount, blank, and to draw a line to cross them out to avoid any fraud. Keeping the receipt of rejected transactions, for reference if requested by the bank, is always a good idea.

Al-Suwaidan stressed that customers should be aware of any stranger approaching at an unsafe distance when using ATMs, whether inside Kuwait or abroad, and avoid asking anyone

for help in performing any operation on these machines. Customers should also ensure that the machine is safe and not connected to or next to unfamiliar devices and avoid using ATMs located in non-public or dark places. Al-Suwaidan recommended against leaving receipts on the machine, noting that if the card got stuck inside an ATM machine outside the country, the cardholder must immediately contact the KIB call center to suspend it before leaving the device site.

Furthermore, Al-Suwaidan advised customers to immediately change the PIN of their banking cards after their safe return to Kuwait. He also urged them to dedicate time to checking account statements against paid invoices to ensure that numbers match and to immediately report any discrepancies, unfamiliar withdrawals, or suspicious transactions.

Concluding his statement, Al-Su-

waidan reiterated that KIB attaches great importance to serving and supporting its customers while they are traveling abroad, explaining that the Bank representatives are available for around-the-clock communication, whether through phone calls via the customer service center at the number (1866866), or the number (+96522957300) designated for international calls. Al-Suwaidan also mentioned the Bank's electronic channels of communication, which include "Live Chat" and "KIB Online" services on the website www.KIB.com.kw and the video phone service through the "KIB Mobile" application on smartphones. Customers can also contact the Bank via the WhatsApp account registered on the local KIB number (+1866866). All these communication channels are intended for general inquiries about products and services offered by the Bank all year long.

Aerin's VivAer safe and effective

Aerin Medical Inc, a company dedicated to providing Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT) physicians with non-invasive solutions for the treatment of chronic nasal conditions, have announced the publication of positive two-year follow-up data from the Aerway trial for patients with severe or extreme nasal airway obstruction (NAO) due to nasal valve collapse (NVC). Results featured in Laryngoscope Investigative Otolaryngology showed a significant and long-term improvement in NAO symptom burden.

The Aerway outcomes demonstrated the ongoing effectiveness and safety of VivAer, with

treated patients reporting sustained two-year symptom improvement that remained consistent with three-month, six-month and one-year results. Key findings include:

- Statistically significant and sustained improvement in symptom burden was achieved in all subpopulations including NVC patients with untreated septal deviations and either static or dynamic NVC
- 90.1% of the patients were responders and improvements in total Nasal Obstruction Symptom Evaluation (NOSE) Scale scores were maintained from time of treatment through two years

- Usage of oral medications, nasal sprays and breathing strips decreased at two years compared to baseline
- Treatment with VivAer was well-tolerated, with no serious adverse events related to the procedure and/or device

"The Aerway long-term data showed that VivAer delivered relief to 90% of patients suffering from NAO," said William Yao, M.D., Aerway's principal investigator from the Department of Otorhinolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery at McGovern Medical School at UTHealth Houston. (AP)



Two-year data published online in Laryngoscope Investigative Otolaryngology showed a statistically significant and sustained improvement in the symptom burden of those with nasal airway obstruction following a single treatment with VivAer®. A non-invasive technology developed by Aerin Medical Inc, VivAer uses patented, temperature-controlled radiofrequency energy to provide long-term relief from nasal obstruction.

The Conversation

Pandemic sets back student achievement

COVID-19 hurt kids' math learning more than reading, writing

By Scott A. Imberman and Katharine O. Strunk
Michigan State University

3m Americans have had or currently struggle with opioid use disorder

The COVID-19 pandemic had a stark negative impact on students' math scores, new data from Michigan shows. Math achievement growth over the three-year period from spring 2019 through spring 2022 was substantially lower – approximately 7 national percentiles – than among comparable students the three years prior.

There were even larger decreases among students who are Black or Latino, low income or who attended the majority of schools that taught remotely for at least part of the 2020-2021 academic year.

Effects on scores for English language arts, which include reading and writing, were small and generally not statistically significant.

To arrive at these findings, we looked at individual test scores and other data from Michigan. First we looked at how math and English language arts test scores on Michigan's annual statewide M-STEP exam grew between 2019 and 2022 for a group of students in third grade through fifth grade in spring 2019.

We compared these students' test score growth with growth achieved by similar students who were in those same grades three years earlier, before the pandemic began. This provides us with a broad view of the impact of the pandemic on school learning as measured through test scores.

We also looked at scores from a series of benchmark tests taken between fall 2020 and spring 2022 to measure how achievement growth changed within each school year leading up to and following the height of the pandemic.

Affected

While other studies also show how the pandemic set back student achievement, our research looks at how achievement was affected over the course of the pandemic rather than just the end result. And the picture is pretty clear: Using a set of exams given at the beginning and end of each school year, we found a large drop in achievement between fall 2020 and spring 2021.

While student achievement began to improve in spring 2021, that recovery has been too slow to enable students to reach pre-pandemic expectations for test scores.

And, just as Black, Latino and low-income students suffered the largest drops in test scores during the pandemic, their math recovery has also slightly lagged behind white students and students who were more affluent.

This study adds to the research on how the pandemic appears to have exacerbated racial and economic achievement gaps. These gaps are important because lower achievement among disadvantaged groups could lead to lower college enrollment rates and, in turn, lower earnings.

Research is starting to show how quickly students are recovering and whether students are catching up at a rate fast enough to overcome pandemic learning disruptions. Some interventions, such as tutoring and after-school programming, are in place to attempt to speed up the recovery, but we do not yet know how effective they are.

We also don't know for sure why there were disproportionate learning delays in math relative to English language arts. One possibility is that families found it easier to supplement reading instruction at home compared to math. (AP)

Myths about will power keep people with opioid use disorder from getting effective medications

By Melissa S. Fry and Melissa Cyders
Indiana University

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

The most effective science-based treatment for opioid use disorder is medication. Methadone and buprenorphine prevent intense cravings and other symptoms of withdrawal, while naltrexone works by blocking the effects of opioids.

Despite abundant research showing these medications reduce the risk of relapse and overdose, many people, no matter their relationship with opioids or with people who use them, are still hesitant to support the use of these medications. And the majority of people who would benefit from such treatments do not have access to them.

We study opioid use disorder and the attitudes that surround it. To better understand hesitancy around the use of medication to treat opioid use disorder, we and our colleagues conducted focus groups with three populations intimately involved in the opioid crisis – those in recovery, their friends and family and their health care providers – as well as with community members with no direct connection to opioid use disorder. We spoke with 101 people in all across rural and urban locations in Indiana.

We asked what they thought about using medication to treat opioid use disorder. We found all four groups had negative opinions about using medication. No matter who they were, participants voiced an underlying belief that opioid use disorder results from moral weakness that can be overcome with willpower and commitment to behavior change, despite research-based evidence that overwhelmingly shows that opioid use disorder is a chronic

brain disease best managed with medication.

Across all four groups, we heard three myths about using medication for opioid use disorder. Research reveals these stigmatizing beliefs are counter to reality.

Many of our participants expressed the belief that using medication is the same as using opioids to get high. This misperception is likely rooted in the outdated idea that recovery is defined by total abstinence from all substances, except perhaps caffeine and nicotine. As one service provider working with people in recovery declared, "If you're on Suboxone or you're on methadone and you're not being tapered down, you're using."

Reduce

The truth is, taking medication is not the same as using prescription or street opioids to get high. These medications do not produce the same experience of euphoria or high as heroin, morphine or other opioids. In different ways, methadone, buprenorphine and naltrexone all reduce cravings and allow people to remain sober and to work, raise their children and engage in activities of healthy productive living – all challenges for people to do well when using opioids to get high.

We found that people's overall discomfort with the idea of using medication to treat opioid use disorder led to a belief that such treatment should be used only as a steppingstone on the way to sobriety. A community member we spoke with said, "It's a way of weaning them off everything. I think that's just one of the steps they have to take to get clean."

The belief that medication should be used for only a short time runs counter to research showing

higher rates of relapse after tapering. Guidelines from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services discourage rapid tapers and affirm that long-term use is the best way to prevent relapse, overdose and death.

Many of our study participants voiced the belief that long-term use of medication means the treatment did not work. As one family member put it, "If you're on it for 10 or 15 years, then that's not really helping you."

The myth that long-term use of medication means the medicine is ineffective – or has failed – runs counter to both the life outcomes of those on maintenance treatment and the physiological reality that such drugs may remain necessary to normalize brain function for the person in recovery.

Just as those with high blood pressure or diabetes may need to remain on medications for the long term, so might some people with opioid use disorder. Keeping people in treatment and alive through use of medications is treatment success, not failure.

An estimated 3 million Americans have had or currently struggle with opioid use disorder. The latest data from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates nearly 83,000 deaths in 2022 involved opioids.

Methadone, buprenorphine and naltrexone are lifesaving medications. Myths associated with their use cause avoidable relapse, overdose and death by keeping people from using the most effective tool for entering into and maintaining recovery. (AP)

France welcomes first Flash radiotherapy machine

Flashknife to treat patients with superficial tumours

PEYNIER, France, July 14: Gustave Roussy and THERYQ announce a strategic and structuring partnership to roll out and assess FLASH technology for radiotherapy. French medical technology company THERYQ, specializing in particle accelerators and radiotherapy systems, has provided Gustave Roussy's Department of Radiotherapy with the first FLASH clinical radiotherapy machine in France for treating superficial tumours.

The collaboration between Gustave Roussy, Europe's leading cancer centre, ranking third worldwide, and THERYQ, a French company specializing in the manufacture of FLASH radiotherapy systems, represents a major breakthrough in cancer treatment in France through the arrival of the first Flashknife® machine.

FLASHKNIFE® technology is a new radiotherapy process that uses electrons. The FLASH radiotherapy system delivers a very high dose rate, enabling professionals to treat patients in milliseconds. Several pre-clinical studies have shown that this technique can further save healthy tissue while effectively destroying tumour cells. In addition, the very short irradiation time eliminates any movement of the organ or tumour, ensuring more precise and controlled targeting.

Thanks to this major partnership, Gustave Roussy will be the first centre in France to use THERYQ's FLASH radiother-

apy machine. Prior to its mainstream use, a clinical study will be conducted to evaluate the effectiveness of FLASH radiotherapy in skin cancer patients. The results of this study could have a significant impact on skin cancer management, thereby paving the way for new therapeutic breakthroughs, including in the treatment of all solid tumours.

Professor Eric Deutsch, Head of Gustave Roussy's Department of Radiotherapy, said: "Introducing this system will allow FLASH radiation therapy, a significant evolution from current methods, to undergo thorough clinical testing. The reduced number of sessions, along with the possibility of minimizing radiation-induced side effects, will lead to more tolerable and effective treatments. We are fully invested in and motivated by this project, which fuels the hope of significantly improving therapeutic management."

Mr. Ludovic Le Meunier, CEO of THERYQ, added: "We are delighted to work with Gustave Roussy, a pioneer in cancer research and treatment, to introduce FLASH radiation therapy in France. This collaboration marks a key milestone in our goal to deliver advanced treatment solutions to patients. FLASH radiotherapy has tremendous potential to improve skin cancer patient management and we look forward to this study's results."

Gustave Roussy and THERYQ are committed to pursuing

their joint effort to develop innovative treatments for the benefit of patients, leading to more effective and tolerable radiotherapy thanks to this promising technology.

Gustave Roussy, ranked first in Europe and third worldwide, is a global centre of expertise entirely dedicated to cancer patients. The Institute is a founding pillar of the Paris Saclay Cancer Cluster. As a source of therapeutic innovation and diagnostic breakthroughs, the Institute welcomes nearly 50,000 patients every year and develops an integrated approach combining research, care and teaching. Gustave Roussy provides expert care for rare cancers and complex tumours, treating all cancers at every stage of life. It offers its patients personalized management that combines innovation and a human-focused approach, taking into account care and physical, psychological and social quality of life. Boasting 4,100 employees at two facilities, namely Villejuif and Chevilly-Larue, Gustave Roussy brings together the expertise needed for high-level cancer research, with one quarter of patients included in clinical trials.

THERYQ, a spin-off of PMB-ALCEN located in the south of France, is an innovative medical technology company specializing in particle accelerators and radiotherapy systems. The company has and provides essential expertise in project management, R&D, industrialization and production. THERYQ is part of the Healthcare arm of the ALCEN Group.

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'Damage the strikes will do to entertainment economy is 'a shame'

Movie, TV stars join picket lines in fight over future of Hollywood

LOS ANGELES, July 15, (AP): "Ted Lasso" star Jason Sudeikis, Rosario Dawson and other top movie and TV actors joined picket lines alongside screenwriters Friday on the first full day of a walkout that has become Hollywood's biggest labor fight in decades.

A day after the dispute brought production to a standstill across the entertainment industry, Sudeikis was among the picketers outside NBC in New York pressing for progress following the breakdown of contract talks with studios and streaming services. Dawson, star of the film "Rent" and the "Star Wars" TV series "Ahsoka," joined picketers outside Warner Bros. studios in Burbank, California.

"Lord of the Rings" star Sean Astin marched with chanting protesters outside Netflix's offices in Hollywood. Also present at Netflix were "Titanic" and "Unforgiven" actor Frances Fisher and "The Nanny" star Fran Drescher, who is president of the Screen Actors Guild-American Federation of Television and Radio Artists.

The actors' arrival energized the picket lines outside Netflix, where music blared and the sidewalks were packed with demonstrators. Elsewhere, "Once Upon a Time" actor Ginnifer Goodwin stood with protesters at Paramount Pictures.

The famous faces of Oscar and Emmy winners will likely be seen with some regularity on picket lines in New York and Los Angeles, adding star power to the demonstrations outside studios and corporate offices.

The walkout is the first double-barreled strike by actors and screenwriters in more than six decades.

In recent weeks, many actors made a show of solidarity with the 11,500 writers, who walked out in May. On Thursday, 65,000 members of the actors' union formally joined them on strike.

The two guilds have similar issues with studios and streaming services. They are concerned about contracts keeping up with inflation and about residual payments, which compensate creators and actors for use of their material beyond the original airing, such as in reruns or on streaming services. The unions also want to put up guardrails against the use of artificial intelligence mimicking their work on film and television.

Many on the picket lines took aim at Disney chief executive Bob Iger, who said Wednesday that the damage the strikes will do to the entertainment economy is "a shame."

"I think that when Bob Iger talks about what a shame it is, he needs to remember that in 1980, CEOs like him made 30 times what their lowest worker was making," actor Sean Gunn, who starred in "Guardians of the Galaxy," said outside Netflix.

Now Iger "makes 400 times what his lowest worker is. And I think that's a shame, Bob. And maybe you should take a look in the mirror and ask yourself, 'Why is that?'"

History

No talks are planned, and no end is in sight for the work stoppage. It is the first time both guilds have walked off sets since 1960, when then-actor Ronald Reagan was SAG's leader.

"What we won in 1960 was our health and pension plans and the existence of residuals. That was the most important strike in LA union history, and now we're on strike together again, and honestly, this strike is even bigger," Adam Conover, host of the TV series "Adam Ruins Everything" and member of the Writers Guild negotiating committee, said outside Netflix. "We're going to win. If you are gaining momentum

like we are, 70-odd days into a strike, you are going to win."

Conover was one of many picketers, including Sudeikis, who are members of both unions.

The Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers, which represents employers including Disney, Netflix, Amazon and others, has lamented the walkout, saying it will hurt thousands of workers in industries that support film and television production.

The actors' strike will affect more than filming. Stars will no longer be allowed to promote their work through red carpet premieres or personal appearances. They cannot campaign for Emmy awards or take part in auditions or rehearsals.

The strike triggered cancellations of red carpet events scheduled for next week for "Special Ops: Lioness," starring Zoe Saldana and Nicole Kidman, and Christopher Nolan's "Oppenheimer."

A "Haunted Mansion" premiere event at Disneyland on Saturday was set to go on as planned, but with no actors in attendance to promote the film.

Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass said it was clear that the entertainment industry "is at a historic inflection point." She urged all parties to work around the clock until an agreement is reached.

"This affects all of us and is essential to our overall economy," Bass said in a statement.

The writers' strike had already stopped much of television production, and the actors joining them immediately led to a shooting shutdown for many major films, including "Deadpool 3," "Gladiator 2" and the eighth installment of Tom Cruise's "Mission Impossible" series. All are scheduled for release next year.

Film

Variety



This image released by Universal Pictures shows Cillian Murphy in a scene from 'Oppenheimer.' (AP)

Film

'Oppenheimer' an ambitious story to tell

Nolan builds a thrilling blockbuster

NEW YORK, July 15, (AP): Christopher Nolan has never been one to take the easy or straightforward route while making a movie.

He shoots on large-format film with large, cumbersome cameras to get the best possible cinematic image. He prefers practical effects over computer-generated ones and real locations over soundstages - even when that means recreating an atomic explosion in the harsh winds of the New Mexico desert in the middle of the night for "Oppenheimer," out July 21.

Though, despite internet rumors, they did not detonate an actual nuclear weapon.

And as for the biography that inspired his newest film, Kai Bird and Martin J. Sherwin's riveting, linear narrative "American Prometheus" was simply the starting point from which Nolan crafted a beguiling labyrinth of suspense and drama.

It's why, in his two decades working in Hollywood, Nolan has become a franchise unto himself - the rare auteur writer-director who makes films that are both intellectually stimulating and commercial, accounting for more than \$5 billion in box office receipts. That combination is part of the reason why he's able to attract Oscar winners and movie stars not just to headline his films, but also to turn out for just a scene or two.

"We've all been so intoxicated by his films," said Emily Blunt, who plays J. Robert Oppenheimer's wife, Kitty. "That exploration of huge themes in an entertaining way doesn't happen. It just doesn't happen. That depth, the depth of the material, and yet on this massive epic scale."

In the vast and complex story of the brilliant theoretical physicist who oversaw the Manhattan Project and the development of the atomic bomb during World War II, Nolan saw exciting possibilities to play with genre and form. There was the race to develop it before the Germans did, espionage, romance, domestic turmoil, a courtroom drama, bruised egos, political machinations, communist panic, and the burden of having created something that could destroy the world.

And then there was the man himself, beloved by most but hated by enough, who, after achieving icon status in American society, saw his reputation and sense of self

annihilated by the very institutions that built him.

"It's such an ambitious story to tell," said Matt Damon, who plays Gen. Leslie Groves Jr. "Reading the script, I had the same feeling I had when I read 'Interstellar,' which was: 'This is great. How the hell is he going to do this?'"

It's not so disconnected from Nolan's other films, either. As critic Tom Shone noted in his book about the director, "Looked at one way, Nolan's films are all allegories of men who first find their salvation in structure only to find themselves betrayed or engulfed by it."

Nolan turned to Cillian Murphy to take on the gargantuan task of portraying Oppenheimer. Murphy had already acted in five Nolan films, including the Batman trilogy, "Dunkirk" and "Inception," but this would be his first time as a lead - something he had secretly pined for.

"You feel a responsibility, but then a great hunger and excitement to try and do it, to see where you can get," said Murphy, who prepped extensively for six months before filming, working closely with Nolan throughout. "It was an awful lot of work, but I loved it. There is this kind of frisson, this energy when you're on a Chris Nolan set about the potential for what you're going to achieve."

Renaissance

It would be an all-consuming role that would require some physical transformation to approximate that famously thin silhouette. A complex, contradictory figure, Oppenheimer emerged from a somewhat awkward youth to become a renaissance man who seemed to carry equal passion for the Bhagavad Gita, Proust, physics, languages, New Mexico, philosophical questions about disarmament and the perfectly mixed martini. But Murphy knew he was in safe hands with Nolan.

"He's the most natural director I've ever worked with. And the notes that he gives to an actor, are quite remarkable. How he can gently bring you to a different place with your performance is quite stunning in such a subtle, low-key, understated way," Murphy said. "It can have a profound effect on the way you look at a scene from one take to another take."

Nolan wrote the main timeline of the film in the first

person, to represent Oppenheimer's subjective experience.

"We want to see everything through Oppenheimer's point of view," Nolan said. "That's a huge challenge for an actor to take on because they're having to worry about the performance, the truth of the performance, but also make sure that that's always open to the audience."

The other timeline, filmed in black and white, is more objective and focused on Lewis Strauss (Robert Downey Jr.), a founding member of the Atomic Energy Commission and a supporter of the development of the more destructive hydrogen bomb.

"Oppenheimer" is Nolan's first R-rated film since 2002's "Insomnia," which after years of working exclusively in PG-13, he's comfortable with. It fits the gravity of the material.

"We're dealing with the most serious and adult story you could imagine - very important, dramatic events that changed the world and defined the world we live in today," Nolan said. "You don't want to compromise in any way."

Much of the filming took place in New Mexico, including at the real Los Alamos laboratory where thousands of scientists, technicians and their families lived and worked for two years in the effort to develop the bomb. Nolan enlisted many of his frequent behind-the-scenes collaborators, including his wife and producer Emma Thomas, cinematographer Hoyte Van Hoytema, composer Ludwig Goransson and special effects supervisors Scott Fisher and Andrew Jackson, as well as some newcomers like production designer Ruth de Jong and costume designer Ellen Mirojnick to help bring this world to life.

"It was a very focused set - fun set as well, not too serious. But the work was serious, the sweating of the details was serious," Blunt said. "Everyone needs to kind of match Chris' excellence, or want to."

When it came to recreating the Trinity test, Oppenheimer's chosen name for the first nuclear detonation, art and life blended in a visceral way.

"We wanted to put the audience there in that bunker," Nolan said. "That meant really trying to make these things as beautiful and frightening and awe inspiring as they would have been to the people at the time."

Features

ARABIC TIMES

SUNDAY, JULY 16, 2023

MEMPHIS, Tenn: A judge on Friday set a trial date for two men charged in the killing of rapper Young Dolph in a daytime ambush at a bakery in Memphis, Tennessee.

Justin Johnson and Cornelius Smith are scheduled to stand trial March 11 in the fatal shooting of the Memphis-born rapper, Shelby County Criminal Court Judge Lee Coffee said during a hearing.

Johnson and Smith have pleaded not guilty to charges including first-degree murder in the November 2021 shooting of Young Dolph, whose real name was Adolph Thornton Jr. A motive for the killing has not been disclosed.

The 36-year-old rapper, label owner and producer was buying cookies near his boyhood home in Memphis when he was gunned down by two men who drove up to the bakery in a stolen Mercedes Benz, authorities said. The slaying rattled Memphis and shook the entertainment world.

Two other men have been charged in the killing.

Jermarcus Johnson, the half brother of Justin Johnson, pleaded guilty June 9 to three counts of accessory after the fact, and he could testify at the trial.

Jermarcus Johnson acknowledged that he helped the two suspects communicate by cellphone after the killing while they were on the run from authorities, and that he helped one of them communicate with his probation officer after the killing.

During questioning by prosecutor Paul Hagerman, he also acknowledged taking possession of a car from Justin Johnson. The car was not the one tied to the killing, Hagerman said. Jermarcus Johnson also identified a photo in which Justin Johnson was wearing the same clothing as one of the two shooters accused of gunning down Young Dolph the day the rapper was killed.

After Jermarcus Johnson's plea hearing, Hagerman said he had no role in the actual killing of Young Dolph, but that he was one of "multiple players" who did things connected to it. (AP)

LONDON: Kevin Spacey denied that grabbing men by his "trademark" pickup move as he became testy under questioning Friday by the prosecutor at his assault trial in

a London courtroom.

In a heated exchange that required intervention by the judge, Spacey was asked about allegations he aggressively grabbed a man backstage at a charity event in a theater.

"Absolute...!" Spacey replied to titters from the gallery in the packed courtroom.

"Yes, because that's exactly



Spacey



Young Dolph

where you did grab him, isn't it?" Prosecutor Christine Agnew snapped back.

"Really?" Spacey said as he looked up in disbelief at Justice Mark Wall. "Did he accuse me of grabbing?"

Someone said, "Yes," and Wall told him to answer the prosecutor's question.

"I did not," Spacey said.

The two-time Oscar winner stuck to his testimony from a day earlier in which he insisted he never sexually assaulted three of the four accusers who described disturbing encounters between 2001 and 2013.

Spacey was irritable at moments and laughed off other questions in his final chance to win over jurors in a case that could affect whether he's able to make a comeback

after misconduct accusations derailed his once-stellar career.

The 63-year-old American, who is identified in court by his full name, Kevin Spacey Fowler, has pleaded not guilty to a dozen charges that include sexual and indecent assault counts and one count of causing a person to engage in activity without consent. He could face a prison term if convicted. (AP)

People & Places

People

Inspired by protests

Mirren in Jerusalem for new film 'Golda'

JERUSALEM, July 15, (AP): **Helen Mirren**, who plays Israel's first female prime minister in her latest film, says she has been inspired by the widespread protests underway against the country's current premier, Benjamin Netanyahu.

Mirren, who portrays the late Golda Meir during the 1973 war between Israel and a coalition of Arab states in "Golda," is visiting an Israel similarly beset by crisis as mass demonstrations take place against Netanyahu's plan to overhaul the country's judicial system.

Mirren told a news conference before the opening of the Jerusalem Film Festival that she is inspired by the protests.

"I'm personally very moved and excited when you see these huge demonstrations," she said. "I think it's a pivotal moment in Israeli history."



Mirren

Netanyahu's coalition government, which took office in December, is the most hard-line ultranationalist and ultra-Orthodox in Israel's 75-year history.

For over six months, hundreds of thousands of people have taken to the streets to protest the proposed judicial overhaul. Netanyahu's allies say the plan is needed to rein in the powers of an unelected judiciary. His opponents say it is a thinly veiled power grab that will destroy the country's fragile system of checks and balances.

Mirren contrasted the leadership of Meir - who often served coffee to her military advisers as they convened in her kitchen to discuss strategy - with that of Netanyahu, who has a reputation for being aloof and out of touch with everyday Israelis.

"She had immense power, but she was perfectly happy to toddle around in the kitchen, making everyone coffee and being the grandmother," Mirren said. "It's a very different attitude toward power - from the male, Netanyahu type of power to the Golda Meir kitchen power."

Mirren's visit also comes at a time when Netanyahu's government is moving to deepen its hold on the West Bank. His government has approved plans for thousands of homes in West Bank settlements, and tensions with the Palestinians are rising.

Attacks

Over 150 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli fire this year in the occupied West Bank, and Palestinian attacks targeting Israelis have killed at least 25 people. Israel says most of the Palestinians who were killed were militants, though stone-throwers and people uninvolved in violence have also been among the dead.

Some of Netanyahu's allies are West Bank settler leaders who have sought to deny the national aspirations of Palestinians, a sentiment which Meir famously expressed in 1969.

"There was no such thing as Palestinians," Meir said in an interview with the Sunday Times. Echoed Meir recently, stating, "there is no such thing as a Palestinian people."

Lior Ashkenazi, the Israeli actor who plays the head of the Israeli army in the film, said he thought Meir would support efforts to annex the West Bank.

"Even though she was a socialist," Ashkenazi said, "I think she would definitely support the settlers."

The film, directed by Guy Nattiv and written by Nicholas Martin, focuses on Meir's leadership during the 1973 Mideast war, when a coalition of Arab states led by Egypt and Syria launched an attack on Israel on Yom Kippur, the holiest day of the Jewish calendar.

Under the leadership of Meir and Israeli military officials, Israel emerged victorious from the war, its forces standing within 70 miles (120 kilometers) of the Egyptian capital of Cairo. The war's outcome laid the groundwork for a peace agreement between Israel and Egypt.

But Israel suffered heavy losses during the war, and Meir was criticized for the government's lack of preparation and refusing to act on intelligence indicating an attack was imminent. Meir resigned the following year, and the national trauma in the wake of the war set off a process that would bring the right-wing Likud party, which Netanyahu currently leads, to power in 1977.

Mirren, a British-born actor, has won both Oscar and Emmy awards for performances ranging from Queen Elizabeth II in "The Queen," and Sofia Tolstoy in "The Last Station."

Also:

PROVIDENCE, R.I.: An actor and model who had roles in the soap opera "Guiding Light" and movies including "The Hunger Games: Catching Fire" says in a lawsuit that she was sexually harassed by the owner of a Rhode Island resort where she had been hired to work as a consultant.

Alison McDaniel's lawsuit, filed this week in federal court in Rhode Island, seeks more than \$3.3 million in damages and unpaid back wages.

McDaniel, 42, was subjected to "repeated sexual advances including attempts to kiss her on the mouth, requests for sexual favors, inappropriate touching, ogling with suggestive overtones, and verbal and physical harassment of a sexual nature" by **Paul Mihailides**, owner of The Preserve Sporting Club & Residences, in **Richmond**, she says in the lawsuit.

An attorney for Mihailides disputed the claims. "Sexual harassment in the workplace is unacceptable at any level and The Preserve holds all who work there in any capacity to a high standard," attorney **Nicole Benjamin** said in a statement. "It is important to keep in mind a lawsuit is not made of facts, but rather allegations that must be proven. In this case, the defendants are confident that a jury will ultimately reject the allegations made by Ms. McDaniel."

McDaniel was paid for all the work she did, and a discrimination complaint she filed with the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission was dismissed and closed, Benjamin said.

Mihailides also told guests that McDaniel was his "mistress," "future ex-wife," and "girlfriend," she says in the lawsuit.

When McDaniel refused Mihailides' sexual advances, he retaliated against her by refusing to reimburse her for expenses, the suit says.

McDaniel was told by another Preserve employee that Mihailides insinuated to others that he and McDaniel were involved in a sexual relationship, and Mihailides often told McDaniel that he was having multiple extramarital affairs, which she found "unwelcome and offensive," she says in the lawsuit.



This image released by Boneau/Bryan-Brown shows Lea Salonga as Aurora Aquino, center, during a performance of 'Here Lies Love,' opening July 20 at the Broadway Theatre in New York. (AP)

Stage

Filipino musical legend Salonga back on Broadway

1st all-Filipino cast in 'Here Lies Love'

LOS ANGELES, July 15, (AP): Lea Salonga is back on the stage where her Broadway journey first began. But she isn't playing someone Vietnamese or Chinese or Japanese at the Broadway Theatre.

For the first time in her storied career, the Filipino musical legend is actually playing a Filipino. What's more, she is surrounded by an all-Filipino cast and she is part of a team of mostly Filipino producers that includes singer H.E.R., comedian Jo Koy and Black Eyed Peas' Apl.de.Ap.

Even when she was the lead at the same theater in "Miss Saigon" in 1991 and acted her way to a Tony Award, Salonga never imagined a Filipino-dominated production would become reality. She's topped other all-Asian Broadway casts ("Flower Drum Song," "Allegiance") but Filipino culture was never the one spotlighted.

"There's absolutely no 'effing way that I would have seen this happening. Ever," Salonga told The Associated Press in an interview earlier this month. "So, for it to be happening while I'm still actually strong enough to be on my feet and be a part of it, I'm just incredibly grateful."

The anticipation of getting to play a Filipino character for the first time is something shared by the entire company of "Here Lies Love." The first Broadway show with an all-Filipino ensemble opens July 20, a decade after it played off-Broadway.

But this isn't some light and airy musical. It chronicles the dictatorship of Philippines President Ferdinand Marcos in the 1970s and '80s and the pro-democracy People Power Revolution movement. Jose Llana, who was in the original iteration, and Arielle Jacobs play the dictator and first lady Imelda Marcos.

Musicians David Byrne and Fatboy Slim provide the soundtrack. The theater is laid out like a nightclub complete with disco ball. Audiences can choose to join

or be in a standing-only area, making them feel a part of the party.

The praise for the groundbreaking representation has nearly been eclipsed by criticism, a lot of it from other Filipinos, arguing that the Marcos regime should not be musical fodder. This comes over a year after Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. was proclaimed president in the Philippines. He has ignored his father's massive human rights violations.

Salonga has vivid memories of watching news reports with her parents at home in the Philippines as the anti-Marcos People Power Revolution instigated a government overthrow. She also had friends who were out there in the chaos. So she understands why some people may have reservations about the show.

Confidence

But "Here Lies Love" is more about the sacrifices made by anti-Marcos leaders like Ninoy Aquino (played by "How to Get Away with Murder" star Conrad Ricamora), she argues. August will mark 40 years since Aquino was assassinated at the airport in Manila, creating a flashpoint in the movement.

"It seems to be more of him and how his death sparked this anger and rage in a country and how it led to the People Power Revolution and how that led to the ousting of the Marcoses," said Salonga, who plays Aquino's mother, Aurora. "I come away with feeling hopeful when the show comes down. Because I saw in real time what was happening."

Llana, who was born in Manila but raised in the U.S., is playing the man who drove his family to flee their country.

When he told his parents 10 years ago he'd be portraying Marcos off-Broadway, they watched the show without hesitation and liked it enough to make repeat visits. A decade later, they'll be there for opening night on Broadway.

"They know that I would never be a part of the show that glorified the Marcoses," Llana said. "Telling the history of the Philippines, sometimes it's not easy... When history repeats itself is when you don't talk about it and when you don't remember the bad things that happened. And that's really what our show is about."

In fact, after all these years, Llana's confidence in the show has only grown.

"There's less fear of whether it's going to work," said Llana, who was Salonga's love interest in "Flower Drum Song" over 20 years ago. "Now, it's just about polishing it and really fine-tuning the story and really resting into the new elements, which are our Filipino producers, Clint Kamos and Jose Antonio Vargas."

Arielle Jacobs, known for lead Broadway roles in "Aladdin" and "In the Heights," recently unearthed old emails from when she auditioned for the off-Broadway production.

"The feedback my agent was told from the casting director was they loved my audition, it's not going to work out right now but maybe potentially for future productions," Jacobs said. "That's so funny because at the time they didn't even know when or if it might come to Broadway."

Being in the show has helped Jacobs not be as "naive about the history." She has been doing research on her own to try and not make her Imelda one-dimensional. Born in San Francisco, Jacobs said her Filipino mother didn't really talk about the Marcos' era. But, nobody cried more happy tears than her mom when Jacobs landed this role.

Her mother was "just so proud that I'm getting to tell the story and lead this company and play a Filipino and a Filipino story." Since childhood, Jacobs and her brother, Adam (also a Broadway actor), always got so-called "ethnic" theater parts from Puerto Rican to Middle Eastern because of their half-white, half-Asian makeup.



Actor Rosario Dawson, (right), takes a selfie at rally with a fellow participant at a picket line outside Warner Bros. studios in Burbank, Calif., on Friday, July 14. This marks the first day actors formally joined the picket lines, more than two months after screenwriters began striking in their bid to get better pay and working conditions and have clear guidelines around the use of AI in film and television productions. (AP) — **Details Page 11**



Watts



Presley

Variety

LOS ANGELES: Lisa Marie Presley died after developing a small bowel obstruction, a severe complication of bariatric surgery years ago, according to an autopsy report released Thursday. Experts say these types of complications are a known but rare risk after having weight-loss surgery. Here's what to know:

The 54-year-old singer-songwriter and daughter of **Elvis Presley** was rushed to a Los Angeles-area hospital on Jan. 12 after being found unresponsive at home and died hours later.

The cause of death was from complications of a small bowel obstruction tied to previous bariatric surgery, the autopsy showed. Portions of Presley's bowel became trapped, or "strangulated," from scar tissue that formed following surgery, and she also had developed a severe buildup of acids in her blood.

Bariatric surgeries are operations performed on the stomach or intestines to spur weight loss. They're usually done in cases of moderate or severe obesity when other methods haven't worked.

There are several types of bariatric procedures, including those in which a portion of the stomach is removed or rerouted or when a band is placed around a part of the stomach to make it smaller.

It's not clear from the autopsy report which type of surgery Presley had, though experts said it was not a sleeve gastrectomy, which is the most common procedure.

About 263,000 bariatric surgeries were done in 2021, according to **Dr. Marina Kurian**, the president of the American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery. Only about 1% of people who qualify for the surgery receive it. (AP)

BLOOMINGTON, Ind.: Pianist **André**

Watts, whose televised debut with the New York Philharmonic as a 16-year-old in 1963 launched an international career of more than a half-century, has died. He

was 77.

Watts died Wednesday at his home in Bloomington of prostate cancer, his manager, **Linda Marder**, said Friday.



Wes Borland, (left), and Fred Durst of Limp Bizkit perform at Inkarceration Music and Tattoo Festival on July 14, at the Ohio State Reformatory in Mansfield, Ohio. (AP)

Watts joined the faculty of the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music in 2004. He said in 2016 that he had been diagnosed with prostate cancer.

Watts won a Philadelphia Orchestra student competition and debuted when he was 10 in a children's concert on Jan. 12, 1957, performing the first movement of Haydn's Concerto in D major.

He studied under **Genia Robinov** and made his New York Philharmonic debut in a Young People's Concert led by music director **Leonard Bernstein** on Jan. 12, 1963, a program televised three days later on CBS.

"Now we come to a young man who is so remarkable that I am tempted to give him a tremendous buildup, but I'd almost rather not so that you might have the same unexpected shock of pleasure and wonderment that I had when I first him play," Bernstein told the audience. "He was just another in a long procession of pianists who were auditioning for us one afternoon and out he came, a sensitive-faced 16-year-old boy from Philadelphia ... who sat down at the piano and tore into the opening bars of a Liszt concerto in such a way that we simply flipped."

Bernstein conducted Watts and the orchestra in Liszt's Piano Concerto No. 1. (AP)

Health

No age limits on sales

First OTC birth control pill gets FDA approval

WASHINGTON, July 15, (AP): Federal regulators on Thursday approved the nation's first over-the-counter birth control pill in a landmark decision that will soon allow American women and girls to obtain contraceptive medication as easily as they buy aspirin and eyedrops.

The Food and Drug Administration cleared once-a-day Opill to be sold without a prescription, making it the first such medication to be moved out from behind the pharmacy counter. The manufacturer, Ireland-based Perrigo, won't start shipping the pill until early next year, and there will be no age restrictions on sales.

Hormone-based pills have long been the most common form of birth control in the US, used by tens of millions of women since the 1960s. Until now, all of them required a prescription.

Medical societies and women's health groups have pushed for wider access for decades, noting that an estimated 45% of the 6 million annual pregnancies in the US are unintended. Teens and girls, women of color and those with low incomes report greater hurdles in getting prescriptions and picking them up.

The challenges can include paying for a doctor's visit, getting time off from work and finding child care.

"This is really a transformation in access to contraceptive care," said Kelly Blanchard, president of Ibis Reproductive Health, a nonprofit group that supported the approval. "Hopefully this will help people overcome those barriers that exist now."

Perrigo says Opill could be an important new option for the estimated 15 million US women who currently use no birth control or less effective methods, such as condoms. They are a fifth of women who are child-bearing age.

But how many women will actually gain access depends on the medication's price, which Perrigo plans to announce later this year.

"The reason why so many of us worked tirelessly for years to get over-the-counter birth control pills is to improve access ... cost shouldn't be one of those barriers," said Dr. Pratima Gupta of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists.

Most older birth control pills cost \$15 to \$30 for a month's supply without insurance coverage.

Option

Over-the-counter medicines are generally much cheaper than prescriptions, but they typically aren't covered by insurance.

Forcing insurers to cover over-the-counter birth control would require a regulatory change by the federal government, which women's advocates are urging the Biden administration to implement.

The FDA approval gives US women another birth control option amid the legal and political battles over reproductive health, including last year's reversal of Roe v. Wade, which has upended abortion access across the US.

That said, Opill's approval is unrelated to the ongoing court battles over the abortion pill mifepristone. And anti-abortion groups have generally emphasized that they do not oppose contraceptives, which are used to prevent pregnancies, not end them.

However, that has done little to ease fears that contraception could someday become a target. When the Supreme Court overturned Roe, Justice Clarence Thomas wrote a separate opinion in which he explicitly called on his colleagues to put the high court's same-sex marriage, gay sex and contraception cases on the table.

In the last year, the FDA has faced pressure from Democratic politicians, health advocates and medical professionals to improve access to birth control. The American Medical Association and other leading medical groups backed Opill's application for over-the-counter status.

Birth control pills are available without a prescription across much of South America, Asia and Africa.

Perrigo submitted years of research to the FDA to show that women could understand and follow instructions for using the pill. Thursday's approval came despite some concerns by FDA scientists about the company's results, including whether women with certain underlying medical conditions would understand that they shouldn't take the drug.

The FDA's action only applies to Opill. It's in an older class of contraceptives, sometimes called minipills, that contain a single synthetic hormone and generally carry fewer side effects than more popular combination hormone pills.

Women's health advocates hope the decision paves the way for more over-the-counter birth control options and, eventually, for abortion pills to do the same.

An outside panel of FDA advisers unanimously voted in favor of the switch at a hearing in May where dozens of public speakers called for Opill's approval.

Dyvia Huitron was among those who presented, explaining how she has been unable to get prescription birth control more than three years after becoming sexually active. The 19-year-old University of Alabama student said she still isn't comfortable getting a prescription because the school's health system reports medical exams and medications to parents.

"My parents did not let me go on the pill," Huitron said in a recent interview. "There was just a lot of cultural stigma around being sexually active before you're married."

While she uses other forms of contraception, "I would have much preferred to have birth control and use these additional methods to ensure that I was being as safe as possible."

Advocates were particularly interested in Opill because it raised fewer safety concerns. The pill was first approved in the US five decades ago.

"It's been around a long time, and we have a large amount of data supporting that this pill is safe and effective for over-the-counter use," Blanchard said.

Newer birth control pills typically combine two hormones, estrogen and progestin, which can help make periods lighter and more regular. But their use carries a heightened risk of blood clots, and they shouldn't be used by women at risk for heart problems, such as those who smoke and are over 35.

Opill has only progestin, which prevents pregnancy by blocking sperm from reaching the cervix. It must be taken around the same time daily to be most effective.

In its internal review published in May, the FDA noted that some women in Perrigo's study had trouble understanding the drug's labeling information. In particular, the instructions warn that women with a history of breast cancer should not take the pill because it could spur tumor growth.

Common side effects include irregular vaginal bleeding, headaches, dizziness and cramps, according to the FDA. The label also cautions that certain drugs can interfere with Opill's effectiveness, including medications for seizures, HIV and hypertension.

Also:

MISHAWAKA, Ind.: Northern Indiana police have asked state officials to revoke the license of an addiction treatment center where three patients recently died within a week, saying that the less than year-old center is endangering its residents and placing a strain on law enforcement.

The St. Joseph County Police Department said in a letter to state officials that Sheriff **Bill Redman** wants the Indiana Division of Mental Health and Addiction to investigate Praxis Landmark Recovery's 160-bed facility and requests that its license be revoked, the South Bend Tribune reported.

"The facility is a large drain on our county first responder resources and is harmful to its patients and our community," county police spokesman **Troy Warner** wrote to **Jay Chaudhary**, director of the state office.

The request for state action comes as county police and the coroner's office are investigating three deaths and two suspected overdoses in the past two weeks at the all-male drug and alcohol rehabilitation center, which opened last August in Mishawaka, a city adjacent to South Bend.



Indian spacecraft Chandrayaan-3, the word for 'moon craft' in Sanskrit, travels after it was launched from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, India, Friday, July 14. The Indian spacecraft blazed its way to the far side of the moon Friday in a follow-up mission to its failed effort nearly four years ago to land a rover softly on the lunar surface, the country's space agency said. A successful landing would make India the fourth country, after the United States, the Soviet Union, and China, to achieve the feat. (AP)

Space

Chandrayaan-3 to explore moon's south pole

India launches its moon mission

SRIHARIKOTA, India, July 15, (AP): An Indian spacecraft blazed its way toward the far side of the moon Friday in a follow-up mission to its failed effort nearly four years ago to land a rover on the lunar surface, the country's space agency said.

Chandrayaan-3, the word for "moon craft" in Sanskrit, took off from a launchpad in Sriharikota in southern India with an orbiter, a lander and a rover, in a demonstration of India's emerging space technology. The spacecraft embarked on a journey that is expected to last slightly over a month before landing on the moon's surface later in August.

Applause and cheers swept through mission control at Satish Dhawan Space Center, where the Indian Space Research Organization's engineers and scientists celebrated as they monitored the launch of the spacecraft. Thousands of Indians cheered outside the mission control center and waved the national flag as they watched the spacecraft rise into the sky.

"Congratulations India. Chandrayaan-3 has started its journey towards the moon," ISRO Director Sreedhara Panicker Somanath said shortly after the launch.

A successful landing would make India the fourth country - after the United States, the former Soviet Union, and China - to achieve the feat.

The six-wheeled lander and rover module of Chandrayaan-3 is configured with payloads that would provide data to the scientific community on the properties of lunar soil and rocks, including chemical and elemental compositions, said Dr. Jitendra Singh, junior minister for Science and Technology.

India's previous attempt to land a robotic spacecraft near the moon's little-explored south pole ended in failure in 2019. It entered the lunar orbit but lost touch with its lander that crashed while making its final descent to deploy a rover to search for signs of water. According to a failure analysis report submitted to the ISRO, the crash was caused by a software glitch.

The \$140-million mission in 2019 was intended to study permanently shadowed moon craters that

are thought to contain water deposits and were confirmed by India's Chandrayaan-1 mission in 2008.

Somanath said the main objective of the mission this time was a safe and soft landing on the moon. He said the Indian space agency has perfected the art of reaching up to the moon, "but it is the landing that the agency is working on."

Numerous countries and private companies are in a race to successfully land a spacecraft on the lunar surface. In April, a Japanese company's spacecraft apparently crashed while attempting to land on the moon. An Israeli nonprofit tried to achieve a similar feat in 2019, but its spacecraft was destroyed on impact.

Technologies

With nuclear-armed India emerging as the world's fifth-largest economy, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's nationalist government is eager to show off the country's prowess in security and technology.

"Chandrayaan-3 scripts a new chapter in India's space odyssey. It soars high, elevating the dreams and ambitions of every Indian," Modi said in a tweet after the launch.

India is using research from space and elsewhere to solve problems at home. Its space program has already helped develop satellite, communication and remote-sensing technologies and has been used to gauge underground water levels and predict weather in the country, which is prone to cycles of drought and flood.

"This is a very critical mission," said Pallava Bagla, a science writer and co-author of books on India's space exploration, adding that India will require soft landing technology if it wants to attempt more missions to the moon.

India is also looking forward to its first mission to the International Space Station next year, in collaboration with the United States as part of agreements between Modi and US President Joe Biden at the White House last month.

This one-off visit by an Indian astronaut to the International Space Station will not hamper India's own program,

which aims to launch an Indian astronaut from Indian soil on an Indian rocket in late 2024, Bagla said.

As part of its own space program, active since the 1960s, India has launched satellites for itself and other countries, and successfully put one in orbit around Mars in 2014.

Singh said that based on the current trajectory of growth, India's space sector could be a trillion-dollar economy in the coming years.

As of April, India has launched 424 satellites for 34 countries, including Israel, the United Arab Emirates, Kazakhstan, the Netherlands, Belgium and Germany. The ISRO has earned approximately 1.1 billion rupees (\$13.4 million) in the past five years from the launch of foreign satellites, the minister told India's Parliament in December.

The GSLV Mark 3, which is considered the most powerful rocket of India Space Research Organization (ISRO), lifted off from the third launch pad at Sriharikota in the South Indian state of Andhra Pradesh at 2:35 PM local time as planned.

The ISRO announced successful launching as the 43.5-metre tall rocket weighing 642 ton completed three stages before separating Chandrayaan 3 just 16 minutes after takeoff.

Also:

TOKYO: A rocket being developed by the Japanese space agency exploded during testing on Friday, but there were no reports of injuries, the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency said.

The cause of the accident at the facility in Akita Prefecture, northeastern Japan, was still being investigated, the agency, JAXA, said. It was unclear when testing for the Epsilon S rocket could resume.

Japanese TV news footage from the site shows the test starting normally, with white smoke shooting out at the side. About a minute later, flames and gray smoke burst upward in an explosion, and the roof is seen blowing off a building.

The failure is a setback for JAXA's ambitions to enter fully into the launch market for small satellites, a market that is expected to grow.



This illustration provided by Perrigo in May 2023, depicts proposed packaging for the company's birth control medication Opill. US officials have approved the first over-the-counter birth control pill, a major change that will broaden access for women and teenagers. The Food and Drug Administration decision on Thursday, July 13, means drugmaker Perrigo can sell its once-a-day Opill without a prescription. (AP)



Paul



Grawe

Discovery

Prime to be recalled in Canada: A caffeinated energy drink being promoted by American social media influencers is set to be recalled in Canada.

Health Canada said that at 200 milligram of caffeine per can, Prime Energy exceeds the regulator's acceptable caffeine limit of 180 milligram per serving and should not be sold.

US Sen Charles Schumer called on the Food and Drug Administration to investigate PRIME, a beverage brand founded by the YouTube stars **Logan Paul** and **KSI** that has become something of an obsession among the influencers' legions of young followers.

Health Canada said it's aware that some shops may be selling Prime Energy - which is different from the widely available Prime Hydration drink - without approval.

It said caffeinated energy drinks are considered supplemented food and are therefore regulated by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency.

Both agencies are working to address the issue, Health Canada said in an email.

Prime Hydration is the non-caffeinated and bottled version of the canned beverage Prime Energy. They are among multiple other brands of energy drinks popular among children and teens.

Backed by two of YouTube's best known stars, PRIME was an immediate sensation when it launched last year, prompting long lines.

Advertising itself as zero sugar and vegan, the neon-colored cans are among a growing number of energy drinks with elevated levels of caffeine; in PRIME's case, 200 milligrams per 12 ounces, equivalent to about half a dozen Coke cans or nearly two Red Bulls. (AP)

Also:

Dr Roxy banned in Ohio: An Ohio plastic surgeon's state medical license was permanently revoked after a medical board determined she harmed patients while livestreaming their surgeries on the social media app TikTok.

The Ohio Medical Board voted to ban **Katharine Grawe** - also known as Dr Roxy in her plastic surgery practice "Roxy Plastic Surgery" and to her many TikTok followers - from ever practicing again in the state.

The board said Grawe, who originally had her license suspended in November, neglected her patients as she livestreamed parts of their procedures, spoke into a camera and answered viewer questions - all while the surgeries were taking place.

Neither Grawe nor her lawyers responded to messages seeking comment. Grawe's TikTok account is currently private.

The board warned Grawe about her actions as early as 2018, citing concerns over patient privacy and possible ethics

violations, according to a previous board suspension notice.

The notice also listed three patients of Grawe's who suffered severe complications and needed intense medical care after she operated on them. One woman's

intestine was found to be perforated a week after her surgery, a procedure that Grawe partially livestreamed on TikTok.

The unnamed patient suffered severe damage to and bacterial infections in her abdomen, as well as loss of brain function



In this image provided by the Nevada Department of Wildlife, a Dixie Valley toad sits atop grass in Dixie Valley, Nev., on April 6, 2009. Interior Department officials have decided to 'revisit' the 2021 environmental review that cleared the way for construction of a geothermal power plant in Nevada where an endangered toad lives, a victory for environmentalists and tribal leaders suing to block the project. (AP)

from the amount of toxins in her blood, according to the notice. (AP)

Also:

Sea turtle to join race: A juvenile green sea turtle rehabilitated at the Florida Keys-based Turtle Hospital was fitted with a satellite-tracking transmitter and released Friday to join an online race that follows long-distance migrations of sea turtles.

The Tour de Turtles, now in its 16th year, is organized annually by the Sea Turtle Conservancy. Beginning Aug. 1, the group will track a dozen sea turtles released from beaches in Florida and several Caribbean islands.

"The Tour de Turtles is raising awareness about sea turtles and the threats to their survival," Sea Turtle Conservancy senior research biologist Dr. Dan Evans said. "We are also learning about where they're going, where they're finding food, and what the possible threats to those areas are."

The young green sea turtle named Marcia, who was found floating off the Middle Keys in March, suffered from positive buoyancy disorder. The condition leaves sea turtles unable to dive down for food. Causes include internal infection, gastrointestinal tract obstruction and spinal or lung injuries, sometimes caused by boat strikes.

Officials at the Turtle Hospital treated Marcia, who weighs about 50 pounds (23 kilograms), with broad-spectrum antibiotics, fluids, vitamins and a diet of greens and mixed seafood. (AP)

Argentina top Australia on last-minute try



Argentina celebrate after defeating Australia in their Rugby Championship test match in Sydney, Australia. (AP)

Mavericks cruise past Pacers

Whitmore has Rockets headed to playoffs of Summer League

WASHINGTON, July 15, (AP) — Cam Whitmore, the Houston Rockets' other first-round draft pick, refuses to be overshadowed.

Much of the buzz surrounding the Rockets the past few weeks focused on the addition of No. 4 overall pick Amen Thompson. However, it's been Whitmore — who fell to the 20th spot in the NBA draft — turning heads in the Summer League after Thompson went down with an ankle injury.

Whitmore had 26 points on 11-of-21

BASKETBALL

shooting in Thursday night's win over Golden State, including three 3-pointers and a handful of emphatic dunks. He also had a Summer League record-tying eight steals as the Rockets (4-0) secured one of the four playoff spots.

The Summer League semifinals are Sunday with the championship game on Monday in Las Vegas.

At one point, the 6-foot-7 Whitmore was considered one of the best two-way players in this year's draft and a potential top-five pick after earning Big East Rookie of the Year honors as a freshman at Villanova. He averaged 12.5 points, 5.3 rebounds and 1.4 steals on 47.8% shooting from the field.

There was speculation that medical concerns may have led to Whitmore's slide in the draft, although nothing was made public.

Regardless, Whitmore seems out to prove not only is he healthy but he deserved to be a lottery pick. He's averaging 19.3 points, 6.3 rebounds and 1.9 assists in four games. His 3.5 steals per game are tied for the most in the Summer League.

He's looking like a huge steal for the Rockets.

"The game is slowing down for me," Whitmore said. "My teammates are finding me and I'm finding my teammates. I'm learning the plays and learning where I'm supposed to be on the court."

The Rockets won just 22 games last season, tied for the second-fewest in the league. They wound up picking fourth overall and took Thompson, who figures to be a major part of the rotation.

Wizards 105, Thunder 89

Johnny Davis scored 22 points, first-round pick Bilal Coulibaly added 19 and Washington beat Oklahoma City.

Davis shot 9 of 17, including 3 of 4 from 3-point range, for the Wizards (2-2). Coulibaly, the seventh pick in this year's draft, added four rebounds, four blocks and three assists. Ryan Rollins pitched in with 15 points and seven assists. Dejan Vasiljevic scored 14 points off the bench, hitting 4 of 5



New Orleans Pelicans forward E.J. Liddell (32) shoots against the Charlotte Hornets during an NBA summer league basketball game in Las Vegas. (AP)

shots from distance.

Jared Butler scored 22 points for the Thunder (2-2). Ousmane Dieng added 17 points, five rebounds and five assists. Cason Wallace, the 10th overall pick, hit two 3-pointers and scored 10. Second-round pick Keyontae Johnson had nine points and six boards in a start.

Clippers 102, 76ers 91

Kobe Brown scored 35 points to propel Los Angeles to a victory over Philadelphia.

Brown, the final selection of the first round, shot 13 of 19, including 7 of 10 from beyond the arc, for the Clippers (3-1). He added eight rebounds, four steals and three assists. Xavier Moon scored 17 points. Second-round pick Jordan Miller started, scoring four points with seven rebounds and three assists.

Jaden Springer scored 15 to lead five players in double figures for the 76ers (1-3), who did not have a pick in the draft.

Knicks 97, Celtics 89

Charlie Brown Jr. scored 27 points, Trevor Keels added 20 and New York beat Boston.

Brown made 10 of 16 shots, including 5 of 9 from distance, for the Knicks (2-2). He also had seven rebounds and five assists. Keels did his damage on 7-of-10 shooting with four 3-pointers.

Dalano Banton scored 18 to lead six players in double figures for the Celtics (1-3). Banton added nine rebounds.

Jackson retiring after 10 seasons

CLEVELAND, July 15, (AP) — Former Pro Bowl defensive tackle Malik Jackson is retiring after 10 NFL seasons.

Jackson made the announcement Friday on the NFL Network.

"That was the goal. Ten to 12 years was my goal," Jackson said. "I was able to get to a point where I was doing OK. I was doing pretty well for myself. I did enough. I have a daughter, and I need to go home and be with her and start living life."

Jackson played four seasons in Denver after being a fifth-round pick out of Tennessee in the 2012 NFL draft. He helped the Broncos win Super Bowl 50 in 2016 before moving on to play three seasons in Jacksonville.

SYDNEY, July 15, (AP): A last-minute try by No. 8 Juan Martin Gonzalez lifted Argentina past Australia 34-31 in a dramatic finish to a Rugby Championship match the Wallabies thought they had on Saturday.

Recalled winger Mark Nawaqanitawase scored from a 95-meter intercept try with five minutes remaining to put Australia ahead 31-27.

It marked the first time the Pumas have beaten Australia in successive tests. Argentina won 48-17 in San Juan last August before Dave Rennie was fired as coach and replaced by Eddie Jones after an unsuccessful spring tour of Europe.

RUGBY

Jones faces the prospect of taking the Wallabies to France for the Rugby World Cup without a win unless Australia can rebound in either of their two Bledisloe Cup matches against New Zealand and a warmup against France next month.

Early on, Jones' five team changes from last week's heavy loss to South Africa in Pretoria looked good as Nawaqanitawase, powerhouse center Samu Kerevi and giant lock Will Skelton led the

Wallabies to a 10-0 lead.

A quick tap and sharp footwork from Nawaqanitawase put Australia deep on the attack and, with the Pumas defense stretched, Quade Cooper found Kerevi lurking out wide and the center's inside ball was enough for Len Ikitau to dive over in the corner in the fourth minute.

But Ikitau injured his shoulder while scoring and soon after was sent to hospital for scans. Having no outside backs on the bench forced the Wallabies into a reshuffle with Carter Gordon's introduction at inside center breaking up the potent Cooper-Kerevi midfield partnership.

The entire complexion of the match changed — the Wallabies

attack was clunky and disjointed while Cooper and Gordon, two playmakers, looked vulnerable defensive beside each other.

The Wallabies found themselves hanging on at halftime with a player down following the sinning of lock Richie Arnold for deliberately slowing the ball down.

The Pumas fought their way back through a try to fullback Emiliano Boffelli, who converted and added a penalty to leave the match even at 10-10 at halftime.

The visitors took the lead for the first time when hooker and captain Julian Montoya forced his way over five minutes into the second half before Wallabies halfback

Nic White darted over to level the

scores again.

When winger Mateo Carreras beat a tired Dave Porecki to score out wide in the 68th, Argentina led 26-17. But a Kerevi try, then Nawaqanitawase's solo effort gave the home side an apparent match-winning lead.

But the Wallabies conceded an off-the-ball penalty and Argentina set up an attacking lineout. The Pumas hammered the tryline, trying to burrow through until Gonzalez went over the top of defenders and scored.

"We need to enjoy this win because we worked really hard over the week and bounced back from a tough game," Montoya said.

"We want to be fighting for every ball, every meter and every contact. We know the game is not going to be perfect, there are going to be bad moments. We need to enjoy this win ..."

Australia captain James Slipper, replacing injured regular skipper Michael Hooper, said the penalty count — 14-10 against the home side — hurt them.

"Ill-discipline really hurt us tonight again," Slipper said. "Yellow card, a couple of penalties put us at the wrong end of the field. You can't win test matches playing that sort of rugby. We've got to turn that around."

"There's quite a few of us who have to look at those individual penalties and rectify it quickly. Performances like that, we won't go far at the World Cup."

Gunners strengthen defensive options with Timber signing

Arsenal sign Rice for a deal worth reported \$138 mln

LONDON, July 15, (AP) — England midfielder Declan Rice joined Arsenal for a deal worth a reported 105 million pounds (\$138 million) on Saturday, ending his nine-year association with West Ham.

The fee wasn't officially announced by either club, but West Ham said the 24-year-old Rice was moving for a British-record transfer fee.

Arsenal is reportedly paying an initial fee of 100 million pounds, plus add-ons. That initial fee is the same as the British-record sum that Manchester City paid Aston Villa for Jack Grealish in 2021.

Another England midfielder, Jude Bellingham, joined Real Madrid from Borussia Dortmund this offseason in a deal that could reach more than \$139 million.

It is a statement signing by Arsenal after a season which saw the club narrowly miss out on the Premier League title but re-establish itself as a force in England under Mikel Arteta.

In a message from Rice to West Ham fans, he said it was a "tough" decision driven by his "ambition to play at the very highest level of the game."

Rice will effectively replace Granit Xhaka in Arsenal's midfield options, with the Switzerland international having joined Bayer Leverkusen last week.

Rice can play as a midfield anchor or as a box-to-box player, giving Arteta some versatility as Arsenal looks to build on its second-place finish in the league last season. Only a late-season collapse prevented Arsenal winning its first league title since 2004.

Arsenal will also be playing in the Champions League in the coming season for the first time since 2017.

It is a sign of the progress made by Arsenal under Arteta that the club can attract a sought-after player like Rice, and for such a big fee.

The London club has also signed Germany forward Kai Havertz from Chelsea in a deal worth a reported 65 million pounds, while Jurrien Timber also joined from Ajax to strengthen its defensive options for another run at the Premier League title and its return to the Champions League.

The 22-year-old Timber moved for a fee of 40 million euros (\$45 million), Ajax said. It could rise to 45 million euros (\$50.5 million) with add-ons.

Timber, a ball-playing defender who played for the Netherlands at last year's World Cup in Qatar and was also in the squad for the European Championship in 2021, offers

versatility in being able to play at center back or on the right. Arsenal collapsed late in last season's Premier League title race to finish second behind Manchester City after sustaining some injuries in defense.

"We're really excited that Jurrien has joined us," Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta said. "He is a versatile young defender who will fit into our system and provide our squad with so much added quality."

Timber, who joined Ajax's academy in 2014, won league titles with the team in 2021 and '22.

Arsenal could also announce the signing of England midfielder Declan Rice imminently from West Ham. The club has already brought from Chelsea this offseason in a deal worth a reported 65 million

pounds (\$82 million).



France's Ousmane Dembele (background), and Morocco's Yahia Atiyat Allah challenge for the ball during the World Cup semifinal soccer match between France and Morocco at the Al Bayt Stadium in Al Khor, Qatar, on Dec. 14, 2022. Nigeria and South Africa were drawn in the same World Cup qualifying group in a reshaped African competition that will lead to at least nine teams at the 2026 showpiece in the U.S., Canada and Mexico. (AP)

Premier League newcomer Luton signed former Manchester United winger Tahith Chong from Birmingham for a reported 4 million pounds (\$5.25 million).

Chong was at Birmingham for two years, the first being on loan.

Leipzig signed Belgium forward Loïs Openda from French team Lens for the Bundesliga club's record transfer on Friday.

The 23-year-old Openda signed a five-year deal and will wear the No. 17 shirt, Leipzig announced.

Leipzig was reportedly paying 38 million euros (\$42.7 million) to Lens for the attacker, the largest sum it has paid for any player since

SOCCER

it was founded by energy drinks manufacturer Red Bull in 2009.

Leipzig's biggest incoming transfer was previously Naby Keita's arrival from sister club Red Bull Salzburg for almost 30 million euros in 2016.

Eintracht Frankfurt has signed Germany under-21 forward Jessic Ngankam from Hertha Berlin on a five-year contract.

Frankfurt's announcement on Friday will fuel speculation that its star forward Randal Kolo Muani could leave. The 24-year-old Kolo Muani, who scored 15 Bundesliga goals and set up 16 more in his debut season, has been linked with Bayern Munich and Paris Saint-Germain.

Hertha, which was relegated from the Bundesliga last season, said it had done all it could to try to convince Ngankam to stay. The 22-year-old Ngankam had joined Hertha as a 6-year-old.



Embassy of India
Kuwait

TENDER No. - KUW/ADM/861/03/2012 DATED-16th JULY 2023

TENDER NOTICE FOR CONTRACTOR FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF GARDEN IN THE EMBASSY
Embassy of India, Kuwait invites bids from interested companies for maintenance of garden in the Embassy.

Prospective / Interested companies are advised to inspect the area and present their offers in two sealed covers (Technical & Financial) marked "Offer for maintenance of the garden in the Embassy-to be opened by addressee only" and addressed to the "Head of Chancery, Embassy of India, Diplomatic Enclave, Arabian Gulf Street, Safat 13015, Kuwait." The bid must be submitted at the Embassy on or before 06th August 2023.

The detailed tender document along with its scope of work may be downloaded from Central Procurement Portal <https://procure.gov.in/cppp/> and also the official website of the Embassy of India, Kuwait from <https://indembkuw.gov.in/tender-kuwait-in-india.php>. (scan QR)

For any other clarification please contact Mr. S. James Jacob, Administrative Attache on any working day (Sunday - Thursday) between 0800 hrs to 1630 hrs on +96522513498 or email to: admkuw@mea.gov.in

Jaiswal outscores Windies on his own with 171

Ashwin routs West Indies as India earn innings win in Dominica Test

Burnes recovers from 'heat scare' and strikes out 13, Milwaukee edges Reds



Toronto Blue Jays pitcher Kevin Gausman throws against the Detroit Tigers in the first inning of a baseball game, Saturday, July 8, 2023, in Detroit. (AP)

Frazier homers twice to lift Orioles to 6th straight win

CINCINNATI, July 15, (AP): Corbin Burnes struck out the side in the sixth inning after nearly collapsing in the fifth in oppressive humidity, Victor Caratini singled in a run in the seventh and Milwaukee Brewers beat the Cincinnati Reds 1-0 on Friday night.

After his 10th strikeout, Burnes squatted behind the mound with his head lowered as teammates and trainers rushed over. Burnes took several big gulps of water and spoke to the training staff. He took a couple of warmup pitches, then retired Matt McLain on an infield pop to end the inning.

The game-time temperature was 91 degrees with the high humidity. Burnes (8-5) struck out 13 in six innings. He allowed only two hits and two walks to help the Brewers tie the Reds atop the NL Central standings.

Devin Williams closed for his 21st save.

Cincinnati starter Graham Ashcraft (5-6) allowed three hits through six innings.

Orioles 5, Marlins 2

In Baltimore, Adam Frazier went deep twice in his first career multi-homer game, and Cedric Mullins hit a solo shot to propel Baltimore to its sixth straight victory.

The Orioles pulled within 1-1/2 games of first-place Tampa Bay in the AL East. The Rays were rained out at Kansas City.

Mullins and Frazier had three hits and two runs apiece, and Dean Kremer pitched six solid innings. Kremer (10-4) allowed a run and two hits, striking out eight with two walks.

Jorge Soler hit his 24th homer of the season for Miami, which fell to 9 1/2 back of Atlanta in the NL East, but remains atop the wild-card standings.

Sandy Alcantara (3-8) allowed two earned runs and eight hits in six innings. He struck out five with a walk.

Dodgers 6, Mets 0

In New York, Julio Urias combined with three relievers on a one-hitter as Los Angeles extended New York's losing streak to three games.

Urias (7-5) pitched six innings and allowed only a leadoff double to Brandon Nimmo that was initially ruled a home run.

Mookie Betts hit a bases-loaded RBI single and Freddie Freeman followed with a two-run double after the Dodgers were held hitless by Justin Verlander for 4-1/3 innings despite drawing six walks.

Miguel Rojas added an RBI single in the sixth off David Peterson as the Dodgers won their fifth straight and 13th in 18 games. All-Star slugger J.D. Martinez padded the lead in the eighth with his 23rd homer and Will Smith capped the scoring with a groundout in the ninth.

Verlander (3-5) allowed three runs and two hits in five innings.

Blue Jays 7, Diamondbacks 2

In Toronto, Vladimir Guerrero Jr. homered in his first plate appearance following his All-Star Home Run Derby win earlier in the week, Brandon Belt drove in the tiebreaking run in the seventh inning and Toronto sent Arizona to its sixth loss in eight games.

Matt Chapman had three hits and

an RBI and Whit Merrifield drove in two runs as Toronto opened the second half of the season with its sixth win in seven games. The Blue Jays are 17-7 against NL opponents.

Guerrero led off the second with a 426-foot drive off Arizona starter Ryne Nelson for his 14th home run.

Blue Jays right-hander Trevor Richards (1-1) pitched 1-2/3 innings for the win despite giving up a homer to Gabriel Moreno.

Diamondbacks reliever Kyle Nelson (4-2) took the loss, retiring just one of the three batters he faced.

Braves 9, White Sox 0

In Atlanta, Matt Olson hit a first-inning grand slam, Charlie Morton won his fifth straight start and major league-leading Atlanta routed Chicago.

Olson, the NL leader with 30 homers and 76 RBIs, made it 4-0 with his seventh career grand slam and his second this season. Atlanta leads the majors with 170 homers and has gone deep in 27 straight games, the longest streak in the franchise's modern era.

Morton (10-6) gave up three hits, walked one and struck out four in seven innings.

Michael Kopech (3-8) gave up four runs, one hit and four walks in two-thirds of an inning. Chicago has lost six of seven, eight of 10 and 19 of 28.

Padres 8, Phillies 3

In Philadelphia, Manny Machado, Juan Soto, Fernando Tatis Jr. and Gary Sánchez homered, Yu Darvish struck out nine in six sharp innings and San Diego beat Philadelphia in a rematch of last year's National League Championship Series.

Sánchez and Tatis homered in the third and Machado went deep in the sixth for the Padres, who have won six of seven. Darvish (6-6) kept the Phillies at bay, scattering five hits, walking two and allowing a run.

Christopher Sánchez (0-3) took the loss, giving up three runs in five innings.

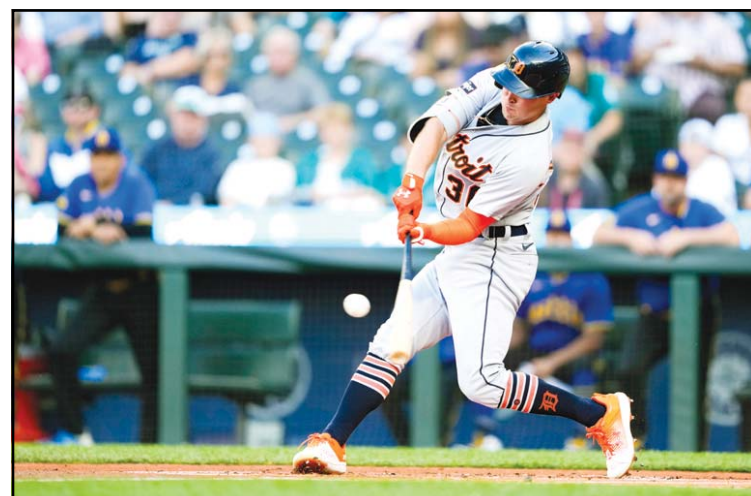
Giants 6, Pirates 4

In Pittsburgh, rookies Patrick Bailey and Luis Matos hit RBI singles during a three-run rally in the seventh inning that sent San Francisco past Pittsburgh.

Mauricio Llovera (1-0) got two outs for the win. Wilmer Flores, Matos and Michael Conforto had two hits each for San Francisco. Conforto's two-run single in the fifth broke a scoreless tie.

Ji Man Choi homered for the Pirates, and a balk by Ross Stripling later in the inning allowed the Pirates to tie it.

All three Giants runs in the seventh



Detroit Tigers' Kerry Carpenter hits a two-run home run against Seattle Mariners starting pitcher Luis Castillo during the first inning of a baseball game in Seattle. (AP)

were charged to Colin Holderman (0-2).

Rangers 12, Guardians 4

In Arlington, Jonah Heim homered and drove in four runs, Corey Seager and Adolis Garcia also homered, and Texas rallied past Cleveland, which got a history-making pair of homers from Bo and Josh Naylor.

The Naylor's became the first brothers in major league history to hit multi-run homers in the same inning for the same team when each hit a two-run shot in the third to put the Guardians ahead 4-0. That was the lone highlight for Cleveland.

Nathaniel Lowe homered in the fourth as part of a 4-for-4 night. The Rangers scored two runs in that inning, one in the sixth, five in the seventh and four in the eighth.

Heim finished 3-for-5 and fell a triple short of the cycle. Garcia drove in three runs and scored three in a 3-for-5 night.

BASEBALL

Brock Burke (3-2), the first of three Rangers relievers, earned the win. Sam Hentges (1-1) took the loss.

Rockies 7, Yankees 2

In Denver, Kris Bryant hit one of Colorado's three home runs and Austin Gomber won his fourth straight outing in a win over New York.

In their first game since new hitting coach Sean Casey was hired, the slumping Yankees got off to a fast start but then fizzled in the batter's box at offense-friendly Coors Field.

Carlos Rodón (0-2) gave up four runs over five innings in his second game of the season, and New York was unable to come back. The Yankees (49-43) are 14-18 since slugger Aaron Judge got hurt on June 3, hitting a major league-low .219. They have been held to two runs or fewer in 12 of those games.

Randal Grichuk and Nolan Jones also went deep in the last-place Rockies. Gomber (8-7) allowed six hits and two runs with two strikeouts in six innings.

Red Sox 8, Cubs 3

In Chicago, Rafael Devers hit two long solo homers off Kyle Hendricks, Justin Turner had a two-run homer and three RBIs in his first start at second base in nearly eight years, and Boston defeated Chicago.

Adam Duvall, Triston Casas and Yu Chang also went deep to help Boston win for the ninth time in 10 games and climb six games over .500 (49-43).

Brayan Bello (7-5) tossed six

innings for his fourth win in five starts, allowing two runs on six hits while striking out five and walking none.

Cody Bellinger hit a pair of solo drives. Christopher Morel had three hits and Mike Tauchman doubled in a run for Chicago.

Hendricks (3-4) allowed five runs on eight hits in 4 2/3 innings, striking out five and walking none. The right-hander yielded four homers, all solo drives, for the first time since May 20, 2022.

Astros 7, Angels 5

In Anaheim, Shohei Ohtani allowed four earned runs on five hits and left the mound with his finger bothering him in the sixth inning shortly before Mauricio Dubon's tiebreaking two-run single in Houston's victory over Los Angeles.

Ohtani (7-5) was pulled after he walked Corey Julks to open the sixth, consulting with the Angels' training staff before his exit. The two-way superstar's final start before the All-Star break ended because of a finger blister on his pitching hand, and he also dealt with a cracked fingernail last month.

Ohtani, who struck out seven, stayed in the game as a hitter and delivered two singles at the plate, but his spiraling Angels have lost a season-high six straight and 10 of 11.

Ryan Pressly fanned Ohtani while striking out the side in the ninth for his 21st save. Phil Maton (2-2) got two outs for the win.

Mickey Moniak had three hits and Taylor Ward homered for the Angels.

Twins 5, Athletics 4

In Oakland, Joey Gallo broke a tie with a two-run homer in the ninth inning and Minnesota snapped a three-game losing streak from before the All-Star break by beating Oakland.

Donovan Solano led off the ninth with a double against Shintaro Fujimori (5-8) before Gallo connected for his team-leading 16th homer an out later.

Griffin Jax (5-6) worked a scoreless eighth and Jhoan Duran finished for his 13th save after allowing JJ Bleday's RBI single.

Kyle Farmer hit an early RBI triple for the Twins.

Tigers 5, Mariners 4

In Seattle, Alex Lange threw a called third strike past Julio Rodríguez with two on for the final out, and Detroit held off Seattle.

Kerry Carpenter and Nick Maton each hit a two-run homer for the Tigers. Akil Baddoo also went deep to back starter Eduardo Rodríguez (5-5), who fanned seven in five innings.

Dylan Moore hit a two-run double for the Mariners, and pinch-hitter Mike Ford trimmed it to 5-4 with a solo homer in the ninth. Lange walked consecutive batters with two outs before freezing Rodríguez with a 1-2 curveball for his 14th save.

Carpenter connected in the first off Luis Castillo (6-7).

Cardinals 1, Nationals 0, Suspended, 3 Innings

In St. Louis, the game between the Washington Nationals and St. Louis Cardinals was suspended in the third inning Friday night due to rain.

The series opener will be made up as part of a split doubleheader on Saturday.

The Cardinals jumped out to a 1-0 lead when Lars Nootbaar homered in the first inning off Trevor Williams. St. Louis starter Miles Mikolas had retired all nine Nationals batters he faced before the game was halted.

ROSEAU, Dominica, July 15, (AP): Ravichandran Ashwin feasted on West Indies wickets on a generous turning pitch to propel India to victory by an innings and 141 runs inside three days of the first test on Friday.

Ashwin took 7-71 in the second innings, his best figures overseas, and 12-131 for the match.

West Indies was all out for 130 in less than 51 overs after scoring 150 in the first innings.

New India opener Yashasvi Jaiswal outscored the West Indies on his own with 171. He and captain Rohit Sharma drained the home side with their opening stand of 229. Then Jaiswal rubbed it in by leading a partnership of 110 with Virat Kohli.

Rohit was impressed by Jaiswal. "His temperament was tested but at no point did it look like he was panicking," Rohit said. "I just had to remind him, 'You belong here.' My job was to just keep telling him he's done all the hard yards and to enjoy his time in the middle."

India declared its first innings at 421-5 about an hour after lunch for a lead of 271.

Offering spin-friendly Windsor Park to two of the world's best spinners came to bite the West Indies hard.

Ashwin, the No. 1-ranked test bowler with a point to prove after being omitted from the World Test Champi-



India's Ravichandran Ashwin bowls against West Indies on day three of their first cricket Test match at Windsor Park in Roseau, Dominica. (AP)



India's Yashasvi Jaiswal plays a shot from the bowling of West Indies' Jason Holder on day three of their first cricket Test match at Windsor Park in Roseau, Dominica. (AP)

CRICKET

onship final, and Ravindra Jadeja, the No. 1-ranked test allrounder, padded already impressive statistics with 17 of the 20 West Indies wickets.

"When you have the kind of experience they have on these pitches, it is always a luxury," Rohit said. "Ashwin and Jadeja were magnificent, especially Ashwin."

Beside 5-60 from the first innings, Ashwin's dozen wickets in the match gave him an eighth 10-wicket haul in a test, tying Anil Kumble's India record. They are tied for fifth on the all-time list.

Jadeja took 2-38 on Friday for a match haul of five wickets.

In West Indies' second turn at bat, the top order's priority was merely surviving but both openers were gone by tea, both on 7.

Tagenarine Chanderpaul was leg before to Jadeja, and cost West Indies a review, and captain Kraigg Brathwaite was caught at first slip trying to defend Ashwin.

The batters through lunch, Jermaine Blackwood and Raymon Reifer, were out within five balls of each other also trying to defend the spin; Blackwood was trapped by Ashwin and Reifer was lbw to Jadeja.

When Joshua Da Silva was plum in front to pacer Mohammed Siraj, West Indies was 58-5 in the 30th over.

Alick Athanaze, on debut, top-scored in both innings, 47 and 28, the only scores over 20. "You could see that he belongs," Brathwaite said. Athanaze was dropped on 1 by Jaiswal at short leg but Jaiswal snaffled up the next chance.

Ashwin took the last five wickets, the 23rd time he's taken the match-winning wicket, eclipsing Shane Warne's 22 occasions.

West Indies has gone the distance only twice in its last 10 tests going back 16 months.

Meanwhile, India extended its unbeaten run in the Caribbean to 14 tests with a seventh win since 2006. The second test in Port of Spain, the 100th between the teams, starts on Thursday.

The highest score by an India man on debut was 187 by Shikhar Dhawan in 2013, and Jaiswal looked set to beat it on Friday morning when he resumed on 143.

The opener hit slow left-armer Jemel Warrican back over his head for his first test six and wriggled to 171 when he nicked pacer Alzarri Joseph behind and was out caught at 350-3. Jaiswal didn't look happy, though he had the highest score by an India debutant outside India, and faced more balls than any of India's previous debut centuries.

His mammoth innings spanning three days and nearly 8-1/2 hours came from 387 balls and included 16 boundaries.

Ajinkya Rahane came in and didn't last, patting back a bouncer from Kemar Roach on 3.

Kohli racked up his 57th fifty and third slowest, and he and Jadeja took India to lunch on 400-4 with a lead of 250.

Kohli looked good for his 29th test hundred and only his second in the Caribbean while riding his luck.

MLB Results/Standings

WASHINGTON, July 15, (AP): Results and standings from the MLB games on Friday.

Baltimore	5	Miami	2	Detroit	5	Seattle	4
Atlanta	9	Chicago W. Sox	0	Minnesota	5	Oakland	4
Toronto	7	Arizona	2	San Diego	8	Philadelphia	3
Boston	8	Chicago Cubs	3	Milwaukee	1	Cincinnati	0
Texas	12	Cleveland	4	San Francisco	6	Pittsburgh	4
Colorado	7	NY Yankees	2	LA Dodgers	6	NY Mets	0
Houston	7	LA Angels	5				

American League				National League					
East Division		West Division		East Division		West Division			
W	L	Pct	GB	W	L	Pct	GB		
Tampa Bay	58	35	.624	—	Atlanta	61	29	.678	—
Baltimore	55	41	.573	1-1/2	Miami	53	40	.570	9-1/2
Toronto	51	41	.554	6-1/2	Philadelphia	48	42	.533	13
Boston	49	43	.533	8-1/2	New York	42	49	.462	19-1/2
New York	49	43	.533	8-1/2	Washington	36	54	.400	25
Central Division				Central Division					
W	L	Pct	GB	W	L	Pct	GB		
Minnesota	46	46	.500	—	Cincinnati	50	42	.543	—
Cleveland	45	46	.495	-1/2	Milwaukee	50	42	.543	—
Detroit	40	50	.444	5	Chicago	42	48	.467	7
Chicago	38	55	.409	8-1/2	Pittsburgh	41	50	.451	8-1/2
Kansas City	26	65	.286	19-1/2	St. Louis	38	52	.422	11
West Division				West Division					
W	L	Pct	GB	W	L	Pct	GB		
Texas	53	35	.600	—	Los Angeles	52	38	.578	—
Houston	51	41	.554	2	Arizona	52	40	.565	1
Seattle	45	45	.500	7	San Francisco	50	41	.549	2-1/2
Los Angeles	45	47	.489	8	San Diego	44	47	.484	8-1/2
Oakland	25	68	.269	28-1/2	Colorado	35	57	.380	18



Tunisia's Ons Jabeur returns to Czech Republic's Marketa Vondrousova in the final of the women's singles on day thirteen of the Wimbledon tennis championships in London. (AP)

Sports

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Vondrousova wins historic Wimbledon title

First unseeded female champion after beating Jabeur

WIMBLEDON, July 15, (AP): Marketa Vondrousova came to the All England Club a year ago unable to play tennis at all. She had a cast on her surgically repaired left wrist, so her visit was limited to sightseeing around London with her sister and cheering for a friend who was competing at Wimbledon.

This trip was a lot more memorable: She is leaving as a Grand Slam champion.

Vondrousova became the first unseeded woman to win Wimbledon on Saturday, coming back in each set for a 6-4, 6-4 victory over 2022 runner-up Ons Jabeur in the final.

"I don't really know what's happening now. It's an amazing feeling," Vondrousova, a 24-year-old left-hander from the Czech Republic, said during the trophy ceremony. "After everything I've been through - I had a cast last year (at) this time - it's just amazing that I can stand here and hold this. Tennis is crazy."

After being sidelined from April to October, she finished last season ranked just 99th. She arrived at Wim-

TENNIS

bledon 42nd and was the first unseeded woman to even reach the final at the All England Club in 60 years - the last, 1963 runner-up Billie Jean King, was seated in the front row of the Royal Box on Saturday alongside Kate, the Princess of Wales.

Following the match, King greeted Vondrousova with a hug and told her: "First unseeded ever. I love it."

Centre Court's retractable roof was closed for the final, shielding everyone from the wind that topped 20 mph (30 kph) outside, and that perhaps allowed Vondrousova's smooth lefty strokes to repeatedly find the intended mark. Her shots betrayed none of the sort of tension that Jabeur's shots did.

Vondrousova lost in the final of the 2019 French Open as a teenager. On this afternoon, she trailed in each set but collected the last four games of the first, then the last three games of the second.

How did she plan to celebrate? "I'm going to have some beer, maybe," Vondrousova said, drawing chuckles from the fans. "It was really



Czech Republic's Marketa Vondrousova celebrates with the trophy after beating Tunisia's Ons Jabeur in the women's singles final on day thirteen of the Wimbledon tennis championships in London. (AP)

an exhausting two weeks. And I just tried to get myself together for the few last days. I was just so nervous before the game, and I'm just really grateful."

Jabeur dropped to 0-3 in major finals. The 28-year-old from Tunisia is the only Arab woman and only North African woman to make it that far in singles at any Grand Slam tournament.

But she lost to Elena Rybakina at the All England Club 12 months ago and to No. 1 Iga Swiatek at the U.S. Open last September.

"I think this is the most painful loss

of my career," Jabeur said, pausing to wipe away tears.

"It's going to be a tough day for me today, but I'm not going to give up," she said. "I'm going to come back stronger and win a Grand Slam one day."

Vondrousova's surge to her Slam title was hard to envision at the start of this fortnight.

She was 1-4 in previous appearances at Wimbledon, only once making it as far as the second round on its grass courts, before going 7-0 on a run that

included wins against five seeded foes.

Against No. 6 Jabeur, Vondrousova kept falling slightly behind. In the first set, she was down 2-0, then 4-2, before reeling off 16 of the last 18 points.

In the second set, the deficits were 3-1 and 4-3.

But Jabeur's mistakes kept coming: She would finish with 31 unforced errors, while Vondrousova made merely 13.

During the break between sets, Jabeur headed to the locker room. When she came back out, she im-

mediately made another error, and the spectators made a ton of noise to show their support. Another miscue gave Vondrousova a break point, and Jabeur gifted that with yet another shot into the net. The match was 45 minutes old, and Vondrousova led by a set and a break.

That, then, is when Jabeur began something of a turnaround. She took three games in a row to go ahead 3-1, showing signs of perhaps the sort of comebacks she created after ceding the opening sets before beating Rybakina,

No. 2 Aryna Sabalenka and 2019 U.S. Open champion Bianca Andreescu.

The crowd was pulling for the popular Jabeur, nicknamed the Minister of Happiness for her demeanor on and off the court, the level of the support they were providing rising right along with her level of play.

It didn't last. Vondrousova overcame that blip and, with her husband on hand for the first time during the tournament, she surged to the finish. Their first wedding anniversary is Sunday.

Tournament concludes

Zankawi clinches silver at Asia Athletics Championship

BANGKOK, July 15, (KUNA): Kuwait's athlete Issa Al-Zankawi won Saturday a silver medal at the Asian Athletics Championship currently held in the Thai capital of Bangkok, raising his country's record to two medals.

Secretary of the Kuwait Athletics Federation (KAF) Hussein Al-Dashti told KUNA over the phone that Al-Zankawi won the second place at the Disc contest achieving outstanding progress with 60.23 meters.

Al-Dashti added that this medal came after the bronze one won by

ATHLETICS

Kuwait's athlete Yaqoub Al-Youha in the final of the 110-meter hurdles two days ago, praising the achievement of both Al-Zankawi and Al-Youha in the championship.

He said there are still hopes for getting more medals at the game, which concludes Sunday, tomorrow.

He said the tourney kicked off last Wednesday has shown high-level technical performance in light of the participation of the Asian teams with the best athletes, in preparation for the global championship due in Hungary next month and the Asian games to be hosted by China in September.

Al-Dashti thanked KAF chairman and members and technical, and administrative teams for their big role in backing Kuwaiti athletes.

Ionescu hits 20 straight shots to win 3-point contest

LAS VEGAS, July 15, (AP): New York Liberty guard Sabrina Ionescu electrified the crowd Friday by hitting 20 straight shots and scoring a record 37 of a possible 40 points to win the 3-point shooting contest at the WNBA All-Star Game in a performance that will be incredibly difficult to match.

She made 25 of 27 shots to break the event record for the WNBA and NBA - and nearly meeting her own high standards. "Shouldn't have missed two," Ionescu said. "It was the final round. I had just lost in the skills. I wasn't going to lose again."

The Las Vegas Aces' team of Chelsea Gray and Kelsey Plum won the skills competition with a time of 44.3 seconds in the final round, easily beating the 58.0 put up by the Ionescu and Liberty teammate Courtney Vandersloot.

In the 3-point contest, Ionescu beat the Seattle Storm's Sami Whitcomb and the Dallas Wings' Arike Ogunbowale in the final. Whitcomb had 24 points and Ogunbowale 11.

"I knew they were going in," Ionescu said. "I was telling

BASKETBALL

my agents over there, I didn't even wait for the ball to get through the net. As soon as I shot it, it looked good and I just went down and kept grabbing (basketballs) and was listening to the fans as they were cheering, knowing that they went in. So they were my validation."



Abdulrahman Abbas of Kuwait competes in the 1m Springboard Men at the World Swimming Championships in Fukuoka, Japan. (AP)

Barca, Man U 'fined' by UEFA for breaking financial fair play rules

GENEVA, July 15, (AP): Barcelona was fined 500,000 euros (\$560,000) by UEFA and Manchester United must pay 300,000 euros (\$336,000) in the last round of financial monitoring using Financial Fair Play rules that have since been replaced.

Barcelona was punished for wrongly reporting profits from "disposal of intangible assets" that should not have been accounted for as income according to FFP rules, UEFA said in a statement. UEFA did not specify the asset that was sold.

Man United did not meet its target to approach break-even on soccer-related business that includes player transfers, wages and social taxes for FFP assessment.

The former European champions each earned tens of millions of euros (dollars) in UEFA prize money last season. Barcelona played in the Champions League group stage then lost in the Europa League knockout playoffs to United, which was eliminated at the quarterfinal stage by eventual winner Sevilla.

UEFA's club finance panel judged United's offense, and similar ones by

APOEL and Konyaspor, to be "minor break-even deficits." The other clubs were each fined 100,000 euros (\$112,000).

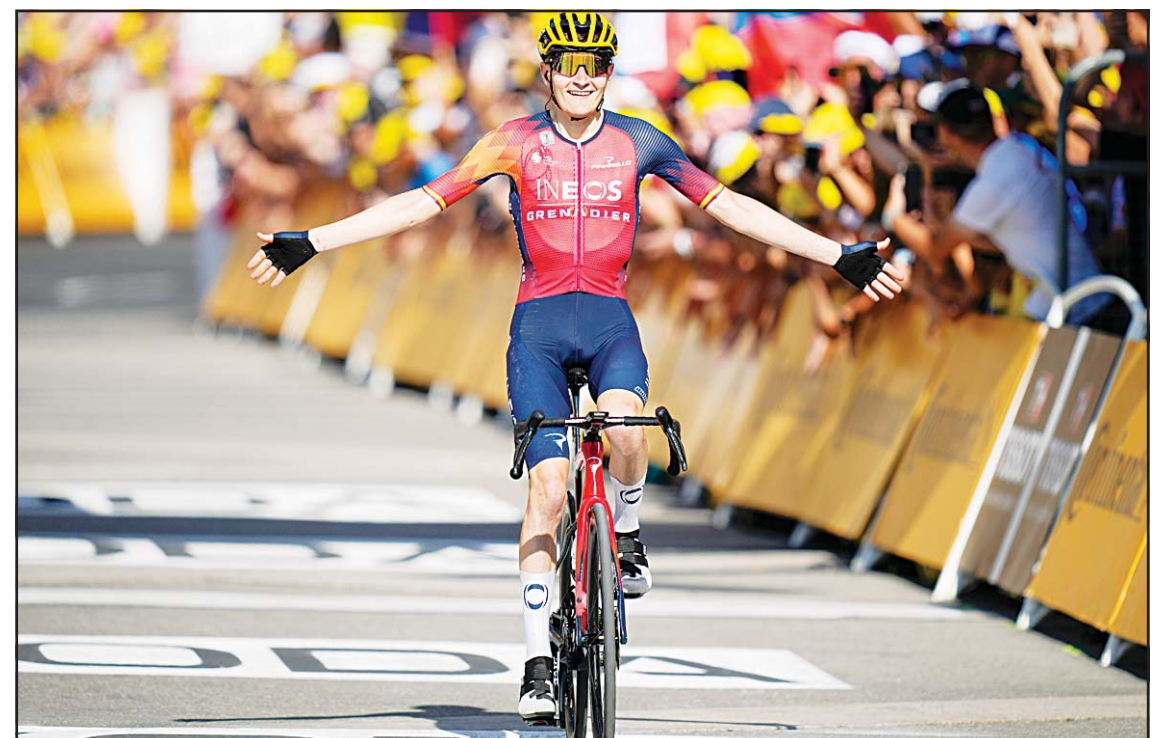
United published a statement citing the different way to assess post-pandemic finances for the hundreds of clubs who qualify for European competitions and then are scrutinized by UEFA-appointed investigators.

"This reflected a change in the way that UEFA adjusted for COVID-19 losses during the 2022 reporting period,"

SOCCER

od, which allowed us to recognize only 15 million euros of the 281 million euros of revenues lost due to the pandemic within the FFP calculation," the three-time European champion said.

A group of storied clubs - including AC Milan, Inter Milan and Paris Saint-Germain - who were fined by UEFA last September all met their stricter financial targets for last season. They will continue to be monitored for compliance over the next year.



Spain's Carlos Rodriguez crosses the finish line to win the fourteenth stage of the Tour de France cycling race over 152 kilometers (94.5 miles) with start in Annemasse and finish in Morzine Les Portes du Soleil, France. (AP)