



VOTERS PUT THE HEAT ON GRIDLOCK 'Let's settle this'

Amir thanks poll participants; Al-Ghanim, Al-Saadoun back for likely Speakership

By Saeed Mahmoud Saleh
Arab Times Staff and Agencies

KUWAIT CITY, June 6: Kuwaitis on Tuesday thronged to the polling stations to vote for their representatives in the 17th National Assembly.

A total of 793,646 citizens -- 388,099 men and 407,812 women -- are eligible



Kuwaitis search for their names to cast their votes in National Assembly elections on June 6, 2023.



First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Interior, and Acting Defense Minister Sheikh Talal Khalid Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah arrives for an inspection tour of polling stations involved in the 2023 National Assembly elections on Tuesday, June 6, 2023.

to vote for 50 lawmakers out of 207 candidates; including 13 women (two in the First Constituency, three each in the Second and Third constituencies, four in the Fourth Constituency and one in the Fifth Constituency); while 18 schools in the five constituencies are allocated as polling stations.

An average number of voters queued in the early hours of the election that started at 8:00 am. Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Interior and acting Minister of Defense Sheikh Talal Khalid Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah visited some polling stations to ensure proper implementation of procedures, during which he instructed the General Traffic Department (GTD) to refrain from issuing citations to those parking in areas not designated for this purpose due to the crowd around the polling stations.

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah on Tuesday sent a cable of appreciations to National Guard Chief His Highness Sheikh Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, and First Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister and Acting Defense Minister Sheikh Talal Al-Khaled Al-Sabah for their efforts and cooperation during the 2023 National Assembly elections occurred today.

His Highness the Amir also appreciated the efforts of Minister of State for Municipality Affairs and Minister of State for Communication Affairs Ali Al-Shola, Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi, Minister of Education and Minister Higher Education Dr. Hamad Al-Adwani, Minister of Justice and Awqaf Dr. Amer Mohammad, Minister of Health Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi, Minister of Social Affairs, Women and Children Affairs Mai Al-Baghli and Chief of Kuwait Fire Force Lt. Gen. Khaled Al-Mekrad.

His Highness the Amir further appreciated highly the supreme judicial committee's members overseeing the electoral process.

His Highness the Amir also evaluated national responsibility of citizens towards practicing their constitutional rights to select their candidates freely and transparently.

In addition, the Ministry of Health allotted ambulances, paramedics and medical teams for the polling stations to deal with emergencies, if any.

In an atmosphere of hope and enthusiasm, voters would be choosing 50 MPs to represent them at parliament in a process that begins at 8:00 am local-time and last until 8:00 pm.

The scorching summer weather was not a deterrent for Kuwaitis from all walks of life as they queued in long lines on Tuesday to cast their votes in parliamentary elections.

While voter turnout varied from one constituency to another, no effort was spared to simplify the voting process in a bid to depict Kuwait in a positive light, while state television urged voters to fulfill the "national obligation" of casting their ballots.

There have been a great turnout by the elderly to cast their votes, since the polling stations opened for the 2023 National Assembly elections.

They came in early on Tuesday hoping that the next phase would be of political stability, under a frame of cooperation between the legislative and executive authorities, to achieve the hopes of the political leadership of Kuwait and its people.

The voting process at polling stations in Kuwait are running smoothly and all efforts would be exerted to make sure that democracy would thrive, said a Kuwaiti government official on Tuesday.

Speaking to KUNA while inspecting a polling station, Minister of Justice and Minister of Awqaf (endowment) and Islamic Affairs Dr. Amr Al-Rattam said that the ministry's employees were present and available to ensure the transparency and fairness of elections.

Minister Al-Rattam commended all the efforts put into making this election a success, hoping that voters would choose suitable candidates for the National Assembly.

As the 2023 National Assembly elections started earlier on Tuesday, the civil society organizations were practicing their role in monitoring the flow of the elections process, its transparency and integrity.

These organizations were given approval by the cabinet to participate in the 2023 national assembly's elections by monitoring the voting process, and reporting possible violations to achieve transparency, as well as raising the awareness of voters regarding their rights and encouraging them to participate in the elections.

In a statement to KUNA, Chief of Kuwaiti National Nazaha Society Mohammad Al-Otaibi said that their participation comes within the frame of integrity and transparency of the elections process, noting that 30 supervisors have been distributed among the five constituencies.

He added that the society's efforts are divided into several activities including monitoring voting and sorting processes, as well as raising awareness regarding the importance of the political participation, in addition to issuing periodic reports on the efforts made in the election process while highlighting any violations if found.

In a similar statement to KUNA, President of Kuwait Transparency Society Majed Al-Mutairi said that they've been working on impartial monitoring since 2008, noting that the society have formed a voluntary team of 180 members, distributed among the polling stations at the five constituencies who are trained on monitoring in cooperation with Kuwait Anti-Corruption Authority (Nazaha).

Al-Mutairi notes that the transparency society base its work on international monitoring standards and cooperate with the concerned authorities to achieve the required goals as well as providing recommendations and suggestions to improve the elections process and boost democracy in Kuwait.

The Council of Ministers' approval to assign Transparency Society as well as other societies to monitor the election process comes as part of the council's keenness to run the national assembly's elections with full impartial transparency, noted Al-Mutairi.

Kuwait Council of Ministers recently issued a mandate to several public benefit societies to participate in monitoring the procedures and follow-up of the national assembly elections process, which reflects the importance of the national role of civil society institutions and their involvement in this process.

The participation of civil society organizations in monitoring the



Former Parliament Speaker and Second Constituency candidate Marzouq Al-Ghanim shakes hands with election candidate Alia Al-Khaled at a polling station on Tuesday, June 6, 2023.

electoral process is prompting a turning point in Kuwaiti parliamentary elections, affirmed observers on Tuesday.

Head of Kuwaiti society of monitoring and reviewing parliamentary performance Nasser Al-Shelaimi told Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) that this further bolsters citizens' confidence in the integrity of the process.

Al-Shelaimi affirmed that it is an extension of the state's efforts in defining the rights and freedoms of the individual.

He further added that a healthy political atmosphere enables observers to produce accurate analytical statistics.

As for Adnan Al-Rashed, head of the Kuwaiti Journalists' society, he told KUNA that the cabinet decision to allow non-governmental organizations to monitor the process is a testament to the confidence in local bodies.

Al-Rashed spoke of the historic role of Kuwaiti journalism in covering election news, as the Kuwaiti came to rely on local media outlets for transparent news items.

Al-Rashed urged all media outlets whether modern or orthodox to conform to principles of transparency and integrity. (end)

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Health urged on Tuesday voters to eat well, stay hydrated, avoid long exposure to the sun and for those with chronic diseases to take their meds regularly, and to not hesitate in asking for help when needed.

The electoral committee headquarters have been widely mobilized with medical teams, in addition to 30 fully equipped ambulances that are dispatched to the five constituencies, to provide the highest level of health security for all voters.

There are no immediate health mishaps or emergencies as a result of the ongoing 2023 National Assembly elections, which began earlier on Tuesday, said Health Minister Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi.

Speaking to KUNA, Al-Awadhi affirmed that he carried out several visits to polling stations throughout Kuwait, inspecting the efforts of 120 clinics, over 600 medical staff, and 30 ambulances providing their services during elections.

The minister called on voters to follow health protocols and avoid over exhaustion while casting their ballots.

On his part, Dr. Mustafa Redha -- Health Ministry Undersecretary -- revealed that minor cases of exhaustion and dizziness were reported during the day but nothing out of the ordinary.

Following are the partial election results per constituency as of press time:

First Constituency: 1. Abdullah Al-Mudaf: 1,066; 2. Osama Zaid Al-Zaid: 698; 3. Ahmed Hajji Lari: 645; 4. Hassan Jawhar: 599; 5. Dawoud Sulaiman: 592; 6. Hamad Muhammad Al-Medlej: 540; 7. Osama Al-Shaheen: 506; 8. Adel Jassem Al-Damkhi: 464; 9. Essa Al-Kandari: 447; 10. Saleh Ahmed Ashour: 398; 11. Mohammad Jawhar Hayat: 369; 12. Khalid Al-Tamar Al-Omaira: 340.

Second Constituency: 1. Marzouq Al-Ghanim: 954; 2. Shuaib Shaaban: 763; 3. Abdullah Al-Anbaie: 564; 4. Abdulwahab Al-Essa: 539; 5. Muhammad Al-Mutairi: 528; 6. Badr Al-Mulla: 500; 7. Hamad Al-Matar: 405; 8. Ahmed Al-Hamad: 403; 9. Falah Al-Hajri: 367; 10. Fahd Al-Masoud: 351; 11. Badr Al-Anzi: 343; 12. Alia Al-Khaled: 327.

Third Constituency: 1. Mehalhal Al-Mudaf: 1,302; 2. Ahmed Al-Saadoun: 1,154; 3. Abdulrahman Al-Kandari: 1,132; 4. Abdulaziz Al-Saqaabi: 1,082; 5. Muhammad Al-Sayer: 1,073; 6. Jenan Mhussen Bu Shehri: 970; 7. Hamad Adel Al-Obaid: 937; 8. Hamad Abdulrahman Al-Aliani: 908; 9. Fares Al-Otaibi: 988; 10. Jarrah Khalid Al-Fawzan: 726; 11. Saadoun Hammad Al-Otaibi: 718; 12. Ibrahim Muhammad Dashti: 673.

Fourth Constituency: 1. Mubarak Homoud Al-Tasha: 846; 2. Muhammad Awad Al-Reqab: 835; 3. Bader Sayyar Al-Shemmari: 783; 4. Muhammad Hayef Al-Mutairi: 716; 5. Saad Al-Khanfour: 698; 6. Fayed Al-Jomhour: 694; 7. Meteb Al-Zaydi: 678; 8. Shuaib Al-Muwaizri: 673; 9. Muaz Mubarak Al-Duwaila: 653; 10. Mubarak Al-Hajraf: 580; 11. Abdullah Fehad Al-Anzi: 556.

Fifth Constituency: 1. Soud Al-Asfour: 1,508; 2. Hamdan Al-Azmi: 1,374; 3. Hani Shams: 998; 4. Muhammad Al-Mahan: 883; 5. Khalid Al-Otaibi: 889; 6. Khalid Saree Al-Hajri: 827; 7. Marzouq Al-Hebeini: 774; 8. Fahd Falah Al-Azmi: 754; 9. Faisal Al-Kandari: 705; 10. Ahmed Mutei Al-Azmi: 682; 11. Abdulhadi Al-Ajmi: 681; 12. Majed Musaed Al-Mutairi: 668.

Opinion

Oh leadership ... When foxes control the backbone of a State, chickens get eaten

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

THE forces that weaken the prestige of any given country are not always from the outside. They are actually from within the society and have a major role in destabilizing the community and even inciting others to conspire against the State.

This happens especially when the aggravators find other forces to back them. This is due to the fact that the basis of the disease is making wrong choices, and non-agreement on a single opinion. Testimony to this is an old story about how things turn out when those in power struggle over the decision. It is one of the lessons that all leaders in a country must think about.

Once upon a time, there was a fox that had the habit of invading a chicken farm and committing a massacre. This continued until the roosters decided to do something about it and put a stop to these murders.

The roosters -- red, black and white -- sat down together to determine the best way of dealing with the aggressions of the fox. However, they could not agree on one opinion.

The red one suggested attacking the fox inside his den using the element of surprise. The black rooster suggested ambushing him while he was attempting to hunt. The white one suggested a peace agreement between the chickens and the fox.

The fox learned of this dispute, and he decided

to send the crow to meet the roosters individually.

The crow went to the red rooster and said to him, "You are the most honorable and bravest among the roosters. Element of surprise is the peak of defense, and your two friends are traitors, so the solution begins with killing them."

The crow then met the black rooster, and said to him, "Keep your words in mind, for defense is like an attack, so do not blame him. As for reconciliation, it is a clumsy idea, and whoever proposes the same does not deserve to live."

The crow then met the white rooster, and praised his suggestion to reconcile and make peace with the fox. He assured him that the fox will cooperate to consolidate peace between the chickens and the fox. However, for that to happen, the crow said the white rooster must ensure the red and the black chicken perish because they have destructive minds.

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Fattah missile is unveiled in a ceremony in Tehran, Iran, June 6, 2023. Iran is claiming that it created a hypersonic missile capable of traveling at 15 times the speed of sound. The announcement comes as tensions are high with the United States over Tehran's nuclear program. (AP)

Iranians showcase hypersonic missile

DUBAI, June 6, (AP): Iran claimed on Tuesday that it had created a hypersonic missile capable of traveling at 15 times the speed of sound, adding a new weapon to its arsenal as tensions remain high with the United States over Tehran's nuclear program.

The new missile - called Fattah, or "Conqueror" in Farsi - was unveiled even as Iran said it would reopen its diplomatic posts on Tuesday in Saudi Arabia after reaching a détente with Riyadh following years of conflict.

The tightly choreographed segment on Iranian state television apparently sought to show that Tehran's hard-line government can still deploy arms against its enemies across much of the Middle East.

Prayer Timings

Fajr 03:14 Asr 15:21
 Sunrise .. 04:48 Maghrib .. 18:45
 Zohr 11:47 Isha 20:16

Local

Expected weather for the next 24 hours:
By Day: Hot with light variable wind to light to moderate southeasterly wind with speeds of 10-32 km/h and some scattered clouds will appear.

Weather

By Night: Rather hot with light variable wind to light to moderate northwesterly wind with speeds of 08-28 km/h and some scattered clouds will appear.

Station	Max Exp	Min Rec
Kuwait City	45	33

Kuwait Airport	43	33
Abdaly	45	29
Jahra	46	32
Salmiyah	41	32
Ahmadi	39	33
Nuwaisib	43	29
Wafra	46	27

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



Securitymen stationed at one of the polling stations.



Hawalli Governor and during an inspection tour.



Kuwait Red Crescent volunteers to help the elderly.



Voters waiting to enter the hall.



Women turned out to vote in large numbers.



Photos by Rizk Taufiq/ Mohammad Morsi

Vote sold for KD 300-KD 500

22 suspects in vote-buying scandal, investigations on

KUWAIT CITY, June 6: The Public Prosecution announced it continues to investigate cases of vote-buying cases and that the suspects are confronted with evidence of their involvement in these crimes, reports Al-Qabas daily.

The Prosecution stated that it had begun, under the direct supervision of the Attorney General, Counselor Saad Al-Safran, an investigation into several reports and incidents that constitute crimes of electoral bribery and vote-buying by luring those eligible to cast their votes with money.

Reliable sources quoting the Public Prosecution confirmed 22 people are being investigated and charged with the offense as stipulated in Article 44 of Law No. 35 of 1962 regarding elections for members of the National Assembly and its amendments.

All the suspects were confronted with the material seized in this regard, including money, nationality documents, messages found on cell phones seized from the suspects, electoral lists and bank transactions documents for money transfers between the parties to the incident.

The investigation procedures are being completed for five other suspects, including three candidates after warrants for their arrest had been issued.

However, while the Public Prosecution decided, Monday, to release all the accused, except for three candidates who have yet to be arrested, but the arrest warrants against them stands good.

Moreover, the main suspect who is believed to be a Pakistani has been remanded to police custody for 21 days and is jailed in the Central Prison, after he underwent continuous investigations with the rest of the accused before the Public Prosecution.

An informed source revealed the investigations show a vote is bought 500 dinars from those close to or belonging to the tribe. As for ordinary people, one vote is bought for 300 dinars, pointing out that the "vote-buying mediators" were following a mechanism indicating caution and precaution when agreeing with citizens to sell their votes, but the Interior Ministry laid an ambush and caught some of them red-handed.

Also, the prosecution has yet to arrest three candidates who are allegedly involved in vote-buying.

A reliable source said the investigations revealed that one vote was sold for KD 500 among those close to or members of a tribe, while ordinary citizens were paid KD 300 per vote.

Pushing democracy forward

Kuwaitis vote for more freedom in '23 poll

Special needs voters come out in numbers

KUWAIT CITY, June 6, (KUNA): People with special needs in Kuwait are heading to polls throughout the country and exercising their democratic rights during the 2023 National Assembly elections.

Despite all the odds, such individuals are overcoming all obstacles to make their voice heard via picking their preferred candidate for parliament.

The 2023 National Assembly election is witnessing a strong participation from women voters who insisted on being present and visible at polling stations throughout the country.

While many women were seeking to cast their votes in the elections, they were others who were helping their fellow females to cast their ballot.

Kuwait's Interior Minister Sheikh Talal Al-Khaled Al-Sabah called for efforts across state bodies to simplify the voting process for the national electorate, as Kuwaitis head to the polls in parliamentary elections on Tuesday.

As he personally toured a number of polling stations across Kuwait, the minister said that extra priority should be given to the elderly and people with special needs as they cast their ballots, calling on security personnel on hand at polling stations to provide all forms of assistance to voters.

First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Interior, and Acting Defense Minister Sheikh Talal Khaled Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah kicked started on Tuesday an inspection tour of polling stations involved in the 2023 National Assembly elections.

The minister began his tour of polling stations across the country starting with Jahra governorate.

Senior Interior Ministry officials and governor of Jahra Nasser Al-Hajraf accompanied him in his first stop.

The security authorities, represented by the Ministry of Interior and the Kuwait Fire Force (KFF), are putting in great efforts in organizing the 2023 National Assembly elections.

The involved authorities are providing services and facilitating the voting process, so voters can perform their national duty.

The KFF teams are present at 36 polling stations in the five constituencies, which were allocated vehicles and teams for rapid intervention in case of an emergency.

Volunteers of the Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) are heavily involved in facilitating the voting process of the 2023 National Assembly elections.

While assisting the elderly and the disabled, the KRCS volunteers will go beyond the call of duty to serve their nation during its democratic celebration.

Minister of Information and State Minister for Youth Affairs Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi took a tour in the Editorial sector at KUNA, to check the workflow of covering the 2023 national assembly elections, which started earlier Tuesday, and was briefed on the agency's efforts in conveying the information to local, Arab and foreign media agencies.

During his visit, the Minister listened to a detailed explanation of the various efforts and services provided by the agency in terms of news, reports and press interviews, which in turn helps various media outlets with to cover the parliamentary elections in the best way possible.

Al-Mutairi was also briefed on the work plan in the editorial sector and the field teams covering all constituencies in the country.

He praised the important role of KUNA in covering "Kuwait's Democratic Wedding", urging to put in the efforts to present it the best way possible.

The Minister of Information was received by KUNA's Director General Dr. Fatima Al-Salem, Acting Deputy Director for the Administrative, Financial Affairs and Communications Sector Mohammad Al-Mannei, Deputy Director-General for the Editorial Sector, Editor-in-Chief Essam Al-Ghanim, and senior officials.

KUWAIT CITY, June 6, (KUNA): The National Assembly's elections usually represent Kuwait's continuous stride to promote more freedom and democracy in the country.

With the kick-starting of the 2023 parliamentary elections today, Kuwaitis are looking forward to bolster the country's democratic heritage.

Prior to the National Assembly and during the early history of the country, Kuwait's Diwanias (gathering halls) were the nucleus in which the first seeds of democracy were planted.

Council

The proto-parliament, the Shura (consultative) council was first established in Kuwait in 1921 and it consisted of 12 members tasked with aiding the ruler of Kuwait, the Amir, to run the country.

The parliament experience in its modern sense with people choosing their representatives began with the establishment of the Municipal Council in 1930 when Kuwaitis choose 11 members and the council's head. This was followed by the elections of the departments for media, health, and endowment (Awqaf).

In 1938 and during the era of late Amir Sheikh Ahmad Jaber Al-Sabah, a council aiding in the matters of governance was elected with the inclusion of 14 elected-members out of 20. Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah was chosen as the head of the council.

After transitioning to a constitutional state, the late Amir Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah signed a decree in August 26, 1961, which stated that elections for the Constitutional Assembly would be held on December 30, 1961 to choose 20 members in addition to 11 ministers.

The Amir Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah presided over the first session of the Constitutional Assembly on January 20, 1962.

The assembly was tasked with the most important mission in the history of the country and that was writing the constitution of Kuwait.

The elections for the very first National Assembly was held on January 23, 1963 after the independence of Kuwait with 250 candidates running to be included in the 50-seats parliament. Eligible voters amounted to 16,889 covering 10 constituencies. The inaugural session was held on January 29 the same year.

Elections for the second legislative term of parliament was held on January 25, 1967 with 220 candidates involved from 10 constituencies and 27,296 eligible voters casting their ballot. The first session of parliament was held on February 7, 1967 and the term concluded on December 30, 1970.

On January 23, 1971, the elections for the third legislative term began with 180 candidates running and 40,649 voters partaking in the elections in 10 constituencies. The first session of the term was held on February 10, 1971 and the term concluded on January 8, 1975.

The fourth legislative term elections was held on January 27, 1975 with 256 hopefuls running and 52,994 voters casting their ballot in 10 constituencies. First session of parliament in that term was held on February 11, 1975, but the parliament was dissolved on August 29, 1976.

On February 23, 1981, the election for the fifth legislative term was held with the participation of 42,008 eligible voters choosing from 447 candidates representing 25 constituencies. The first session of parliament for the term was held on March 9, 1981. The parliament was dissolved before finishing the term on January 19, 1985.

On February 20, 1985, the election for the sixth legislative term was held with the participation of 56,845 eligible voters choosing from 231 candidates representing 25 constituencies. The first session of parliament for the term was held on March 9, 1985. The parliament was dissolved before finishing the term on July 3, 1986.

On April 22, 1990, the late Amir

Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah signed an Amiri order to establish the national council and on June 10, 1990, election was held to choose the members of the council involving 62,123 eligible voters in 25 constituencies. On June 28, 1990, an Amiri order was issued assigning 25 members of the national council.

The first legislative term of the national council ended with the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait on August 2, 1990. The second legislative term of the council began on July 9, 1991, but in August 1, 1992, a decree was issued to end the term and the session of the national council.

On October 5, 1992, the elections for seventh legislative term for the National Assembly began with the participation of 278 candidates and the 81,440 eligible voters from 25 constituencies. The first session of the term was held on October 20, 1992 and the term concluded with a session on October 5, 1996.

On October 7, 1996, the election for the eight legislative term began with 230 candidates running and 107,169 voting casting ballot in 25 constituencies. The first session of the term was held on October 20, 1996, but parliament was dissolved on May 4, 1999.

On July 3, 1999, some 288 candidates and 112,882 eligible voters were involved in the ninth legislative term elections held in 25 constituencies. The first session of the term was held on July 17, 1999 and the term concluded with a session on May 21, 2003.

Some 264 candidates and 136,715 voters took part in the elections for the 10th legislative term of parliament held in the country's 25 constituencies on July 5, 2003. The first session of the term was held on July 19, 2003, but the term did not finish its allocated period and dissolved on May 21, 2006.

The 11th legislative term of parliament had an election involving 288 candidates and 327,287 eligible voters. It was held on June 29, 2006 in 25 constituencies. The first session was held on July 12, 2006, but the parliament did not finish the term, dissolving on March 19, 2008.

On July 17, 2008, the elections for the 12th legislative term of parliament had 275 candidates running with 361,684 eligible voters from five constituencies. The first session of the term was held on June 1, 2008. The term was dissolved on March 18, 2009.

The 13th legislative term's elections were held on May 16, 2009 with 210 candidates running and 384,790 candidates from five constituencies. The first session of the term was held on May 31, 2009 and the parliament was dissolved on December 6, 2011.

Parliament

The 14th legislative term's election was held on July 27, 2013. Some 321 candidates ran for parliament with 439,715 voters casting their ballot in five constituencies. The first session of the term was held on August 6, 2013, but the term was dissolved on October 16, 2016.

Elections for the 15th legislative term began on November 26, 2016 with 293 candidates partaking on the race and 483,186 voting casting their ballots in five constituencies. The first session of the term began on December 23, 2016, and the final session was concluded on October 20, 2020.

The elections for the 16th legislative term of parliament began on December 5, 2020, with 326 candidates running and 567,694 eligible voters covering five constituencies. The first session was held on December 15, 2020, but the parliament did not finish the term, dissolving on August 2, 2022.

On September 29, 2022, elections for the 17th legislative term was held with the participation of 305 candidates and 795,911 eligible voters in Kuwait's five constituencies.

On March 19, 2023, the Kuwaiti constitutional court released a verdict annulling the 2022 formation of parliament and returning the 2020 iteration.

On May 1, 2023, a decree was issued to dissolve the 2020 National Assembly.

Cheating groups charging big amounts from students

KUWAIT CITY, June 6: The coordination meetings among government agencies did not succeed in resolving the issue of using jamming devices to combat cheating in academic exams, especially for high school students whose exams will start on June 11. In parallel to the refusal of the Ministry of Health to install these devices because they could harm the students, information was received about intense activity in networking applications within new groups created for the purpose of cheating. One of its promoters raised the subscription price to about KD 80 per student, reports Aljarida daily.

According to the information received, this person has been promoting the groups he owns on WhatsApp, which has reached more than 30 in number. Each group has no less than 200 subscribers. He is relying on some students who will assist by filming the question papers at the beginning of the exam when they receive it.

Earlier, the tangible coordination between the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Interior during the first semester exams resulted in the discovery of a group of test cheating networks for high school students.

Considering that the exams for the 12th grade students for the current academic year of 2022/2023 will start on June 11, there has recently been significant activity in terms of the

emergence of new cheating groups that claim the ability to leak tests, and deliver model answers to students who wish to participate in them.

In this regard, informed sources explained that the refusal of the Ministry of Health to place jamming devices and operate them in the exam committees has contributed to the re-emergence and spread of these groups, because of the huge sums of money they obtain, reaching hundreds of thousands of dinars. The owners of these groups encourage the students who are registered with them to insert phones and micro-earphones to carry out the task of filming the exam paper upon receiving it.

Revealed

The sources revealed that there are also some VIP groups where students who cooperate with the owners of cheating groups will join, as they will be provided with a solution faster than others, as well as offered special prices for their cooperation.

They highlighted the instructions from the Minister of Education and Higher Education Dr. Hamad Al-Adwani to the concerned authorities within the Ministry of Education to enhance coordination with the Ministry of Interior to work on controlling these groups and accounts that promote fraud.

The sources affirmed that the campaign that took place during the first semester had a great

impact in stopping these practices, or at least limiting them.

They explained that the Ministry of Education will take a number of measures to reduce the phenomenon of cheating during exams. Monitoring committees will be approved to monitor the 12th grade exams, which will depend on the rotation procedure outside the scope of the educational area. Determining the committee members and their workplaces will take place during the current week.

Among the procedures is to tighten control within the committees, and for the Ministry of Education's officials to make surprise visits to the examination committees, so that each committee is visited more than once during one day. They also include ensuring the procedures of opening the envelopes and distributing examination papers take place in accordance with the regulations without any prejudice.

Meanwhile, educational sources revealed that the Ministry of Education proposed two tenders for transferring the exam papers of secondary school students in the six educational zones, religious education, and special education schools for the 2023/2024 academic year.

They affirmed that the Ministry of Education's proposed tenders are for the provision of test transfer services by specialized companies.

diwaniya ديوانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

'Opportunity to reveal dual nationality of candidates ... if any'

"EVERY occasion has its importance, especially the importance at this critical juncture in Kuwait's history is more important as Kuwaitis cast their ballots during this parliamentary elections. In order to avoid what is rumored and broadcast, there is an urgent need to quickly detect the dual nationality of the candidates, if any, before the electoral process takes place through a diligent and careful research that falls first on those who have a definitive indication proving the dual nationality of any candidate during the current National Assembly elections, and this should be made known to the concerned authorities, which in turn refer it to the Central Apparatus for Handling Illegal Residents' Status to begin investigations and scrutinize the credibility of the case," columnist **Dr Saud Mohammed Al-Asfour** wrote for **Al-Qabas** daily.



Dr Al-Asfour

"I am certain, the matter is easy for the central apparatus thanks to its accumulated experience in revealing the identity of the manipulators and the eligibility of some to get the Kuwaiti nationality, and at the head of the apparatus is Uncle Saleh Al-Fadala, may God protect him, a discreet president who knows the ins and outs of matters, and he and those who work with him have the great ability to contact the competent authorities in the countries concerned is that the good can be distinguished from the bad, and those who hides behind false patriotism. "The matter in its entirety is not an appeal to those who contest the elections, as they are all Kuwaitis if they have good intent and behavior, but rather an increase in reassurance in the need to take caution and beware of those who falsely claim to be patriotic, and to preserve the integrity of the electoral process and protect it from appeals that may be one of the causes of duplicity. "It is also an opportunity in the future to prosecute the voters whose duplicity is proven, and the matter then goes on and on because of their large number, but it is easy for whomever God facilitates for good, prosperity, and righteousness, and the central apparatus is capable, God willing, to play its role in this matter, and it is required to support it and facilitate its mission and put all human and material capabilities to ensure doing the right thing. "The integrity of the elections after successive setbacks with the nullification of the previous councils has become an urgent matter, and a demand of all the people and the government, so it is hoped that the new council will be

immunized from the appeals that were filed before and after the elections, as if we have become distrustful of the competence of those who hold the reins of laws in the government. It is a dangerous omen in a state of law that must be applied according to what is required by accuracy, justice and the integrity of the procedures that have been followed. "We say, with sorrow in our hearts, and a lump in our throats, that after every invalidated assembly, we hear the angry shouts of the voters about the bad conditions, and the call that those whom we appointed as legal advisors are not competent or knowledgeable, given the repeated invalidation and the many appeals in this regard. "We pray to God to protect Kuwait and its people from all distress and harm."

Also:

"I am almost certain that the results of the upcoming elections will be the nails of closing the coffin of democracy and burying it, perhaps forever! Democracy is not elections only for some to rant about and try to convince us as a people that we enjoy freedoms, but where are those freedoms," columnist **Dr Naji Saud Al-Zaid** wrote for **Al-Jarida** daily. "Most of the elected representatives are lime closed circuit people. They are the source of encroaching on the freedoms and ideas of others. "The Gulf Cooperation Council countries do not have elected parliaments in the full sense of the word, and they did not rant about a false democracy as we do here in Kuwait, but they enjoy an atmosphere of openness that spreads joy and happiness. "Their construction projects continue to be completed unperturbed, and the opportunities available for entertainment have increased and multiplied, and tourism activity is popular, and only Kuwait was a pioneer in all these fields my unfortunately everyone has beaten us to the finish line. "What is required is to change the approach so that society can enjoy internal and external openness. For this to happen, we must not wait for the parliament to act, but rather the government must lead this openness, and our great hope is that it will do so without paying attention to the voices that do not want this." □ □ □

"Dear male and female voters, go out and exercise your national right to vote, which has become easy and it takes only a few minutes. You avert harm by preventing the bad guys from winning. You bring benefits by delivering the

good guys. In the past, the bad guys succeeded with just a few votes, even if the sincere ones participated for the nation like you. They came complaining and grumbling due to the negative people who opted to stay at home instead of going out to vote," columnist **Sami Al-Nisf** wrote for **Annahar** daily. "Funds rule over the consciences and interests of the country, so do not elect someone who wants to reach the legislature for public corruption and private enrichment. Do not elect someone who wants to settle personal scores at the expense of the country and citizens. "Do not elect the angry representative who always searches for problems and enemies, who hides his voice in favor of his screams and whose mind is absent in the interest of his grudges. Do not elect the skeptic, the obstructionist and one who blocks State projects so he can complain about our backwardness. Do not elect one who is loyal to someone other than his homeland, as such people are among those who burned the homeland. Do not communicate with such people, because they serve as Trojan horses for others in our legislature and country." □ □ □

"Suddenly, the Kuwaiti society has become violent! Visit the hospital emergency rooms and you will find someone who has been stabbed with a sharp object, has been shot or has been subjected to severe physical violence leading to cuts and bruises that need treatment," columnist **Naji Al-Zaid** wrote for **Al-Anba** daily. "Fights! Shocks! Traffic accidents! Drug overdose resulting in deaths, injuries and serious cases... Despite the efforts of security forces, these phenomena are increasing, including domestic violence! Currently, they are considered a burden on hospitals, as well as the medical and technical personnel. "Is it the problem of the Ministry of Interior or the Ministry of Health and its equipment?! We do not know. As a society, we wonder where this change in the peaceful nature of the Kuwaiti society came from. The tools of violence and injuries vary. Most of the injured were saved, yet the incidents are repeated, burdening securitymen, medical staff and hospitals. "Kuwait needs a study, rather, studies on violence in society. Advice, warnings and awareness are not enough. Instead, modern scientific methods must be used in combating violence by studying the causes and results. So, is there any answer???"

— Compiled by Mai Elsoukary



KUNA photo
His Highness the Amir of the country, the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, Sheikh Nawaf Al-Jaber Al-Sabah during his career in the Kuwait National Guard.



KUNA photo
His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah during his career in the Kuwait National Guard.



KUNA photo
The National Guard headquarters.

National Guard marks 56 years since its birth

'Many lost lives in Iraqi invasion'

KUWAIT CITY, June 6, (KUNA): Tuesday marks the anniversary of the founding of the National Guard, to complete 56 years of distinguished giving throughout its career in defending the homeland, protecting vital installations, providing support to all state agencies and institutions, in addition to being a strong supporter of civil society institutions.

The National Guard said in a press statement that on June 6, 1967, the late, God willing, His Highness the Amir of the country Sheikh Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah, may God rest his soul in peace, issued Decree Law . The Supreme Defense Council entrusted His Highness the Crown Prince and Prime Minister at that time, His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, may God bless his soul, with the implementation of the Amiri decree.

He explained that on the same day another Amiri decree was issued assigning His Highness Sheikh Salem Al-Ali Al-Salem Al-Sabah to assume the position of Chief of the National Guard, and from that moment on, His Highness assumed the responsibility of building this great military edifice. "We hope that the day will come when every citizen of Kuwait will become a guardian of his country and homeland, and this day is not far away."

The statement added that His Highness Sheikh Salem Al-Ali was able, throughout the course of an arduous and exhausting national struggle, and in light of enormous difficulties and challenges, to reach the National Guard with that distinguished position

Drugs found with gang

Renting to singles ... deportation

KUWAIT CITY, June 6: The Acting Director General of Kuwait Municipality Eng. Saud Al-Dabbous revealed a new procedure that was agreed upon during the meeting of the committee, which was formed to limit the phenomenon of bachelors living in private and model housing last week.

The procedure involves deportation of the foreign investor in the event of evidence of his exploitation of any property in private houses to rent to bachelors, reports Al-Rai daily.

He revealed that the procedure also includes issuing two citations to the owner of the property for firstly a building violation, and secondly, renting to bachelors in private and model housing.

Al-Dabbous announced that the municipality monitored about 1,156 houses that are used as residences for bachelors in different private and model residential areas.

Hearing June 18: The Court of Appeals adjourned deliberations on the Malaysian Fund case until June 18, reports Al-Rai daily.

The court rejected the petition to release the defendants after hearing the testimonies of two police officers.

Drugs seized: Personnel from the General Department for Narcotics Control have arrested a gang of four men and during a search found in their possession about 6 kilograms of marijuana, heroin, and cash, reports Al-Rai daily.

When the suspects were interrogated about the drugs found in their possession they admitted to being members of gang that is trafficking in drugs.

Along with the drugs they have referred to the competent authority.

18 structures shut: The Fire Prevention Sector at Kuwait Firefighting Force (KFF) has closed 18 structures for violating the safety and fire prevention regulations in the Capital, Farwaniya and Jahra Governorates, reports Al-Rai daily.

This is the result of the sector's intensified campaigns to strictly implement the regulations in order to protect lives and properties.

among the defense and security institutions in the State of Kuwait.

He stated that His Highness continued this march, in which His Highness, the Amir of the country, the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince, Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Deputy Chief of the National Guard, and His Highness Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-

Sabah, the Prime Minister when they took over Deputy Chief of the National Guard.

He affirmed that "the men of the National Guard remember, on this precious occasion, with great pride the sacrifices made by their brothers who preceded them in the service of the nation, especially during the period of the brutal Iraqi invasion, as they sacrificed their lives for Kuwait, its people and its leadership."

Shop encroachments removed

Land for date palm cultivation put on hold

KUWAIT CITY, June 6: The Jahra Committee in the Municipal Council, during its meeting yesterday chaired by Abdullah Al-Enezi, rejected the request to allocate the Al-Darkal site for the two residential cities of South Al-Mutla'a and Nawaf Al-Ahmad, reports Al-Anba daily.

Al-Enezi said the Municipal Council member Eng Alia Al-Farsi's proposal to allocate land for date palm cultivation in the north of the country has been referred to the executive body for its technical opinion and coordinate with the Public Authority for Agriculture Affairs and Fisheries Resources.

Al-Enezi added the committee returned the request of the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs to move the site of the Ibn Taymiyyah Mosque in the Sulaihiya area, Plot 1, to the executive body, and it also returned to the body the proposal submitted by member Abdullah Al-Anzi regarding traffic congestion in the city of Sa'ad Al-Abdullah, in order to update the response. It kept on its agenda the request to cancel the decision to build an airport in the northern region

He indicated that the committee returned to the executive body the proposal submitted by member Abdullah Al-Enezi, regarding the allocation of land for the purpose of establishing a slaughterhouse to serve the residents of Kabad area and camel farms in order to address the concerned authorities, indicating that the committee approved the request of the Public Authority for Roads and Land Transport to build open basins to collect rainwater and a canal for underground water connection, dirt berms, and paths for rainwater drainage around the Salmi housing development area.

He stated that the committee also approved the request of PART to allocate open collection basins, open water channels, underground water connections, earth



Encroachments on state property being removed.

mounds, and paths for collecting and draining rainwater around Al-Naayem and Al-Naayem industrial areas.

No to encroachments: The Public Relations Department in the Kuwait Municipality said the Hawalli emergency team carried out inspection tours of the commercial areas to ensure that shop owners adhere to the conditions and controls in force in the municipality, reports Al-Anba daily.

In this regard, the head of the emergency team at the Hawalli Municipality branch, Ibrahim Al-Saba'an, said the campaign resulted in the removal of two encroachments on state property in the Hawalli region.

The encroachments were destroyed and issued five citations for shop owners for not complying with the billboard advertising license.

Al-Saba'an called on shop owners to abide by the laws and regulations in force to avoid paying fines and administrative closure.

100 pharmacies to be shut soon

KUWAIT CITY, June 6: Within the framework of organizing and controlling the course of work of private pharmacies, informed sources affirmed that inspection campaigns will continue in these pharmacies to ensure the extent of the license holders' commitment to applying the profession practice law No. 28/1996, amended by law No. 30/2016, reports Al-Rai daily.

In a press statement, they highlighted the ongoing coordination in this regard between the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Commerce and Industry to follow up violations regarding the management of many pharmacies by people other than the license holder, which is in violation of the laws regulating the practice of the profession.



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HH the Crown Prince and HH the Premier send greetings

HH the Amir congratulates Sweden's King on National Day

KUWAIT CITY, June 6, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a congratulatory cable to King of Sweden Carl XVI Gustaf for his country's 500th National Day on Tuesday, wishing him a long healthy life and more

prosperity for Sweden and its people. Meanwhile, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a congratulatory cable to King Carl XVI Gustaf for his country's 500th National Day on Tuesday, wishing him a long

healthy life and more prosperity for Sweden and its people. Also, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah sent a congratulatory cable to King Carl XVI Gustaf for his country's 500th National Day on Tuesday.

FM congratulates Turkish peer

HH Crown Prince 'congratulates' President Erdogan on re-election

KUWAIT CITY, June 6, (KUNA): On behalf of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah; His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah has phoned Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan to convey to him, His Highness the Amir's and his own greetings on his election victory and winning a new term in office.

During the call, His Highness Sheikh Mishal wished President Erdogan full success in his mission.

He hailed the historic and distinguished relations between the two countries.

His Highness the Crown Prince also affirmed joint keenness to strengthen and develop bilateral cooperation in all domains to serve the interests of the two states.

He also wished the Turkish president everlasting wellbeing and the Republic of Turkiye and its people achieving their progress and prosperity aspirations.

Meanwhile, Kuwait's Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah phoned his Turkish counterpart Hakan Fidan on Monday congratulating him on his new post.

Sheikh Salem Abdullah wished the new Turkish minister success in his mission, and further progress and prosperity to the two countries' ties and peoples.

In the meantime, Fidan expressed great appreciation to Kuwait for partici-



Sheikh Salem Abdullah

ating in a ceremony held last Saturday to mark selecting President Recep Tayyip Erodgan as the country's leader for a new term in office.

He conveyed appreciation of Turkiye to the Kuwaiti leadership's congratulation to Turkiye and its people on this occasion, considering these good sentiments embody clearly brotherhood and love between the two countries and their peoples.

Fidan said that Turkiye looks forward to working with Kuwait to enhance bilateral ties and cooperation between the two friendly states in a way that achieves visions of the two countries' leaderships and meets their peoples' aspirations.

'Decisions restrict freedom ...'

Public benefit associations reject Social Affairs circular

KUWAIT CITY, June 6: Public benefit associations rejected what they called "the Ministry of Social Affairs' restriction of freedom of civil action" by issuing a circular to ban any public benefit association from carrying out any activity without prior approval, and obligating the associations to provide the ministry their work plans six months in advance. They stressed that such decisions restrict freedom and independence of their work, reports Al-Rai daily.

Their refusal follows a circular issued by the ministry, prohibiting the associations from addressing any party except through the ministry only. According to the circular, the associations may not engage in any activity, including the issuance of publications or any other activities, without obtaining the approval of the official authorities.

In this regard, the Ministry of Social Affairs affirmed that it did not issue decisions restricting the freedom of work of public benefit associations, and that it only sent a circular reminding associations to abide by decisions issued by the Council of Ministers in 2004 and 2008.

About 12 public benefit associations issued a joint statement to reveal that they were surprised by the ministry's decision, which was issued at a time when countries around the world are paving the way for advanced civil liberties and transparency of civil society,

supporting its organizations, and facilitating its work in accordance with the standards of transparency, freedom, justice and equality.

The associations said in their statement, "After such a long time of practicing public work in Kuwait with freedom and without any object or defect, we are surprised that the Ministry of Social Affairs decided to handcuff our work, despite our spotless record, without any excuse or justification.

The ministry's decision restricts the freedom and independence of the work of public benefit associations and civil society organizations. It means to end civil work in Kuwait and the work of these associations and organizations, which would lead to Kuwait's decline in democratic indicators, and restrict organized civil work."

The statement was signed by the National Society for Child Protection, the Women's Social Cultural Association, the Association of Sociologists, the Kuwait Graduates Association, the Society for the Protection of Public Money, the Kuwait Society for National Fraternity, the Kuwait Economic Society, the Kuwait Society for Information Security, the Kuwait Caricature Society, the Kuwait Society for Small and Medium Enterprises, Entrepreneurs Association, Business and Professional Women Network.

Oh leadership ...

Continued from Page 1

Therefore, the fox, through the crow, was able to stir up discord among the chickens. After several days, a fight broke out between the three roosters, and the crowd dispersed. The fox hence settled down, and he lived for a while eating chicken.

Countries are no different from the jungle. Everyone seeks control, and all have their own methods, but most of them are subject to collapse, if they work contrary to what is customary in the executive management of any state.

In this regard, the fourth guided Islamic Caliph Ali bin Abi Talib was asked, "What spoils the affairs of people?"

He said, "Three factors - putting the young in the place of the old, putting the ignorant in the place of the scholar, and putting the follower in the leadership position."

He added, "Woe to a nation whose money is with its misers, and its swords are in the hands of its cowards, young and rulers."

When the words of Caliph Ali bin Abi Talib actualize, corruption spreads in the state. This is due to the fact that miserliness is the cause of all ills, as it paves way to looting.

As for bribery, it magnifies the corrupt in his power and the eyes of the public. Harming people is taken for granted, and so the jails of the security services are crowded with innocent people who are falsely accused, especially those who talk about corruption or work to expose them publicly, and even those who advise from behind curtains.

They are all framed because foxes seek to eat the chickens of the state's

public money and dominate its decision. When corruption prevails in society, the treatments become strange, even if they are painful surgeries.

In recent days, we have seen a lot about the Central Prison, where no matter how hard the hand of reform tries to strike, there are some who conspire with the white rooster in order to reconcile with the foxes of drugs, and smuggle mobile phones and drugs into prison, as well as facilitate the entry of white weapons into the cells.

The fact is that the criminal uses it against other prisoners, as well as the prison guards because a person with a heavy sentence has almost nothing to lose.

Likewise, we have seen people who are held accountable if they reveal certain things, or photograph some things, while in other countries, they are offered a reward.

In the United States, Britain, and even some Arab countries, there are individuals who provide assistance in solving the cases they are involved in, and if they are found guilty, their sentences get reduced or they get light sentences.

There are many countries that were lost because they did not work with those principles. The Umayyad Dynasty collapsed when the young were placed in the place of the old, the enemy was brought closer to power, and the loyal ones were expelled because they were considered a threat.

In modern countries, when the foxes of the Lebanese parties and leadership prevailed, the state plundered, its people starved, and it fell into the confusion of factions and sects. The same was the case in the Soviet Union when the ignorant were placed in the positions of the learned.

Shift allowance for Municipality inspectors stopped temporarily

Several retirees hold sit-in demanding pension hike

KUWAIT CITY, June 6: The Minister of Municipality, Fahd Al-Shula, said the shift allowance given to Hygiene and Safety Departments inspectors will be temporarily suspended until further study as reports came in that some of them have to give their best or work to their full potential, reports Al-Qabas daily.

In a letter to the director of the Municipality he called for setting a mechanism and controls for granting the shift allowance, in the work interest and in an effort to activate the oversight role of the various sectors and departments of the municipality and organize its work.

Allowances

He called for stopping granting shift allowances from date for a one year (for new cases that had not been previously disbursed), and to review the extent of the eligibility

of those who were granted the allowance and to check the availability of eligibility conditions, and instruct those who are required to work on preparing an integrated study that will be submitted to us within a maximum of one month.

The financial and administrative sector in the municipality started activating the role of the financial and administrative support departments in the municipality's branches in the governorates, by reducing the documentary cycle regarding the site allowance for engineers and jobs of an engineering nature.

The Municipality sources stressed that the incentives must be paid to those who deserve, meaning those who work hard to maintain the cleanliness of the areas under their jurisdiction and keeps tap on those who trespass on government land.

During a tour, Al-Shula stressed the necessity of preserving the

secretary of important plans and reorganizing the surveying department by eliminating any defect saying: "Any employee who does not have a trust walks."

Procedures

On the other hand, Al-Shula has issued a ministerial circular on procedures for disabling access to information technology resources after the termination of the service of a public employee for any reason or his transfer to another party.

He said that if the employee's service is terminated for any of the reasons mentioned in the Civil Service Law, the first consequence is the severance of the functional relationship between the employee and the government agency to which he is affiliated, which necessitates that the terminated employee may not access or exploit the information technology resources of the entity he used to work for in any manner.

The circular called for following several measures to preserve the security and confidentiality of information, for the government agency represented by its competent department, upon termination of the service of the public employee or his transfer abroad, shall inform his immediate manager and

the concerned department with a copy of the administrative decision to revoke the powers granted to the employee and prevent unauthorized access to sensitive information and automated systems.

This is in addition to retrieving personal and organizational covenants, if any, and retrieving computers and peripheral devices and disabling access to them, and retrieving the parking entry card and the smart card; stopping the employee's attendance, while keeping a copy of his data from the date of his appointment until the date of termination of his services; clearing the information of the government entity from any devices owned by employees whose services have been terminated or transferred, and which were used to access the entity's data and termination of access to all digital services (e-mail, internal electronic messaging system, etc.), by the concerned department, while keeping a copy in the archive.

Meanwhile, several retirees recently organized a sit-in in front of the Public Institution for Social Security, demanding for pension increment and better living conditions for them, reports Al-Rai daily.



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Ensuring social protection for all people is Kuwait's priority — Minister

Al-Baghli stresses importance of participating in OIC Social Development Conference

CAIRO, June 6, (KUNA): Kuwait Minister of Social Affairs, Women's Affairs and Childhood Mai Al-Baghli stressed Tuesday, the importance of participating at the 2nd Ministerial Conference on Social Development of member countries of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC).

In a statement to KUNA, Minister Al-Baghli on the sideline of chairing Kuwait's delegation to the conference under the theme (social justice and security), said that the event pays great attention to preserving social life and family security in the Islamic world.

Kuwait's participation is fruitful and important, she said, adding, it aims to review the efforts made in the file related to the conference.

The decisions issued by the first session of the conference, chaired by Turkey, were reviewed, especially several points, including preserving the values of marriage and family institutions, children caring in the Islamic world and preserving the well-being of social security, the elderly and people with disabilities, she added.

Al-Baghli affirmed that Kuwait follows international measures to ensure social protection for all society categories.

The remarks came during Al-Baghli's speech, while chairing Kuwait's delegation in the 2nd Ministerial Conference on Social Development of member countries of the Organization

of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), under the theme (social justice and security), held in Cairo on Tuesday, under the patronage of Egyptian President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi.

Social globalization has a big impact on family values, said the minister, adding that Kuwait is continuously seeking to protect the Arab and Islamic identity when it comes to family values.

Meanwhile, she noted that Kuwait always works on spreading awareness on marriage, finding solutions for youth refraining from marriage.

Protection laws

The country also aims to provide an easier life for children, the elderly and people with special needs. This includes enhancing children's protection laws and providing them with proper education, as well as providing job opportunities and training for disabled people, said the minister.

Al-Baghli expressed hope that the conference would come out with the most important recommendations that serve the targeted group, thanking Egypt for its hospitality for this conference.

The delegation participating in the conference included Acting Undersecretary of the Ministry of Social Affairs Abdulaziz Al-Mutairi.

Al-Mutairi, Monday, assured Kuwait's aspirations towards implementing decisions related to family



KUNA photo
Mai Al-Baghli, Kuwaiti Minister of Social Affairs and Community Development and Minister of State for Women and Children's Affairs.

development as well as elderly and the special needs care.

Al-Mutairi's statement was conveyed to KUNA on the sidelines of the Second Ministerial Conference on Social Development headed by Kuwait, with the participation of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) under the slogan of "Social Justice and Community Security".

He said, "Kuwait has presented many suggestions on these topics, of

which it was setting a unified apparatus linking Islamic nations to data sources and banks for the benefit of the elderly and raising awareness."

Al-Mutairi also mentioned the experiences obtained by local organizations such as the friendly family project, the surrogate mother project, and the provident fund will help contribute to this endeavor alongside methods for socializing kids.

It is paramount to issue studies and

Minister Al-Baghli to preserve 'heritage character' of Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, June 6: The Minister of Social Affairs, Eng. Mai Al-Baghli, during a meeting of the Council of Ministers, chaired by His Highness Sheikh Ahmed Al-Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah presented the initial design for the development of popular cafés, reports Al-Qabas daily.

The daily added, the aim is to preserve the character of country's heritage, and keeping pace with development and Kuwait Vision 2035, The development includes places for family gatherings, services for the elderly, activities of cultural nature, green spaces, in addition to supporting small projects and adopting the ideas of creative youth.

During the meeting, the minister explained the decision aims to upgrade popular cafés and re-design them in a new geometric shape to integrate modernity with Kuwaiti heritage.

The minister said, "We are keen to form a new board of directors for the Popular Café Fund, dominated by young faces, to keep pace with the process of renaissance and development. We are keen to work from the cultural aspect by launching a heritage library," and sustainability of the symbolic prices of popular cafés.

The minister added the board of directors will include 7 members with specializations, including for the first time four women, with different specializations and experiences, with the aim of empowering women and enhancing their role in future development plans.

Later, Minister Al-Baghli made an inspection tour of the popular cafés, to get firsthand information on their needs, and to follow up on the planned modernization and development plan in future.

revisions to better help conserve the Arab/Islamic identities and address the challenges in facing the developments of technology, in addition to placing a

plan for the educational sector's curriculum, and preparing programs to ensure well-being and stable living for the communities in need.

Kuwait seen as high potential investor

Czech Republic envoy lauds Kuwaiti and Czech relations

KUWAIT CITY, June 6: The Ambassador of the Czech Republic to Kuwait Jaroslav Siro affirmed that the political, economic and cultural relations between Kuwait and the Czech Republic have flourished steadily and have become stronger than ever before, reports Al-Qabas daily.

In a press interview, he affirmed that Kuwait remains an important political and commercial partner and ally of the Czech Republic in the region, and shares with it a number of major international concerns and goals.

Ambassador Siro praised Kuwait's pivotal and positive role in the region and in the international arena, describing it as a widely recognized neutral mediator, and playing a crucial role in promoting security, stability and development in the Gulf region and the Middle East as a whole.

He revealed that the next round of strategic dialogue and political consultations between the two countries will be held this year in Kuwait among the deputy foreign ministers of the two countries, adding that the mechanism of political consultations was restored last year during the meeting of Ambassador Majdi Al-Dhafiri in Prague last June.

Ambassador Siro explained that Kuwait ranks sixth in terms of the number of visas granted by Czech embassies around the world. The period for issuing and obtaining a visa for Kuwaitis takes about ten days, and is usually shorter.

The Czech Republic, as a member of the Schengen region, follows the common Schengen rules. A total of 6,000 Schengen visas are issued to Kuwaitis annually, and this number is expected to increase this summer.

He recommended that travelers submit applications early to obtain a visa in advance and ensure proper processing and appropriate timing for Schengen visas, especially with the increasing demand for visas due to the approaching summer tourist season.

The ambassador said the Czech Embassy does not accept applications submitted by any intermediary, as all applicants must apply in person at the VFS Visa Centre.

He revealed that a direct flight will be reopened at the end of June due to the great interest of Kuwaiti tourists.

Ambassador Siro highlighted that the Czech Republic is still a great location for foreign direct investment due to the development of its economy, as it is a safe and peaceful country, adding, "We would like to see more investments coming from Kuwait, especially in sec-

tors with high added value."

He indicated that the two sides are interested in developing cooperation in the defense and security sectors, stressing that, "Cooperation with Kuwait in this sensitive and important sector enjoys full support from the Czech government. We have capabilities in military-technical cooperation, military-medical cooperation and training."

Ambassador Siro affirmed that Kuwaiti residents love to travel to Czech health resorts, not only to enjoy the unique atmosphere and mild climate, but also in order to obtain highly specialized rehabilitation and medical treatments.

He indicated that the Czech resorts accommodate between 5,000 and 6,000 Kuwaiti guests every year.

Ambassador Siro revealed an upcoming visit to Kuwait by a Czech trade delegation headed by Minister of Industry and Trade Josef Sekela in November to discuss new trade opportunities and strengthen economic, trade, investment and energy relations.

He clarified that an agreement for economic and technical cooperation will be signed, and accordingly a joint committee will be established between the governments of the two countries.

Ambassador Siro explained that his country fully supports the bilateral cooperation in the fields of culture, education, sports, research and communications between people. Czech universities are keen to receive more Kuwaiti students, but there is a problem facing Czech universities in not accrediting their degrees.

He said, "The accreditation of a number of the best Czech universities in Kuwait will help enhance cooperation in this field."

The ambassador revealed that the embassy contacted the Czech Ministry of Education and some prominent Czech universities, and recommended them to request accreditation in line with the instructions of the accreditation authority in Kuwait.

Meanwhile, the trade advisor to the embassy Dr. Teresa Valaskova affirmed that the trade exchange between the two countries witnessed an extraordinary growth, with an annual increase of 40 percent last year. She said the volume of trade exchange in 2022 amounted to about US 80 million.

Dr. Valaskova stressed that Kuwait's stability, geographical location and balanced policy encourage Czech companies to look for opportunities in it, as Kuwait is seen in the Czech Republic as an investor with high potential.

3.3 mln people in GCC countries still live in poverty, says ESCWA

Report proposes recommendations to address poverty

KUWAIT CITY, June 6: Despite the great efforts made by Gulf countries to reduce the poverty rate and strengthen the middle class in the past decades, 3.3 million people still live in poverty, reports Al-Qabas daily.

According to a report titled "3.3 million people from the Gulf Cooperation Council countries live in poverty" issued by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), one out of every seven citizens in Saudi Arabia, one in ten citizens in Oman, and one in 13 citizens in Bahrain live in poverty. However, the poverty rates in Kuwait, the UAE and Qatar are less than two percent.

The report highlights that poverty in most Gulf countries has actually decreased since 2010, with about 530,000 citizens no longer being considered poor. In Saudi Arabia alone, the rates have fallen from 18.2 percent in 2010 to 13.6 percent in 2021, as 485,000 citizens are no longer considered poor.

However, the report indicated that the economies of prosperous countries have led to the perception that poverty rates are low or non-existent; consequently, little effort has been made to investigate the extent and depth of poverty.

Population

The Executive Secretary of ESCWA Rola Dashti explained that the distribution of income and spending among the population is one of the main factors that contribute to poverty. The spending of the richest ten percent of households in some Gulf countries is 16 times higher than the spending of the poorest ten percent.

The report proposes specific recommendations to address poverty in the Gulf region directed towards ensuring a more diversified and inclusive economy that leaves no one behind and is environmentally sustainable. They include diversifying sources of growth and reforming educational and vocational systems to provide the new skills required for future jobs.

It also stresses the need to strengthen the ecosystem for small and medium enterprises such as by facilitating access to finance and promoting innovation and entrepreneurship programs.

Dashti stressed that fiscal reforms should be implemented to allow a greater proportion of the population to benefit from social and economic opportunities, including:

1. Adopting a just and equitable tax system.
2. Reforming land allocation and public procurement policies.
3. Reforming subsidy policies to target low-income groups.
4. Ensuring better targeting of social protection systems.
5. Facilitating access to affordable housing, basic infrastructure, and quality health and education services.



KUNA photo
Honoring the Kuwaiti Red Crescent photographer, Adnan Al-Nouh, for winning the second place as the best photograph in Doha.

Kuwaiti photographer wins second place ARCO award for best picture

KUWAIT CITY, June 6, (KUNA): The Arab Red Crescent and the Red Cross Organization (ARCO) announced in its 47th session in the Qatari capital of Doha on Tuesday that the photographer of Kuwait Red

Crescent Society (KRCS) Adnan Al-Nouh won second place for best picture in the organization's photography award.

In a telephone conversation with KUNA, on the sidelines of honoring

the winners, Director of the Public Relations and Media Department at KRCS Khaled Al-Zaid showed happiness for Al-Nouh winning best picture that expresses humanitarianism.

Opportunities to new horizons

Kuwait keen to develop ties with Italy: Official

KUWAIT CITY, June 6, (KUNA): Kuwaiti Assistant Foreign Minister for Europe Affairs Ambassador Sadeq Marafi Tuesday commended deep relations between Kuwait and Italy, stressing both sides' willingness to promote them.

The Kuwaiti official made the remark while attending a ceremony organized by the Italian Embassy in Kuwait to mark its national day.

Cooperative relations

He added that both sides have various cooperative relations, pointing out opportunities for furthering them to new horizons.

He also lauded bilateral economic cooperation, particularly oil and small and medium-sized industries, along with traditional trade exchange fields, speaking highly of Italy's high quality exports.



KUNA photo
Kuwaiti Assistant Foreign Minister for Europe Affairs Ambassador Sadeq Marafi and Italian Ambassador in Kuwait.

'Arab education body platform for development'

RABAT, June 5, (KUNA): The Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALESCO) serves as a platform for drawing up plans for development in education sector across the region, its chief Dr. Mohamed Ould Amar said on Wednesday.

ALESCO is hard at work with strategies aiming to propel education sectors in the wider Arab region to greater levels, he told KUNA in an interview,

just as Arab education ministers are assembling for talks in the Moroccan capital Rabat.

Though the sector has made "tangible" progress around the region, there still remains some challenges that need to be dealt with, he underlined, saying the use of cutting-edge technology can be instrumental in overcoming these challenges.

Among these strategies are efforts to

accelerate a digital drive in the education sector around the region, which will be useful in providing sound and quality education to students, added the ALESCO chief.

Education ministers from some 18 Arab countries, including Kuwait, are coming together for the talks, where they are joined by a slew of educational bodies and organizations from the region.

The Guest Show poster.

The Guest Show presents Wilna du Toit

This Thursday, Radio Kuwait International presents Wilna du Toit, our first guest from South Africa. Wilna is a gifted textile artist, quilt teacher and a quilt judge who is closely involved with the South African Quilter's guild. Quilting is her passion. Her professional journey began with sports, and she is a qualified IOC Sports dietician and exercise coach who has worked with well-known

South African athletes. In this episode of The Guest Show, Wilna speaks to Chaitali B Roy about growing up in South Africa, her work with health and fitness, her passion for recycling cloth, about learning the intricacies of quilting from Ayesha Khalid, a famous South Asian quilt artist who used to live in Kuwait, and Wilna's own journey with quilting.

Australian bank boosts cash rate to 4.1%

Australia's central bank on Tuesday lifted its benchmark interest rate for a 12th consecutive time, to 4.1%, and warned further rises could follow.

The Reserve Bank of Australia boosted the cash rate by a quarter of a percentage point at its latest monthly meeting. That followed a higher-than-expected 6.8% annual inflation rate reported

for the January-March quarter.

Reserve Bank Governor Philip Lowe said it would take time for inflation to fall to the target range of 2% to 3%.

"This further increase in interest rates is to provide greater confidence that inflation will return to target within a reasonable timeframe," Lowe said in a statement. The cash rate is now at its

highest level since April 2012.

The bank first started jacking up interest rates in June 2022.

Lowe said further increases might be needed.

"The board will continue to pay close attention to developments in the global economy, trends in household spending, and the outlook for inflation and the labor market," he added. (AP)

Arthur D. Little launches its 2023 global report

Arthur D. Little (ADL) today launched its 2023 Global Innovation Management Excellence Benchmark Report, which highlights that of the \$2 trillion per year that companies invest in R&D, financial returns from innovation have fallen across sectors since 2012. Companies report a 33 percent drop in satisfaction with their innovation performance over the same period, said, "The main findings from our latest innovation report are clear: Businesses that overcome the

main R&D pitfalls and develop strong innovation management practices stand to benefit, on average, from a 30 percent boost in return on R&D investment.

ADL's research into the practices of innovation excellence, running now for over 25 years, allows companies to anonymously rank and profile themselves on their innovation performance versus their peers. The result is new and calibrated insight into the key areas that can

often dramatically increase their innovation performance.

The most frequent boosters to innovation performance include:

"All companies in our benchmark have the potential to be innovation high performers." "The appetite for businesses to regain ground on stagnating innovation efforts is clear across sectors, and new value can be gained, particularly from exploring the five innovation boosters laid out in this report."

Market Movements

06-06-2023

	Change	Closing pts		Change	Closing pts
UAE - DFM	+0.69	3,677.98	PHILIPPINES - PSEI	-0.64	6,479.93
JAPAN - Nikkei	+0.90	32,506.78			
PAKISTAN - KSE 100	+0.66	41,912.89			
SAUDI - Tadawul	+0.21	11,316.87			
EGYPT - EGX 30	+0.84	17,491.18			

Business

The Conversation

How do credit scores work?

Finance pros explain how lenders choose who gets loans and at what 'interest rate'

By D. Brian Blank, Mississippi State University and Tom Miller Jr., Mississippi State University

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

With the cost of borrowing money to buy a home or a car inching ever higher, understanding who gets access to credit, and at what interest rate, is more important for borrowers' financial health than ever. Lenders base those decisions on the borrowers' credit scores.

To learn more about credit scores, The Conversation consulted with two finance scholars. Brian Blank is an assistant professor of finance at Mississippi State University with expertise related to how firms allocate capital, as well as the role of credit in mortgage lending. His colleague at Mississippi State, Tom Miller Jr., is a finance professor who has written a book on consumer lending, in addition to providing his expertise to policymakers.

Lenders stay in business when borrowers pay back loans.

Some borrowers consistently make prompt payments, while others are slow to repay, and still others default - meaning they do not pay back the money they borrowed. Lenders have a strong business incentive to separate loans that will be paid back from loans that might be paid back.

So how do lenders distinguish between good borrowers and risky ones? They rely on various proprietary credit scoring systems that use past borrower repayment history and other factors to predict the likelihood of future repayment. The three organizations that monitor credit scores in the U.S. are Transunion, Experian and Equifax.

Although 26 million of 258 million credit-eligible Americans lack a credit score, anyone who has ever opened a credit card or other credit account, like a loan, has one. Most people don't have a credit score before turning 18, which is usually the age applicants can begin opening credit cards in their own name. However, some people still have no credit later in life if they don't have any accounts for reporting agencies to assess.

Credit scores simply summarize how well individuals repay debt over time. Based on that repayment behavior, the credit scoring system assigns people a single number ranging from 300 to 850. A credit score ranging from 670 to 739 is generally considered to be good, a score in the range of 580 to 669 would be

judged fair, and a score less than 579 is classified poor, or subprime.

The two most important factors in credit scores are how promptly past debts have been paid and the amount the individual owes on current debt. The score also takes into account the mix and length of credit, in addition to how new it is.

Credit scores can help lenders decide what interest rate to offer consumers. And they can affect banks' decisions concerning access to mortgages, credit cards and auto loans.

Average credit scores in the United States have risen from 688 in 2005 to 716 as of August of 2021. They stayed steady at that level through 2022.

While credit card debt is at a record high, the average consumer was using just over a fourth of the revolving credit to which they had access as of September 2022.

As of 2021, nearly half of U.S. consumers had scores considered very good - meaning in the range of 740 to 799 - or excellent (800-850). Six in 10 Americans have a score above 700, consistent with the general trend of record-setting credit scores of the past few years. These trends might, in part, reflect new programs that are designed to note when individuals pay bills like rent and utilities on time, which can help boost scores.

During the first quarter of 2023, people taking out new mortgages had an average credit score of 765, which is one point lower than a year ago but still higher than the pre-pandemic average of 760.

Developed in the late 1950s, the first credit scores - FICO scores - were created to build a computerized, objective measure to help lenders make lending decisions. Before then, bankers relied on commercial credit reporting, the same system merchants used to evaluate the creditworthiness of potential customers based on relationships and subjective evaluation.

The FICO credit scoring system was enhanced over the 1960s and '70s, and lenders grew to trust computerized credit evaluation systems. Credit scores really began to exert an influence on American borrowers beginning in the 1980s as FICO became widely used.

A major goal of the credit score is to expand the pool of potential borrowers while minimizing the overall default rate of the pool. In this way, lenders can maximize the number of loans they make. Still, credit scores are imperfect predictors, likely because most credit models assume that consumers will continue to act

in the same way in the future as they have in the past. In addition, some believe that various risk factors make credit scores imperfect. Credit modelers, however, continue to make progress by making continuous

technological innovations. Even FinTech lenders, which strive to go beyond traditional credit models, heavily rely on credit scores to set their interest rates.

Recently, "Buy Now, Pay Later" accounts have been added to credit scoring, while medical debt has been removed.

Borrowers with poor or limited credit have challenges building more positive credit histories and good credit scores. This challenge is particularly important because credit scores have become more widely used than ever because of the increasing availability of data and growing precision of credit models.

The availability of additional data results in more precise estimates of credit scoring, which can improve access to credit for consumers who repay bills consistently over time. These so-called "boost programs" factor in other payments that consumers routinely make on a monthly schedule. Think of the number of bills that you auto pay. Boost programs add points to your credit score for the bills that you pay consistently.

Two of the most important ways to improve credit scores are paying bills on time and ensuring that your credit report accurately reflects your payment history. Simply avoiding default is not enough. Timely payments are necessary. Someone who pays the bills every three months is "caught up" every quarter. But that consumer is 90 days delinquent four times a year. Being 90 days delinquent alarms creditors. So, someone who pays the bills every month will have a higher credit score at the end of the year.

Having more credit accounts can also positively affect your credit score because having these accounts shows that many lenders find you creditworthy. As a result, you might benefit from leaving credit accounts open if you make the wise decision not to access that credit. Warning! You must not use that extra credit access to spend more money and accumulate more debt. That decision is unwise.

Why? Because managing the ratio of debt to income is also critical to a good credit score. Debt-to-income ratios of 36% or less generally indicate individuals who have income to put toward savings, which is what all lenders are looking to see and one of the best ways to improve your credit.

The Conversation

Legacy of Andrew Brimmer

Sudan's war wrecking a lot, including its 'central bank'

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

Christopher Tounsel
University of Washington

The war in Sudan between two rival generals for control of the country is devastating in so many ways. Hundreds of civilians have been killed, thousands injured and more than 1 million people are now homeless. The fighting is even wreaking havoc on the country's central bank.

In late April 2023, a video surfaced of a branch of the Central Bank of Sudan in Khartoum on fire. And on May 31, Sudan's army bombed a central bank printing press to keep opposition forces from printing the money it needs to fund its fight.

What many people may not know is that, in 1956, three U.S. economists laid the groundwork for the Central Bank of Sudan. And Andrew Brimmer, the first African American to serve on the Board of Governors of the U.S. Federal Reserve System, was one of them.

Brimmer's resume was replete with high-level appointments and other professional accomplishments. After his death in 2012, he was lauded as having demonstrated a deep concern for "the economic conditions of poor, powerless, uneducated black people." That interest dated back to his own childhood in the Jim Crow South where he watched his father navigate a system stacked against Black people and his early work helping found the Central Bank of Sudan.

As an African American historian of Sudan, I have been drawn to the ways that Black Americans have participated in the development of modern Sudan. I'm particularly fascinated by the way Brimmer, a graduate of the University of Washington, where I teach, figures into this history.

My forthcoming book examines African American involvement in Sudan and their impact on this transnational relationship.

Brimmer was one of six children - three girls and three boys. His father alternated between manual jobs, from chopping cotton to shipping out grain to support the family, and his mother grew much of the food the family ate.

"So we were typically poor, but not dirt-poor," Brimmer told interviewers for a Federal Reserve Board oral history project in 2007.

He was born in 1926 in Newellton,

Louisiana, just five miles from the plantation where some of his ancestors had been enslaved. And he was educated in a segregated school system that had a shorter school year for Black children than white children and only went to the seventh grade. Brimmer had to leave town for additional education.

He was drafted into the Army near the end of World War II and was honorably discharged in 1946. Brimmer then earned undergraduate and graduate degrees in economics in 1950 and 1951 from the University of Washington and in 1957 earned a Ph.D. in economics from Harvard.

When Sudan became independent of British colonial rule in 1956, it established diplomatic relations with the United States and requested U.S. help in setting up a central bank.

That July, officials at the U.S. State Department asked Brimmer, who had been working as an economist with the Federal Reserve Bank of New York since June 1955, and two senior-level Federal Reserve members to participate in a technical mission to Sudan to help with that request.

Brimmer and his colleagues - Oliver Wheeler, vice president of the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco and head of the mission, and Alan Holmes, a senior economist and economic adviser at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York - arrived in Sudan in December 1956 and stayed until the following March.

Charged with developing a blueprint for a central bank, the team interviewed commercial bankers, government officials, business owners and community members before drafting a central bank charter. The document laid out the bank's rights and authorized its operation. The government of Sudan established the central bank in July 1959 based on their work.

Brimmer's diary from the trip - housed at Harvard University - offers a glimpse into some of his other experiences. He attended festivities marking Sudan's first anniversary of independence and attended the first match of the inaugural African Cup of Nations soccer tournament.

He took pictures of the University of Khartoum and sites along the Blue Nile, and also attended a flower show by the Horticultural Society of the Sudan.

Perhaps his diary's most interesting moments concern his recollection of how Sudanese perceived him.

Wall Street 'inching' higher toward edge of bull market

Asian stocks mixed after Wall St retreats

NEW YORK, June 6, (AP) - U.S. stocks were drifting Tuesday amid a vacuum of market-moving data, while U.S. regulators shook the cryptocurrency world again by filing charges against another mega player in the industry.

The S&P 500 was mostly unchanged in afternoon trading, and it's near the edge of what traders call a bull market. It's almost 20% above where it was in mid-October, as a long-predicted recession has yet to hit and excitement around artificial intelligence has helped a select group of stocks to soar.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average was down 53 points, or 0.2%, at 33,507, as of 12:56 p.m. Eastern time, while the Nasdaq composite was 0.1% higher.

This upcoming week has few top-tier economic reports and corporate earnings updates to help Wall Street answer its main question. It wants to know which will happen first: a recession or inflation falling enough to get the Federal Reserve to start cutting interest rates, which have climbed so high they've hurt various parts of the economy.

That's why next week looms large. The U.S. government will publish its latest monthly updates on inflation, and the Federal Reserve will meet on interest-rate policy. The bet on Wall Street is that the Fed may hold off on hiking rates, which would be the first time that's happened in more than a year, but could resume raising rates in July.

Some of the strongest action was in the cryptocurrency world after the Securities and Exchange Commission charged Coinbase with operating its trading platform as an unregistered national securities exchange, broker and clearing agency.



People stand in front of an electronic stock board showing Japan's Nikkei 225 index at a securities firm Monday, June 5, 2023, in Tokyo. Asian stocks followed Wall Street higher on Monday after strong U.S. hiring data coupled with scant wage gains suggested a possible recession might be further away, but also that inflationary pressures are weakening. (AP)

savings account.

Coinbase criticized the SEC's approach to crypto, saying "the solution is legislation that allows fair rules for the road to be developed transparently and applied equally, not litigation."

A day earlier, the SEC filed 13 charges against another huge crypto trading platform, Binance, and its founder. Bitcoin was at \$26,357 Tuesday, down from \$27,000 on Sunday, according to CoinDesk.

Elsewhere in markets, oil prices were lower following gains driven earlier in the week by Saudi Arabia's announcement that it would cut production to boost crude's price. A barrel of U.S. crude was 0.5% lower at \$71.83. A barrel of Brent crude, the international standard, sank 0.5% to \$76.31.

Both were close to \$120 a year ago but have fallen amid worries about a strapped global economy's need for fuel.

Europe

Global stock markets were mixed

Asia

In Asia, the Shanghai Composite Index fell 1.2% to 3,195.34 and the Hang Seng in Hong Kong shed 0.2% to 19,072.42.

The Nikkei 225 in Tokyo gained 0.9% to 32,506.78 after government data showed Japanese wages rose 1% over a year earlier in April but growth slowed from the previous month's 1.3%.

The S&P ASX 200 in Sydney shed 1.2% to 7,129.60 after Australia's central bank lifted its benchmark interest rate by 0.25 percentage points to 4.1%

and warned further rises could follow. That came after inflation was stronger than expected at 6.8% in the January-March quarter.

India's Sensex lost 0.2% to 62,653.68. New Zealand and Jakarta advanced while Singapore and Bangkok declined. South Korean markets were closed for a holiday.

Oil

In energy markets, benchmark U.S. crude lost \$1.11 per barrel to \$71.04 per barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract rose 41 cents to \$72.15 on Monday. Brent crude, the price basis for international oil trading, sank \$1.05 to \$75.66 per barrel in London. It advanced 58 cents the previous session to \$76.71.

Currencies

The dollar fell to 139.45 yen from Monday's 139.63 yen. The euro gained to \$1.0729 from \$1.0715.

Sonata Software announces strategic partnership

Sonata Software, a global Modernization and Digital Engineering company, has announced a strategic partnership with SAP Commerce to drive digital innovation and help businesses accelerate their digital transformation journey.

SAP Commerce, a leading enterprise e-commerce platform, will be integrated with Sonata Software's digital commerce expertise to provide customers with

end-to-end e-commerce solutions, including storefront design, implementation, and maintenance. The partnership aims to offer seamless and personalized experiences to customers across various touchpoints and channels.

Commenting on the partnership, Mr. Anthony Lange, Global Partner Officer of Sonata Software, said, "We are excited to partner with SAP Commerce to drive digital innovation and help businesses

adapt to the new normal. Our collaboration will enable customers to leverage the power of SAP Commerce's advanced capabilities and Sonata's expertise in delivering digital commerce solutions to achieve their business goals."

As part of the partnership, Sonata Software will provide implementation and customization services, integration with third-party systems, and ongoing support and maintenance.

thousands report problems with Microsoft's email platform

Thousands of Microsoft Outlook users reported issues with accessing and using the email platform Monday morning.

Microsoft 365 outage and problem reports peaked at almost 18,000 shortly after 11 a.m. Eastern Monday morning, according to outage tracker Downtidetector. Reports have appeared to significantly decline since then.

Most of the reports expressed

issues with Outlook. Many users of Microsoft's emailing platform shared frustration on social media, with some noting they were unable to sign into or load their accounts.

The company said that it was "investigating an issue with accessing Outlook on the web" in a Twitter thread posted on its Microsoft 365 Status account - and added that a "downstream impact" was also identified for Mi-

crosoft Teams, SharePoint Online and OneDrive for Business.

Microsoft 365 Status later said it had reverted an update and saw an improvement in service - soon confirming recovery for impacted services.

In a statement sent to The Associated Press Monday afternoon, Microsoft said it had "resolved an issue preventing users from accessing some of our services."

Experienced ESL teachers targeted

Novakid launches Teacher Academy with a CPD-Accredited Course

SAN FRANCISCO, June 6, (Business Wire): Novakid, an expert provider of Young Learner ESL teaching knowledge and best practice, has launched the Novakid Teacher Academy.

The first course being offered to new and experienced ESL teachers is the Novakid TEYL course, an extensive programme that includes practical tips and solutions on how to excel at teaching online lessons to young learners. This CPD accredited course will earn teachers a 35-hour certificate and teachers have 60 days to complete the course at a time that suits their schedules. Other courses will be available by September 2023.

Novakid is one of Europe's leading online education platforms, specialising in teaching English to young learners. Elena Campanella, Head of Teacher Ops for Novakid, said: "We are English teaching professionals with extensive expertise in online teaching in particular. Novakid experts from the Teacher Development team and our best tutors worked together to create the Novakid Teacher Academy course materials that will help teachers start their journey into the ESL world. In this self-paced course, teachers will receive structured information, best practice case studies and teaching tips."

The Novakid Teacher Academy will consist of three areas of focus:

English language learning has increased in importance since most public schools made English classes compulsory. In turn, children are learning to speak the language at a younger age and parents have high expectations for their children to quickly become fluent in English. This has led to edtech companies taking up the opportunity to fill the gaps between public schooling and parental expectations. In this situation, teachers who acquire real-life experience with online teaching tools and platforms will have access to better career opportunities and increased student retention.

According to a range of research conducted on various TEFL providers, there are an average of 20,000 job postings on TEFL platforms. It was found that teaching experience is less important to TEFL employers than TEFL certification. In fact, the majority of all posts advertised were open to newly qualified teachers. This can be attributed to the revision of teaching methods - from offline to online or hybrid classrooms. Flexibility and CPD are the two key components teachers need to survive and prosper in the ever-changing classroom.

"Teaching online gives you the opportunity to manage your own time and earning potential - this course gives you the tools you need to be an effective online TEYL teacher," commented Campanella.

Novakid is a learning games company best known for its industry-leading English as a Second Language learning platform for kids aged 4 to 12 years old. As the go-to platform for game-based learning, Novakid is the next generation in online

Arduino announces strategic US expansion

AUSTIN, Texas/CHICAGO, June 6, (Business Wire): Arduino, the open-source hardware pioneer with 32 million active developers worldwide, today announced new offices and leadership in the United States to support the company's largest region of business.

This press release features multimedia.

Guneet Bedi, a technology industry veteran, will lead Arduino's U.S. division as Senior Vice President and General Manager of the Americas.

Arduino has been wildly popular in the U.S. for more than 15 years, and today, more than half of the company's total solutions are delivered to American customers. As a testament to Arduino's enduring success, its avid user base, now occupying high-level engineering and development positions, is increasingly turning to Arduino for enterprise-grade solutions.

The move to build out the U.S. operations and team marks the latest step in Arduino's expansion into the enterprise world. Last year, the company closed a \$32 million Series B funding round led by the global deep tech investor Robert Bosch Venture Capital. Renesas, Anzu Partners and Arm also joined the round to help Arduino continue its mission to eliminate the barriers of moving from prototyping to production and remove the vendor lock-in issues hindering digital transformation in industrial applications with its Arduino PRO ecosystem.

Guneet Bedi, a technology industry veteran with over 20 years of experience, will lead the U.S. division as Senior Vice President and General Manager of the Americas. New sales, marketing, and operations teams in Austin and Chicago will support the fast-growing demand for Arduino PRO products in manufacturing,

transportation, city operations and higher education.

With over 1,000 enterprise customers already on board, the Arduino PRO line has experienced remarkable year-over-year growth: Sales have doubled each year since its introduction in 2020. U.S. companies have been a significant contributor to this growth, accounting for 39% of Arduino PRO sales. Over one-third (34%) of Arduino PRO customers live in the United States.

Designed with reliability and durability in mind, Arduino PRO products are the perfect fit for industrial and commercial environments. Their robust construction ensures optimal performance and longevity, making them an ideal choice for businesses seeking dependable solutions.

What sets Arduino PRO apart is its unwavering commitment to open-source principles and the strength of its vibrant community ecosystem. By leveraging Arduino's extensive knowledge-sharing network, professionals can now accelerate their time-to-value and reduce the total cost of ownership. Arduino solutions provide access to thousands of code libraries, tutorials and resources, developers can swiftly prototype, troubleshoot and collaborate on projects, unlocking unparalleled efficiency.

"Today's new generation of engineers grew up building with Arduino," said Massimo Banzi, Arduino's co-founder, chairman and CMO. "Arduino is not just a platform for today's engineers, but also a catalyst for creating a skilled workforce of tomorrow. By combining industrial-grade reliability with the vast resources of our open-source community, we enable businesses to thrive in today's competitive landscape."

learning for kids.

Max Azarov, CEO of Novakid said, "Learning English equips children with the skills and talents to thrive in tomorrow's world. Novakid brings fun, adventure and imagination into the homes of our students. Our unique methodology and curriculum allow children to learn English through immersive, fun and playful online activities."

The launch price for the first course is \$29.99 (normal price: \$54.99). To find out more about the Novakid Teacher Academy, please visit the website.

The CPD Certification Service is the world's leading and largest independent CPD (Continuing Professional Development) accreditation institution operating across all industry sectors.

Novakid CPD catalogue: <https://cpduk.co.uk/providers/novakid>
 Follow Novakid Teacher Academy on social media: Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/novakid.teacher.academy>
 Instagram: <https://instagram.com/novakid.teacher.academy>
 LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/novakidcareers/>

Research by Veracode reveals

Software 'security' at public sector organizations lagging

BURLINGTON, Mass., June 6, (Business Wire): Veracode, a leading global provider of intelligent software security, today released research indicating that applications developed by public sector organizations tend to have more security flaws than applications created by the private sector. The findings are notable because increased numbers of flaws and vulnerabilities in applications correlate with increased levels of risk. The research comes amid a flurry of recent initiatives by the federal government to strengthen cybersecurity, including efforts to reduce vulnerabilities in applications that perform critical government functions.

Researchers found that just under 82 percent of applications developed by public sector organizations had at least one security flaw detected in their most recent scan over the last 12 months, compared to 74 percent of private sector organizations. Depending on the type of flaw tracked, public sector applications had a 7-12 percent higher probability of having a flaw introduced in the last 12 months.

"The difference between the rate at which flaws appear in public and private sector applications is significant. Efforts by the government to close the gap are necessary and should continue. As stewards of public safety, agencies have a responsibility to close this gap and strengthen security to protect the nation and its citizens," said Chris Eng, Chief Research Officer at Veracode.

Analysis of data collected from more than 27 million scans across 750,000 applications helped to produce Veracode's latest annual report on the State of Software Security. This new report showcases the public sector-specific findings from those scans and applications, including results from federal, state, and local government.

Numbers alone don't convey the consequences that occur when hackers exploit software flaws and vulnerabilities. In early May this year, a ransomware attack against the city of Dallas hobbled functions relied on to deliver public services, including IT systems used by public safety agencies. More than three weeks after the attack occurred, Dallas's public agencies hadn't fully recovered.

Veracode's research also found reasons for public sector organizations to be optimistic about application security. Discovery of "high severity" flaws in public sector applications (16.5 percent) in a 12-month period was lower than in non-public sector applications (19 percent). This is noteworthy because high severity flaws, when exploited, have greater potential to impact systems adversely.

Modern application testing encourages the use of multiple types of security scanning tools, such as static application security testing (SAST) and software composition analysis (SCA), because different scan types excel at uncovering different types of flaws. SAST and SCA found application flaws in a smaller percentage of public sector agencies compared to private sector applications.

Finding fewer flaws when using SCA tools could signal the initial impact of the May 2021 Executive Order (EO 14028), which directs U.S. federal agencies to invigorate efforts to protect the software supply chain. This EO also calls for greater use of soft-

ware bills of material (SBOMs), which list the ingredients in software, thereby promoting information sharing, transparency, and visibility. Elsewhere, the Federal Risk and Authorization Management Program (FedRAMP) standardizes security assessment of cloud products and services. Similarly, StateRAMP enables state and local governments to verify cloud service providers' compliance with cybersecurity policies.

"As modern IT systems have evolved and become more complex, the taxonomy of application flaws has become more varied," Eng said. "As such, the use of multiple scan types to find and fix flaws has become a best practice."

A stark difference between public and private sector applications is the rate at which scans discover new flaws in aging software. By the time software has been in production for five years, the two sectors diverge sharply: rates of new flaws introduced in private sector applications increase, while rates for public sector agencies decline.

This trend suggests that public sector agencies are more vigilant about keeping applications secure over time, and not just during the first few years of the lifecycle. Applications outside government, by contrast, experience a gradual and steady increase in the introduction of new flaws as they age.

The State of Software Security Public Sector 2023 report recommends four actions agencies can take to improve their cybersecurity posture.

"The public sector has come a long way in strengthening the security of applications that serve our government, but there is still more work to be done for agencies to improve their cyber posture and repel incoming threats. By focusing security efforts on the root cause of most cyber breaches-the application layer-agencies can achieve necessary improvements. Scanning regularly with a variety of testing types and addressing security debt-the accumulated software vulnerabilities that threaten a system's safety-will pave the way toward a more secure future for government agencies," Eng concluded.

The full public sector research from the Veracode State of Software Security report is available and provides core comparative metrics among government agencies.

The full Veracode State of Software Security 2023 is available to download.

The 13th volume of Veracode's annual report on the State of Software Security examines historical trends shaping the software landscape and how security practices are evolving along with those trends. This year's findings are based on the full historical data available from Veracode services and customers and represent a cross-section of large and small companies, commercial software suppliers, software outsourcing, and open-source projects. The report contains findings about applications that were subjected to static analysis, dynamic analysis, software composition analysis, and/or manual penetration testing through Veracode's cloud-based platform. The report considers data that was provided by Veracode's customers and information that was calculated or derived in the course of Veracode's analysis.

Is it real or made by AI? Europe wants a label for that as it fights disinformation

EU officials say need to act fast

LONDON, June 6, (AP): The European Union is pushing online platforms like Google and Meta to step up the fight against false information by adding labels to text, photos and other content generated by artificial intelligence, a top official said Monday.

EU Commission Vice President Vera Jourova said the ability of a new generation of AI chatbots to create complex content and visuals in seconds raises "fresh challenges for the fight against disinformation."

She said she asked Google, Meta, Microsoft, TikTok and other tech companies that have signed up to the 27-nation bloc's voluntary agreement on combating disinformation to work to tackle the AI problem.

Online platforms that have integrated generative AI into their services, such as Microsoft's Bing search engine and Google's Bard chatbot, should build safeguards to prevent "malicious actors" from generating disinformation, Jourova said at a briefing in Brussels.

Companies offering services that have the potential to spread AI-generated disinformation should roll out technology to "recognize such content and clearly label this to users," she said.

Google, Microsoft, Meta and TikTok did not respond immediately to requests for comment.

Jourova said EU regulations are aimed at protecting free speech, but when it comes to AI, "I don't see any right for the machines to have the freedom of speech."

The swift rise of generative AI technology, which has the capability to produce human-like text, images and video, has amazed many and alarmed others with its potential to transform many aspects of daily life. Europe has taken a lead role in the global movement to regulate artificial intelligence with its AI Act, but the legislation still needs final approval and won't take effect for several years.

Officials in the EU, which also is bringing in a separate set of rules this year to safeguard people from harmful online content, are worried that they need to act faster to keep up with the rapid development of generative AI.

Recent examples of debunked deepfakes include a realistic picture of Pope Francis in a white puffy jacket and an image of billowing black smoke next to a building accompanied with a claim that it showed an explosion near



European Commissioner for Values and Transparency Vera Jourova addresses the plenary at the European Parliament in Brussels, Thursday, March 25, 2021. The European Union is pushing online platforms like Google and Meta to step up the fight against false information by adding labels to text, photos and other content generated by artificial intelligence, EU Commission Vice President Vera Jourova said Monday. (AP)

MicroStrategy expands partnership with Microsoft to 'drive' AI-enabled analytics

TYSONS CORNER, Va., June 6, (BUSINESS WIRE): MicroStrategy® Incorporated (Nasdaq: MSTR) ("MicroStrategy" or the "Company"), the largest independent publicly-traded analytics and business intelligence company, has announced a new multi-year partnership with Microsoft that will expand the availability of MicroStrategy's products powered by Microsoft Azure. The partnership will integrate MicroStrategy's advanced analytics capabilities with Azure OpenAI Service to help businesses harness the full potential of their data.

Through this partnership, MicroStrategy is further investing in and enhancing the artificial intelligence (AI) capabilities within its analytics platform, MicroStrategy ONE™. The initial use cases are expected to range from natural language capabilities for generating new visualizations and dashboards, to productivity enhancements related to code,

workflow, schema, and content creation. The partnership between MicroStrategy and Microsoft will empower business users to make faster, more informed decisions and accelerate the development of new analytical applications.

"We are optimally positioned to increase productivity across large enterprises and all business intelligence personas by leveraging AI-driven technologies," said Cezary Raczek, Executive Vice President, Engineering, MicroStrategy. "We are pleased to team with Microsoft to integrate Azure OpenAI Service to enhance our solution and bring these high-impact capabilities to market."

The partnership also includes the integration of MicroStrategy's products with Microsoft 365, including powerful integrations with Microsoft Teams and PowerPoint, to provide businesses with enhanced analytics capabilities in the cloud.

the Pentagon.

Politicians have even enlisted AI to warn about its dangers. Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen used OpenAI's ChatGPT to craft the opening of a speech to Parliament last week, saying it was written "with such conviction that few of us would believe that it was a ro-

bots - and not a human - behind it."

European and U.S. officials said last week that they're drawing up a voluntary code of conduct for artificial intelligence that could be ready within weeks as a way to bridge the gap before the EU's AI rules take effect.

Similar voluntary commitments in

the bloc's disinformation code will become legal obligations by the end of August under the EU's Digital Services Act, which will force the biggest tech companies to better police their platforms to protect users from hate speech, disinformation and other harmful material.

'Indiana attorney general's TikTok lawsuit largely political posturing'

INDIANAPOLIS, June 6, (AP): The fate of the Indiana attorney general's lawsuit against the social media company TikTok is uncertain after a federal judge lambasted much of the case as "political posturing."

While U.S. District Judge Holly Brady ruled against TikTok's request to move the case to federal court, that decision leaves the lawsuit brought by Republican Attorney General Todd Rokita in the hands of a county judge who last month ruled against Rokita on two key points. The state attorney general

claims the Chinese-owned video-sharing platform misleads users about its level of inappropriate content and about the security of consumer information. A county judge has already said the attorney general is wrong to classify downloading TikTok as a consumer transaction because no money is exchanged, and that Indiana lacks standing in the case because both TikTok and Apple - the company where people download the app - are based in California.

The most recent blow came May 23, when Brady

wrote in a decision that "more than 90% of the (lawsuit) was devoted to irrelevant posturing."

"When one wades through the political posturing and finds that legal claim, the inescapable conclusion is that the claim rises and falls on matters particular to state law," Brady, a Fort Wayne, Indiana-based judge nominated by then-President Donald Trump, wrote. "The federal intrigue interjected by Indiana may interest its intended audience -- one beyond the courthouse wall -- but it is irrelevant to the determination of this case."

Air Products awards Envision Energy contract

Envision Energy, a global leader in green technology, today announced that it has signed a contract to supply 1.67 GW wind turbines for NEOM Green Hydrogen Company, the world's largest utility-scale hydrogen plant powered entirely by renewable energy. The mega plant is located at Oxagon, Saudi Arabia's region of NEOM.

Under the contract, Envision's cutting-edge 171-6.5MW wind turbines will be installed and are

expected to be fully operational by 2026.

"This contract represents a significant milestone for both our companies and the industry at large," said Zhang Lei, CEO of Envision Energy. "We are proud to be associated with such an ambitious project that will pave the way for other companies to follow suit in pursuing sustainable initiatives."

"We are extremely excited to collaborate with Envision on this

groundbreaking project," said Wolfgang Brand, Vice President of NEOM Green Hydrogen from Air Products. "This milestone demonstrates our shared commitment towards meeting sustainability objectives through project deliveries."

NEOM Green Hydrogen Company aims to produce carbon-free hydrogen using solely renewable energy sources such as wind and solar power to produce up to 600 tonnes per day. (AP)

SolarEdge introduces solar-attached EV mgt solution

SolarEdge Technologies, Inc. a global leader in smart energy technology, today announced the launch of a solar-attached Electric Vehicle (EV) management solution for the Commercial and Industrial (C&I) segment.

The new software-based solution, which further expands SolarEdge's growing suite of C&I-focused products and software, manages and optimizes the EV charging process for sites that re-

quire dynamic load management and have large quantities of EVs, such as apartment buildings, workplaces and public charging locations. Built on advanced AI-based predictive algorithms, the solution incorporates real-time data analytics and considers solar production, dynamic electricity prices and tiered charging schedules. By integrating seamlessly with SolarEdge's energy management system, this new

offering orchestrates and optimizes interactions between facility solar generation, stationary battery storage and large-scale EV charging, taking into account grid and infrastructure limitations.

The EV charging management solution is powered by technology developed by Wevo Energy ("Wevo"), a startup specializing in EV charging optimization and management software, in which SolarEdge is an investor. (AP)

Idea might not make it on to the agenda of 'make-or-break' international climate negotiations

UN climate chief calls fossil fuel phase out key to curbing warming

WASHINGTON, June 6, (AP) — The world needs to phase out fossil fuels if it wants to curb global warming, the United Nations climate chief said in an interview with The Associated Press. But he said the idea might not make it on to the agenda of "make-or-break" international climate negotiations this fall, run in and by an oil haven.

A phase out of heat-trapping fossil fuels "is something that is at top of every discussion or most discussions that are taking place," U.N. climate Executive Secretary Simon Stiell said. "It is an issue that has global attention. How that translates into an agenda item and a (climate talks) outcome we will see."

Stiell told AP he couldn't quite promise it would get a spot on the agenda in climate talks, called COP28, in Dubai later this year.

That agenda decision is up to the president of the negotiations, Stiell said. He is the head of the state-owned Abu Dhabi National Oil Company, Sultan al-Jaber.

The decision by host nation United Arab Emirates to make al-Jaber the head of the climate conference has drawn fierce opposition from lawmakers in Europe and the United States, as well as environmental advocates. UAE officials said they want game-changing results in the climate talks and note that al-Jaber also runs a large renewable energy company.

Last year at climate talks, a proposal by India to phase out all fossil fuels, supported by the United States and many European nations, never got on the agenda. What gets discussed is decided by the COP president, who last year was the foreign minister of Egypt,

a natural gas exporting nation.

When asked if Egypt's leaders kept the concept off the agenda, Stiell, speaking via Zoom from Bonn, Germany, where preliminary talks start Monday, said he couldn't comment except to say that "it's within their purview."

An engineer-turned government official and diplomat, Stiell walked a fine line between talking about the importance of a fossil fuel phase out and supporting the U.N. process that has put countries that export oil and natural gas in charge of negotiations about global warming for two consecutive years.

About 94% of the heat-trapping carbon dioxide human industrial activity put in the air last year was from the burning of coal, oil and natural gas, according to the scientists who monitor emissions at Global Carbon Project.

Al-Jaber's company has the capacity to produce 2 million barrels of oil and 7 billion cubic feet of natural gas a day and said it plans to increase that drilling to 5 million barrels a day by 2027.

Getting a fossil fuel phase out on the agenda this year depends on the conference president al-Jaber and on whether there is enough pressure from other nations, Stiell said.

"Where better to have a discussion ... then in a region where fossil fuels is at the center of their economy?" Stiell asked.

But the issue of a coal, oil and natural gas phase out is so central to Stiell he brought it up four times in the half-hour interview Saturday. He said the real issue is getting something done, not putting it on the agenda.

In public appearances, al-Jaber has emphasized being "laser-focused on

phasing out fossil fuel emissions," not necessarily the fuels themselves, by promoting carbon capture and removal of the pollutant from the air.

Stiell dismissed the idea that carbon removal can be a short-term solution.

"Right now, in this critical decade of action to achieve those deep reductions, the science tells us it can only be achieved through the reduced use, significantly reduced use, of all fossil fuels," Stiell said in the interview.

Stiell defended the back-to-back years of having climate negotiations run in and by fossil fuel-exporting nations as the wishes of the "parties" or countries involved.

This year will be critical because it is the first global stocktake to see where the world is in its efforts to reduce carbon emissions. To reach the Paris agreement goal of limiting warming

to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) since pre-industrial times, greenhouse gas pollution needs to be cut in half by 2030, he said.

"We know we are a long way from where we need to be," Stiell said.

This year's stocktake sets up a new round of pledges for even tighter emissions cuts by telling nations the stark truth of how bad the situation is, Stiell said. The problem hasn't been nations knowing how bad it is, he said.

"It's lack of implementation," Stiell said. "I don't believe it is the lack of knowledge. There's been report after report after report that all say the same thing, all with increasing urgency."

After less than a year on the job, but years as a national negotiator before that, Stiell said he has "gone beyond frustration. What drives me is a desire to make a difference."

Heliogen, the City of Lancaster to advance hydrogen economy

First green hydrogen contract to fuel Municipal fleet

PASADENA, Calif. & LANCASTER, Calif., June 6, (AP) — Heliogen, Inc. a leading provider of AI-enabled concentrating solar energy technology, today announced the execution of a definitive contract with The City of Lancaster, California ("The City" or "Lancaster") to produce green hydrogen to be purchased by Lancaster for the city's growing green hydrogen fuel needs. The partnership represents Lancaster's first hydrogen offtake agreement.

The green hydrogen will be produced at Heliogen's Proxima hydrogen facility in Lancaster and will leverage Heliogen's innovative technology using AI and advanced computer vision software to concentrate sunlight with mirrors, producing carbon-free hydrogen with significant economic development potential. As part of the agreement, Heliogen will provide green hydrogen to the City and will certify its carbon intensity, a measure of the CO₂ emitted per kilogram of hydrogen produced. Proxima could ultimately help support other projects within the city and region, including sustainable aviation fuel, and sales and distribution of hydrogen fuel for industrial processes such as long-haul trucking, cement, and mining.

The agreement between Heliogen and Lancaster builds upon the previously announced MOU between the parties to establish a clean hydrogen generation facility, and is expected to contract hydrogen conforming to SAE J2719 hydrogen fuel cell vehicle specifications at a \$10/kg offtake price. The wholesale-level price represents significant cost savings for the city amid rapidly increasing prices at hydrogen filling stations across California, with the average hydrogen pump price reaching an all-time high of \$21.28/kg in November 2022, according to data provided to Hydrogen Insight by S&P Global Commodity Insights.

The collaboration furthers the City's vision to become a model and leader for hydrogen as a clean, alternative energy source for municipalities. Lancaster, the nation's first city to embrace hydrogen power, is an inaugural winner of the U.S. Department of Energy's H₂ Twin Cities Initiative.

"We are excited to advance our strategic relationship with The City of Lancaster and support its needs for green hydrogen fuel at scale," said Christie Obiaya, Chief Executive Officer at Heliogen. "This agreement underscores the incredible potential to rapidly develop and commercialize green hydrogen as a key pathway for a decarbonized economy. I am proud of the Heliogen team for its work to demonstrate the value of our patented breakthrough technology to produce cost-effective green hydrogen, which will accelerate adoption of this critical, multi-use form of clean fuel all over the world."

"As America's first hydrogen city, Lancaster is proud to pioneer innovative solutions to drive change and decarbonize our economy," said R. Rex Parris, Mayor, City of Lancaster. "Heliogen's unique ability to create carbon-free hydrogen holds immense promise to fuel our municipal fleet at the lowest carbon intensity. Hydrogen



A flyer of the World Environment Day.

Lulu Hypermarket leads way in creating 'awareness' on World Environment Day

KUWAIT CITY, June 6: Lulu Hypermarket, a leading retail chain in Kuwait, took a proactive step towards safeguarding the environment, was done by a comprehensive awareness program on the occasion of World Environment Day, 5th June 2023. Under the tagline "Act today, safeguard tomorrow," Lulu Hypermarket emphasized the urgent need to address plastic pollution and promoted the importance of reducing plastic consumption.

As part of their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative, Lulu Hypermarket recognized the significance of World Environment Day as a global platform to raise awareness and encourage positive environmental practices. The day was marked with a series of activities and engagements across all Lulu outlets in Kuwait.

The highlight of the campaign was the launch of the hashtag #beatplasticpollution, which served as a rallying call for individuals and communities to come together and combat the adverse effects of plastic waste on our planet. Lulu Hypermarket believes that through collective action, society can make a lasting impact on the environment, ensuring a sustainable future for generations to come.

Throughout the day, Lulu Hypermarket engaged its customers through various interactive initiatives, aiming to fos-

ter a sense of responsibility towards reducing plastic consumption. Informational sessions were conducted, providing valuable insights on the detrimental effects of plastic pollution and the simple yet effective ways to minimize its usage.

In addition, Lulu Hypermarket organized awareness campaigns within its stores, showcasing alternative eco-friendly products. Through these efforts, Lulu Hypermarket aimed to educate and empower individuals to make conscious choices that contribute to a greener and cleaner environment.

Lulu Top management expressed his gratitude to all customers and participants who actively engaged in the World Environment Day awareness program. They stated, "Preserving our planet is a collective responsibility, and Lulu Hypermarket is committed to being at the forefront of sustainability initiatives. By reducing plastic consumption, we can significantly minimize our environmental footprint and ensure a healthier future for our planet and future generations."

Lulu Hypermarket's initiative on World Environment Day reflects its long-standing commitment to environmental stewardship. By raising awareness and advocating for the reduction of plastic pollution, Lulu Hypermarket sets a positive example for the retail industry and inspires individuals to make a difference in their daily lives.

is the future and we invite other cities to join us on the path to decarbonization as a way to tackle climate change."

Heliogen has completed preliminary configuration designs and secured a site for Proxima.

Heliogen is a renewable energy technology company focused on decarbonizing industry and empowering a sustainable civilization. The company's concentrating solar energy and thermal storage systems aim to deliver carbon-free heat, steam, power, or green hydrogen at scale to support round-the-clock industrial operations.

Powered by AI, computer vision and robotics, Heliogen is focused on providing robust clean energy solutions that accelerate the transition to renewable energy, without compromising reliability, availability, or cost.

Lancaster is a diverse community of nearly 170,000, leading the future through science, technology, art, culture, and collaboration. Home to astronauts, rocket scientists, families, and innovative businesses large and small, we are leading the USA with innovation. Combined with spectacular landscapes and clean air, Lancaster has

the confidence, expertise, spirit, and imagination to transform tomorrow. We are: Creating a better tomorrow. Together. Visit us at www.cityoflan-casterca.gov.

The City of Lancaster, California, was the first United States city to embrace hydrogen power, earning the moniker of the "First Hydrogen City." The City has engaged in numerous formal partnerships and agreements to harness the potential of clean hydrogen. Lancaster is jumpstarting hydrogen adoption throughout the Antelope Valley and southern California.

Worley commences engineering

Vast Solar advances utility-scale concentrated solar thermal plant

SYDNEY, Australia, June 6, (Business Wire) — Vast Solar Pty Ltd (Vast), a renewable energy company specialising in concentrated solar thermal power (CSP) energy systems that generate zero-carbon, utility-scale, dispatchable electricity and industrial process heat, today announced it has awarded Worley Ltd. (Worley) (ASX: WOR) key engineering contracts for its VS1 CSP project.

This press release features multimedia. View the full release here: <https://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20230605005052/en/>

Vast's 1.1 MW CSP Demonstration Plant in Forbes, Australia was operated for 32 months (Photo: Business Wire)

VS1 is a 30MW / 288 MWh CSP plant being built in Port Augusta, South Australia. Utilising Vast's proprietary modular tower CSP v3.0 technology, VS1 will generate clean, low-cost, dispatchable power with over 8 hours of thermal energy storage. The project will create dozens of green manufacturing jobs, hundreds of jobs during construction and long-term plant operations roles.

Vast has appointed Worley and its specialist consulting division, Advisian, to complete VS1 basic engineering by July 2023, followed by front-end engineering design (FEED) in the balance of this calendar year. Construction of VS1 is on track to begin in 2024.

"With strong expertise in CSP, Worley and Advisian are the ideal engineering partners for VS1, which will utilise our industry-leading technology to capture and store the sun's energy during the day before generating heat and dispatchable power during the day or night," said Craig Wood, CEO of Vast.

"Vast has a long-standing relationship with Worley and Advisian dating back to assistance with the engineering and commissioning of our 1.1MW grid connected Jemalong demonstration plant," added Wood. "Their skill in integrating our technology with major packages to be delivered by key equipment partners from around the world will allow VS1 to progress towards FID late this year."

"Worley is pleased to continue their support of Vast Solar with the provision of specialist engineering skills. This

work aligns with our corporate ambition to be recognized globally as leader in sustainability solutions and delivering a more sustainable world," said Peter Israel, Power & Energy Transition Practice Manager of Worley.

Vast's proprietary CSP v3.0 technology has received significant support from the Australian government. Most recently, the Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA) announced it has approved up to AUD\$65 million in funding to support construction of VS1.

VS1 will be co-located with Solar Methanol 1 (SM1), a world-first green methanol demonstration plant which, in February, was selected to receive AUD\$19.48 million and EUR13.2 million from a collaboration between the Australian and German governments, respectively. SM1 will use zero emissions dispatchable electricity and heat from VS1 to produce green methanol for use as a sustainable shipping fuel.

Vast is a renewable energy company that has CSP systems to generate, store and dispatch carbon free, utility-scale electricity, industrial heat, and to enable the production of green fuels. Vast's CSP v3.0 approach to CSP utilizes a proprietary, modular sodium loop to efficiently capture and convert solar heat into these end products.

On February 14, 2023, Vast announced a business combination agreement with Nabors Energy Transition Corp. (NYSE: NETC). The combined entity would be named Vast and its securities are expected to be listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the ticker symbol "VSTE" while remaining headquartered in Australia.

Visit www.vast.energy for more information.

Worley is a global company headquartered in Australia and our purpose is delivering a more sustainable world. Worley is a leading global provider of professional project and asset services in the energy, chemicals and resources sectors. As a knowledge-based service provider, we use our knowledge and capabilities to support our customers to reduce their emissions and move towards a low carbon future.

Worley Limited is listed on the Australian Securities Exchange (ASX: WOR).

Megawatt charging for commercial vehicles

HUBER+SUHNER announces a 'breakthrough innovation'

HERISAU, Switzerland, June 6, (AP) — The Group is scheduled to showcase its RADOX® MCS1500 system at EVS36 in Sacramento (California), 11-14 June, and Power2Drive in Munich, 14-16 June.

As the leading supplier of cooled cable technology for the high power charging (HPC) market with its renowned RADOX® HPC500, HUBER+SUHNER is proud to announce that it has successfully qualified its RADOX MCS1500 system in multiple field tests. The RADOX MCS1500 is designed to deliver continuous charging up to 2,250 kW (1,500 Amps) for heavy-duty electric vehicles. With this unique solution, HUBER+SUHNER is expanding its product range into megawatt charging by utilizing its scalable direct-liquid cooled technology platform, offering best-in-class performance in all conditions. In addition, HUBER+SUHNER is developing a 4,500 kW (3,000 Amps) solution to cover even higher power needs in the future.

"With the development of the RADOX® MCS1500, we are once again one step ahead, establishing our leadership in the emerging megawatt charging market," said Max Goeldi,

Vice President Market Management HPC at HUBER+SUHNER. "This innovation will help to fast-charge the EV revolution."

"By introducing the missing link between vehicle and infrastructure, we enable our customers to provide a safe, efficient and ultra-fast charging experience for heavy duty vehicles," added Stefan Buri, Vice President Market Management Industrials at HUBER+SUHNER.

To experience the RADOX HPC and MCS solutions, visit HUBER+SUHNER at the EVS36 CharIN pavilion in Sacramento, California, 11-14 June 2023, or at the Power2Drive Expo in Munich, at booth FM.701/8 in the outdoor pavilion, 14-16 June 2023.

The globally active Swiss company HUBER+SUHNER develops and produces components and system solutions for electrical and optical connectivity. The company serves the three main markets: Industry, Communication and Transportation with applications from the three technologies of radio frequency, fiber optics and low frequency. HUBER+SUHNER products excel in excellent performance, quality, reliability and long service lives - even under the most demanding conditions.

‘Vision Pro’ high-end camera

Apple unveils a \$3,500 headset as it wades into VR world

CUPERTINO, Calif., June 6, (AP) — Apple on Monday unveiled a long-rumored headset that will place its users between the virtual and real world, while also testing the technology trendsetter’s ability to popularize new-fangled devices after others failed to capture the public’s imagination.

After years of speculation, Apple CEO Tim Cook hailed the arrival of the sleek goggles - dubbed “Vision Pro” - at the company’s annual developers conference held on a park-like campus in Cupertino, California, that Apple’s late co-founder Steve Jobs helped design. The device will be capable of toggling between virtual reality, or VR, and augmented reality, or AR, which projects digital imagery while users still see can see objects in the real world.

“This marks the beginning of a journey that will bring a new dimension to powerful personal technology,” Cook told the crowd.

Although Apple executives provided an extensive preview of the headset’s capabilities during the final half hour of Monday’s event, consumers will have to wait before they can get their hands on the device and prepare to pay a hefty price to boot. Vision Pro will sell for \$3,500 once it’s released in stores early next year.

“It’s an impressive piece of technol-

ogy, but it was almost like a tease,” said Gartner analyst Tuong Nguyen. “It looked like the beginning of a very long journey.”

Exploring

Instead of merely positioning the goggles as another vehicle for exploring virtual worlds or watching more immersive entertainment, Apple framed the Vision Pro as the equivalent of owning a ultrahigh-definition TV, surround-sound system, high-end camera, and state-of-the-art camera bundled into a single piece of hardware.

“We believe it is a stretch, even for Apple, to assume consumers would pay a similar amount for an AR/VR headset as they would for a combination of those products,” D.A. Davison Tom Forte wrote in a Monday research note.

Despite such skepticism, the headset could become another milestone in Apple’s lore of releasing game-changing technology, even though the company hasn’t always been the first to try its hand at making a particular device.

Apple’s lineage of breakthroughs date back to a bow-tied Jobs peddling the first Mac in 1984 - a tradition that continued with the iPod in 2001, the iPhone in 2007, the iPad in 2010, the Apple Watch in 2014 and its AirPods in 2016.

The company emphasized that it

drew upon its past decades of product design during the years it spent working on the Vision Pro, which Apple said involved more than 5,000 different patents.

The headset will be equipped with 12 cameras, six microphones and variety of sensors that will allow users to control it and various apps with just their eyes and hand gestures. Apple said the experience won’t cause the recurring nausea and headaches that similar devices have in the past. The company also developed a technology to create three-dimensional digital version of each user to display during video conferencing.

Although Vision Pro won’t require physical controllers that can be clunky to use, the goggles will have to either be plugged into a power outlet or a portable battery tethered to the headset - a factor that could make it less attractive for some users.

“They’ve worked hard to make this headset as integrated into the real world as current technology allows, but it’s still a headset,” said Insider Intelligence analyst Yory Wurmser, who nevertheless described the unveiling as a “fairly mind-blowing presentation.”

Hit

Even so, analysts are not expecting the Vision Pro to be a big hit right away. That’s largely because of the



The Apple Vision Pro headset is displayed in a showroom on the Apple campus on June 5, in Cupertino, Calif. (AP)

hefty price, but also because most people still can’t see a compelling reason to wear something wrapped around their face for an extended period of time.

If the Vision Pro turns out to be a niche product, it would leave Apple in the same bind as other major tech companies and startups that have tried selling headsets or glasses equipped with technology that either thrusts people into artificial worlds or projects digital

images onto scenery and things that are actually in front of them - a format known as “augmented reality.”

Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg has been describing these alternate three-dimensional realities as the “metaverse.” It’s a geeky concept that he tried to push into the mainstream by changing the name of his social networking company to Meta Platforms in 2021 and then pouring billions of dollars into improving the virtual technol-

ogy. But the metaverse largely remains a digital ghost town, although Meta’s virtual reality headset, the Quest, remains the top-selling device in a category that so far has mostly appealed to video game players looking for even more immersive experiences. Cook and other Apple executives avoided referring to the metaverse in their presentations, describing the Vision Pro as the company’s first leap into “spatial computing” instead.

The response to virtual, augmented and mixed reality has been decidedly ho-hum so far. Some of the gadgets deploying the technology have even been derisively mocked, with the most notable example being Google’s internet-connected glasses released more than a decade ago.

Microsoft also has had limited success with HoloLens, a mixed-reality headset released in 2016, although the software maker earlier this year insisted it remains committed to the technology.

Magic Leap, a startup that stirred excitement with previews of a mixed-reality technology that could conjure the spectacle of a whale breaching through a gymnasium floor, had so much trouble marketing its first headset to consumers in 2018 that it has since shifted its focus to industrial, health care and emergency uses.



macOS Sonoma makes the Mac experience better than ever - from more ways to personalize with widgets, to big updates to Safari and video conferencing, along with exciting new game titles.

Stunning screen savers, powerful widgets

macOS Sonoma’s all-new features to ‘elevate’ productivity, creativity

CUPERTINO, Calif., June 6: Apple® has previewed macOS® Sonoma, the latest version of the world’s most advanced desktop operating system, bringing a rich set of features that elevate the Mac® experience. Stunning screen savers and powerful widgets unlock an entirely new way to personalize. Users can now place widgets right on the desktop, interact with them with just a click, and through the magic of Continuity, access the extensive ecosystem of iPhone® widgets on their Mac. In macOS Sonoma, video conferencing also gets more engaging with great new features to help users present remotely, like Presenter Overlay, which places a presenter on top of the content being shared, and Reactions, which enables fun gesture-triggered video effects in cinematic quality. Significant updates come to Safari®, taking the web experience to the next level. Profiles keeps browsing separate between multiple topics or projects, and web apps provide faster access to favorite sites. And gaming gets even better, with the introduction of Game Mode, exciting new titles, and a new game porting toolkit that makes it even easier for developers to bring more games to Mac.

“macOS is the heart of the Mac, and with Sonoma, we’re making it even more delightful and productive to use,” said Craig Federighi, Apple’s senior vice president of Software Engineering. “We think users are going to love macOS Sonoma and the new ways it enables them to personalize with widgets and stunning new screen savers, see new levels of gaming performance, and gain powerful productivity for video conferencing and browsing with Safari.”

Interactive

Widgets are now even more powerful and personal on Mac. Users can place widgets right on the desktop and conveniently access the widget gallery to find the ones they know and love. Widgets blend seamlessly with the wallpaper while users work in apps, so they can stay focused on the task at hand. Through the magic of Continuity, users can also enjoy the vast ecosystem of iPhone widgets on their Mac. And widgets become interactive, allowing users to check off reminders, play or pause media, access home controls, and perform various tasks from their Mac, all directly from the desktop.

macOS Sonoma brings enhanced video conferencing features that enable users to present and share their work more effectively within any video conferencing app. Presenter Overlay, a new video effect, elevates a user’s presence by displaying them on top of the content they are sharing. Additionally, Reactions allow users to share how they feel by seamlessly adding balloons, confetti, hearts, and more into the video, which can also be triggered with a hand gesture. The improved Screen Sharing picker simplifies the process of sharing apps during video calls. Users can simply click the green button in the top-left corner of an

‘We keep users in the driver’s seat’

Apple unveils powerful new privacy & security features

CUPERTINO, Calif., June 6: Apple® has announced its latest privacy and security innovations, including major updates to Safari® Private Browsing, Communication Safety, and Lockdown Mode, as well as app privacy improvements. Additionally, Apple introduced new features designed with privacy and security at their core, including Check In, NameDrop™, and Live Voicemail. These new efforts are the latest manifestation of Apple’s deeply held belief that privacy is a fundamental human right and that good privacy is built on a foundation of strong security.

“Privacy is designed into every new Apple product and feature from the beginning,” said Craig Federighi, Apple’s senior vice president of Software Engineering. “We are focused on keeping our users in the driver’s seat when it comes to their data by continuing to provide industry-leading privacy features and the best data security in the world. This approach is evident in a number of features on our platforms, like the major updates to Safari Private Browsing, as well as the expansion of Lockdown Mode.”

Browsing

Safari introduced private browsing years before any other browser. This year, a significant update provides even greater protection against trackers as users browse the web and from people who might have access to their device. Advanced tracking and fingerprinting protections go even further to help prevent websites from using the latest techniques to track or identify a user’s device. Private Browsing now locks when not in use, allowing a user to keep tabs open even when stepping away from the device.

A new embedded Photos picker can help users share specific photos with apps while keeping the rest of their library private. When apps ask to access the user’s entire photo library, the user will be shown more information about what they’ll be sharing, along with occasional reminders of their choice.

Some websites add extra information to their URLs in order to track users across other websites. Now this information will be removed from the links users share in Messages and Mail, and the links will still work as expected. This information will also be removed from links in Safari Private Browsing.

New tools give developers more information about the data practices of third-party software development kits (SDKs) they use in their apps, allowing them to provide even more accurate Privacy Nutrition Labels. These changes also improve the integrity of the software supply chain by supporting signatures for third-party SDKs to add another layer of protection against abuse.

Communication Safety, designed to warn children when receiving or sending photos in Messages that contain nudity, now covers video content in addition to still images. A new API lets developers integrate Communication Safety right into their apps. Additionally, the feature will now help keep kids safe when they’re sending and receiving an AirDrop®, a FaceTime® video message, and when using the Phone app to receive a Contact Poster and the Photos picker to choose content to send. All image and video processing for Communication Safety occurs on-device, meaning neither Apple nor any third party gets access to the content. These warnings will be turned on for the child accounts in their Family Sharing plan, and can be disabled by the parent.

Sensitive Content Warning helps adult users avoid seeing unwanted nude images and videos when receiving them in Messages, an AirDrop, a FaceTime video message, and the Phone app when receiving a Contact Poster, all using the same privacy-preserving technology at the core of Communication Safety. The feature is optional and can be turned on by the user in Privacy & Security settings. As with Communication Safety, all image and video processing for Sensitive Content Warning occurs on-device, meaning neither Apple nor any third party gets access to the content.

The Health app is a central, secure, and private place for a user’s health and fitness information, and it provides users with meaningful insights to live a healthier life. In iPadOS 17, the Health app comes to iPad and has been designed to give users rich detail at a glance so they can see information from iPad, iPhone, and Apple Watch, as well as compatible third-party apps and devices, all in one place.

Privacy is fundamental in the design and development across all of Apple’s

‘Empower people to take charge of their own health’

Apple provides valuable tools, insights into new health areas

CUPERTINO, Calif., June 6: Apple has announced new health features in iOS 17, iPadOS® 17, and watchOS® 10, expanding into two impactful areas and providing innovative tools and experiences across platforms.

New mental health features allow users to log their momentary emotions and daily moods, see valuable insights, and easily access assessments and resources. iPhone®, iPad®, and Apple Watch® offer new vision health features that encourage healthy behaviors that help reduce the risk of myopia, and the Health app comes to iPad, giving users new ways to see their health data. All of these new features - and existing health features - are grounded in science and built with privacy at the core.

“Our goal is to empower people to take charge of their own health journey. With these innovative new features, we’re expanding the comprehensive range of health and wellness tools that we offer our users across iPhone, iPad, and Apple Watch,” said Sumbul Desai, M.D., Apple’s vice president of Health. “Mental health and vision health are important, but often overlooked, and we’re excited to introduce features that offer valuable new insights to provide users with an even better understanding of their health. These insights help support users in their daily decisions and offer more informed conversations with their doctors.”

Mental health
Mental health is as important as physical health and affects people every day in how they think, feel, and act.

Research shows that reflecting on one’s own mental state can help build emotional awareness and resilience. According to Dr. Michelle Craske, a distinguished professor of psychology and psychiatry at UCLA, who echoes many in the field, “Identifying our feelings has been shown to help us manage difficult emotions, appreciate positive moments, and improve wellbeing.” Multiple studies by researchers have shown that identifying feelings reduces emotions like sadness and anger, and positively impacts our body by slowing our heart rate. Additionally, in a survey of participants in the UCLA Digital Mental Health Study, initial results showed more than 80 percent of participants found reflecting on their mood in the study app increased emotional awareness, and about half said it increased wellbeing.

Vision health
Myopia, or nearsightedness, is the leading cause of vision impairment globally. It’s estimated to affect over 30 percent of the population currently and expected to grow to 50 percent, or 5 billion people, by 2050.

Eye care providers recommend a few key behaviors in children to help reduce the risk of myopia. Two of these behaviors are spending more time outdoors in daylight and increasing the distance at which they view something like a device or a book.

The International Myopia Institute recommends children spend at least 80-120 minutes a day outdoors. With watchOS 10, Apple Watch introduces the ability to measure time spent in daylight using the ambient light sensor. Users can view the amount of time spent in daylight detected by their Apple Watch in the Health app in iOS 17 and iPadOS 17. Children who do not have their own iPhone can use Family Setup to pair their Apple Watch to their parent’s iPhone, giving parents visibility into the amount of time their kids are spending in daylight with Health Sharing.

Health app comes to iPad
The Health app is a central, secure, and private place for a user’s health and fitness information, and it provides users with meaningful insights to live a healthier life. In iPadOS 17, the Health app comes to iPad and has been designed to give users rich detail at a glance so they can see information from iPad, iPhone, and Apple Watch, as well as compatible third-party apps and devices, all in one place.

Privacy is fundamental in the design and development across all of Apple’s



watchOS 10 delivers redesigned apps, a new Smart Stack, additional watch faces, new cycling and hiking features, and tools to support mental health.

‘Most advanced wearable OS’

watchOS 10 a milestone update for Apple Watch

CUPERTINO, Calif., June 6: Apple® previewed watchOS® 10, bringing Apple Watch® users a fresh approach to quickly view information with redesigned apps, a new Smart Stack to show relevant widgets right when they’re needed, and delightful new watch faces. New metrics, Workout Views, and Bluetooth connectivity for power meters, speed sensors, and cadence sensors arrive for cyclists, while new Compass Waypoints and Maps capabilities further help hikers. The Mindfulness app offers additional tools to support mental health. watchOS 10 is available as a developer beta today, and will be available as a free software update this fall.

Redefined

“watchOS is the world’s most advanced wearable operating system, and it has redefined how people all over the world think of what a watch can do,” said Kevin Lynch, Apple’s vice president of Technology. “watchOS 10 is a major milestone and an energizing new approach for Apple Watch, introducing a fresh new design for quickly viewing information, delightful new watch faces, new features for cyclists and hikers, and important tools for health.”

With watchOS 10, redesigned apps provide more information at a glance, and there are new ways to navigate and quickly access content.

“With watchOS 10, we’ve redesigned the interface, allowing users to experience Apple Watch like never

before,” said Alan Dye, Apple’s vice president of Human Interface Design. “The update gives users the information that matters most to them at a glance, simplified navigation, and a new visual language that takes full advantage of the Apple Watch display. We’re also introducing the Smart Stack, offering quick access to proactive and relevant information, right from the watch face.”

Apple Watch apps, including Weather, Stocks, Home, Maps, Messages, World Clock, and others, now utilize more of the Apple Watch display for more glanceable information. The Activity app on Apple Watch and the Fitness app on iPhone® make tracking daily movement even easier with more details, improvements to sharing, a redesigned trophy case, and Apple Fitness+™ trainer tips.

A new Smart Stack contains widgets that display timely information that adapts to the user’s context and can be revealed with a simple turn of the Digital Crown® from any watch face. For example, at the beginning of the day, Weather will show the forecast, or, when traveling, the Smart Stack will show boarding passes from Wallet. Calendar and Reminders will reshuffle to the top to display upcoming meetings or tasks, and apps that are running, such as Podcasts, will also move up so they are readily available. Smart Stack also enables users to enjoy a beautiful watch face, like Portraits, while still offering a way to quickly access information they care about.

The new Journal app on iOS 17 gives users a way to reflect and practice gratitude through writing about and remembering life’s moments. It leverages the new Journaling Suggestions API to offer a personalized set of moments to write about, using on-device machine learning. Suggested moments are intelligently curated from a user’s recent activity, including photos, people, places, workouts, and more, making it easy to get started.

Availability
The developer beta of iOS 17 is available to Apple Developer Program members at developer.apple.com starting today, and a public beta will be available next month at beta.apple.com. New software features will be available this fall as a free software update for iPhone Xs and later.

New software features will be available this fall as a free software update for iPad (6th generation and later), iPad mini® (5th generation and later), iPad Air® (3rd generation and later), 12.9-inch iPad Pro® (2nd generation and later), 10.5-inch iPad Pro, and 11-inch iPad Pro (1st generation and later). For more information, visit apple.com/ipados/ipados-17-preview. Features are subject to change. Some features may not be available in all regions or all languages.

Blackhawk, Blue Genes to improve health outcomes

Blackhawk Claims Service, an innovative of market leading third-party administrator (TPA), has announced it has partnered with Blue Genes, an app-based tool that allows patients and providers to personalize medication plans based on drug-to-drug interactions and genetic compatibility. Providing members with an accurate and in-depth understanding of how their genetics interact with their prescriptions re-

sults in less risk of adverse drug reactions and reduced costs for patients and providers. "This partnership will provide Blackhawk groups the opportunity to drastically reduce hospitalizations and prescription costs. Members will be taking the most effective medications. Based on their genetics, members will be empowered with additional information about their prescriptions, so they can make

informed decisions and improve their overall health," Blackhawk Claims Service CEO, Mark Keck, explained. Blue Genes works by sending high-risk and high-utilization members an at-home test kit to collect their DNA to analyze how their genetics interact with their prescriptions. After the results have been summarized, the information is uploaded to the app for a member to review.

AOP Health strengthens rare blood cancer program

With the publication of the final results from the Low-PV study in the New England Journal of Medicine Evidence conducted by Fondazione per la Ricerca dell'Ospedale di Bergamo (From) under the leadership of Professor Tiziano Barbui, AOP Health has announced an important advancement reinforcing its clinical development program for ropeginterferon alpha-2b (Besremi®) in polycythaemia vera (PV),

a rare blood cancer. The academic Low-PV study supported and funded by AOP Health and public organizations in Italy complements a series of trials performed by AOP Health over more than 10 years to achieve marketing authorization in Europe and the Middle East. With these clinical studies, including Peginvera, Proud-PV, and Continuation-PV, AOP Health opened a new area of treatment

options for patients suffering from PV. A further study (PEN-PV) was performed to develop a pen for self-injection allowing ease of self-administration, exact dosing and minimal waste of the medical product. AOP Health's comprehensive development program in PV is considered by many key opinion leaders as the most significant development in the field of PV treatment in the past 30 years.

Galleri predicts cancer signal origin

Grail presents real-world experience with MCED test at ASCO

MENLO PARK, Calif., June 6: GRAIL, LLC, a healthcare company whose mission is to detect cancer early when it can be cured, has announced data evaluating the Galleri® multi-cancer early detection (MCED) test's ability to detect a cancer signal and predict the cancer signal origin (CSO) in asymptomatic individuals in the real-world setting. The initial findings support that real-world performance of Galleri is consistent with previous large-scale clinical studies, including the cancer signal detection (CSD) rate and accuracy of the CSO prediction to guide diagnostic workup. Positive Galleri results with a diagnosis of invasive cancer across multiple cancer types, including stage I and II cancers. The findings were presented during a poster discussion session at the 2023 American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) Annual Meeting.

aply and surgery. Had I not caught the cancer when I did, I would never have known that I had cancer until it was too late to surgically remove," he said.

CSO prediction accuracy was 91%, which was higher than that observed in Pathfinder (84%) and comparable to that in the clinical validation Circulating Cell-Free Genome Atlas study (89%). The top CSO predictions were consistent to those observed in the Pathfinder study.

"Results of this analysis underscore our commitment to the rigorous study and validation of our multi-cancer early detection technology in both clinical studies and clinical surveillance," said Jeffrey Venstrom, MD, Chief Medical Officer at Grail. "We are encouraged by these data demonstrating that Galleri performance in the real world supports what we have observed in our previous large-scale clinical studies. We continue to see an average cancer signal detection rate of 1%, which is expected to increase with age. Aligned with what we've seen previously, Galleri improves the opportunity for early detection by screening for multiple cancers—most of which lack screening tests—and can predict the origin of the cancer signal with high accuracy to direct diagnostic evaluation and resolution."

Results were returned for >98% of Galleri tests ordered, with a mean age of 58.9 for males and 59.2 for females, and a mean turnaround time of 6.7 business days.

Detect

Eighty individuals had no invasive cancer diagnosis at the time of the analysis, and additional follow up is ongoing. An additional 358 individuals remain under review. Grail is pursuing follow-up cancer status on all individuals with CSD, as positive predictive value cannot be computed until cancer status has been established for this cohort. Similarly, sensitivity cannot be computed based on this initial subset of patients.

GRAIL is a healthcare company whose mission is to detect cancer early, when it can be cured. GRAIL is focused on alleviating the global burden of cancer by using the power of next-generation sequencing, population-scale clinical studies, and state-of-the-art machine learning, software, and automation to detect and identify multiple deadly cancer types in earlier stages. GRAIL's targeted methylation-based platform can support the continuum of care for screening and precision oncology, including multi-cancer early detection in symptomatic patients, risk stratification, minimal residual disease detection, biomarker subtyping, treatment and recurrence monitoring. GRAIL is headquartered in Menlo Park, CA with locations in Washington, D.C., North Carolina, and the United Kingdom. GRAIL, LLC, is a subsidiary of Illumina, Inc. (NASDAQ:ILMN) currently held separate from Illumina Inc. under the terms of the Interim Measures Order of the European Commission.

Galleri is the first-of-its-kind multi-cancer early detection (MCED) test that has demonstrated the ability to detect a shared cancer signal across more than 50 types of cancer through a routine blood draw.

"Multi-cancer early detection tests like Galleri have shown that they can enable us to do something completely different—move away from screening an individual for an individual cancer and instead look for whatever cancer they may have with a single blood test," said Candace Westgate, DO, Chief of Staff and Director of the AHEAD population-based cancer prevention and early detection program at Adventist Health, St. Helena, Calif. "Approximately 70% of cancer deaths are from cancer types that lack standard screening tools. These early data support the clinical benefit of the Galleri MCED test in real-world settings and support its adoption to complement recommended cancer screenings."

Systematic collection of outcomes for cases with a CSD result was completed for a small subset of the initial 53,744 MCED commercial tests ordered and processed in the United States. As part of the clinical surveillance program, GRAIL follows CSD results by contacting ordering providers 3 months or more after the Galleri test result to collect cancer outcomes.

The CSD rate for Galleri was 0.95%, which was comparable to modeled MCED test performance rates and cancer incidence from the Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results (SEER) Program.

Diagnosed

Cancers diagnosed in 72 individuals included prostate (n=11), lymphoma (n=10), breast (n=5), colon/rectum (n=5), lymphoid leukemia (n=5), head and neck (n=4), lung (n=4), pancreas (n=4), plasma cell neoplasm (n=4), ovary (n=3), anus (n=2), esophagus (n=2), liver/bile-duct (n=2), kidney (n=1), sarcoma (n=1), uterus (n=1), and cancer type unavailable (n=8). In cases with reported stage (n=38), 32% (12/38) were detected at stages I/II and 61% (23/38) were detected at stages III/IV.

One of the patients for whom Galleri detected a lethal cancer early is Roger Roysse, who took the test at age 62. "I took the test in order to rule out any silent killers in my body even though I had no symptoms or risk factors for cancer other than my age. Surprisingly, the test detected a signal for pancreatic cancer. Based on the test result, I was scanned and diagnosed with stage 2B pancreatic cancer, which was early enough to be treated with chemother-

AI-driven solutions to redefine cancer care

Massive Bio unveils Chatbot platform to expand access to oncology clinical trials

NEW YORK, June 6: Massive Bio, a world-renowned provider of personalized oncology solutions, was set to showcase its groundbreaking GPT4 AI chatbots - AskFiona AI and DrArturo AI at ASCO 2023. These innovative, AI-driven solutions will redefine cancer care, establishing new paradigms in patient and provider engagement and global oncological research.

"Massive Bio's ChatGPT-powered platform lies at the heart of the transformation in clinical trials. Incorporating AskFiona AI and DrArturo AI will transcend the capabilities of Massive Bio's existing Synergy-AI Clinical Trial Matching Solution, thereby heralding a new epoch in personalized oncology solutions. We are thrilled to constantly push the envelope in oncology clinical trial enrollment. By enabling these new solutions Massive Bio aims to further activate patient empowerment, unlock consumerization in healthcare and reduce the reliance to the hospital competency specific healthcare system via the leverage of latest technology advancements such as generative AI. As a cancer patient you should be able to know all your clinical trial choices regardless of where you get your treatment and/or what your financial stability is" said Massive Bio's Co-founder and CEO, Selin Kumaz.

Inspired by its own Co-founders and team members, AskFiona AI and DrArturo AI, enables simplicity, speed, improved engagement, and greater access to patients, treating oncologists, site investigators and research coordinators during clinical trial selection and resolution of last mile issues during enrollment.

AskFiona AI, an advanced AI chatbot, serves as a comprehensive guide through the intricacies of clinical trials. By elucidating trial purposes, processes, and assessing patient eligibility, AskFiona AI aims to demystify the world of clinical trials, promoting clarity and fostering informed decision-making to cancer patients.

Adding depth to this patient-focused approach, DrArturo AI functions as an invaluable virtual oncology tool for providers including oncologists and hematologists. Offering detailed, personalized information about specific clinical trials, including treatment details and insurance acceptance, this AI tool aims to ensure patients, their families, and physicians are equipped with all necessary information to make informed decisions.

As a practicing physician and site investigator, Massive Bio's Co-founder and CMO, Dr. Arturo Loaiza Bonilla stated that "DrArturo AI also offers extensive benefits to site investigators and research coordinators. With its capacity to deliver detailed study

'Help clients make their mark on the world'

Virtual partners with Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Jimmy Fund to strike out cancer

WAKEFIELD, Mass., June 6: Virtual, Inc., a leading provider of professional services to standards organizations, consortia and associations, proudly announced its continued support and commitment to Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and the Jimmy Fund. As a Major Sponsor of Jimmy Fund Day at Fenway presented by DraftKings on June 10, Virtual's support will help the organization's critical mission of eradicating cancer for adults and children.

Virtual, Inc. proudly announces its continued support and commitment to Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and the Jimmy Fund as a Major Sponsor of Jimmy Fund Day at Fenway presented by DraftKings on June 10.

As with many organizations, cancer has touched the lives of many at Virtual and within its client base. The company's involvement with Dana-Farber and the Jimmy Fund began through its relationship with Bob Russo, the first general manager of the PCI Security Standards Council (PCI SSC), a long-time client of Virtual. Russo's son, Rob, valiantly battled GIST, a rare form of stomach cancer, for two decades before tragically losing his life in 2021. In 2009, Virtual's CEO Andy Freed was diagnosed with metastatic thyroid cancer, and thanks to the exceptional care at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, he remains cancer-free to this day. Devastatingly, in 2021, Virtual's founder, Bruce Rogers, succumbed to glioblastoma, an aggressive form of brain tumor.

By becoming a Major Sponsor of Jimmy Fund Day at Fenway presented by DraftKings, Virtual, Inc. is pleased to support the crucial cancer research

conducted at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, which provides direct support and care to pediatric and adult patients. Since 1992, over \$8.6 million has been raised through this event, driving Dana-Farber's mission to strike out cancer and make groundbreaking advancements in cancer prevention, treatment, and care. Virtual has been a supporter since 2007.

Drive

"Our mission at Virtual is to help our clients make their mark on the world. However, our drive to make a difference goes beyond our clients; it is deeply rooted in our commitment to the community. Cancer has touched the lives of many within our extended Virtual family, and our involvement has become intensely personal," said Andy Freed, CEO of Virtual, Inc. "By increasing our support for Jimmy Fund Day, we are working towards preventing and defeating this devastating disease."

Jimmy Fund Day at Fenway presented by DraftKings is part of Dana-Farber's ongoing and ambitious, multi-year fundraising effort to prevent, treat and defy cancer by accelerating revolutionary science, extraordinary care, exceptional expertise, and essential opportunities. The Dana-Farber Campaign seeks to:

- Pursue innovative early-stage research
- Speed new drugs into clinical trials
- Expand access to care and reduce cancer disparities
- Support special programs that address the physical, emotional, psychological and spiritual needs of patients and their families
- Fuel the best and brightest doctors

explanations, respond to protocol-related queries, and provide access to vital documents and schedules, it is an indispensable asset. Furthermore, its ability to alert research teams about patient-reported outcomes and adverse events ensures a steady flow of crucial information, thus enhancing patient care and accelerating research."

"Set to make their debut at ASCO 2023, these AI chatbots encapsulate Massive Bio's dedication to employing AI technology to challenge the

status quo in oncology. This pioneering approach is poised to transform the landscape of global oncology," said Massive Bio's Co-founder and CTO, Catagay Culcuoglu.

Massive Bio is at the forefront of empowering cancer patients to discover their optimal treatment options. Utilizing AI to enhance equitable access and precision targeting for clinical trial matching, drug matching, and drug development, Massive Bio is committed to breaking down barriers in clinical

and researchers in cancer medicine

Virtual is a professional services firm that enables organizations to achieve their goals and make a mark on the world. Whether helping an organization go from zero to 800 corporate members in a mere 18 months, creating and facilitating the adoption of digital payment standards around the world, or extending the reach and impact of an international group dedicated to curing prostate and breast cancer, Virtual provides strategic advisory and execution services that drive real results for technology consortia, standards groups and associations that are forming, growing or changing.

Virtual has appeared on The Boston Globe's "Top Places to Work" list, and the firm has been named three times to Inc. Magazine's list of 5,000 fastest-growing private companies. Virtual is accredited by the AMC Institute, the global trade group that represents the association management industry.

The Jimmy Fund, celebrating its 75th anniversary in 2023, is comprised of community-based fundraising events and other programs that, solely and directly, benefit Dana-Farber Cancer Institute's lifesaving mission to provide compassionate patient care and groundbreaking cancer research for children and adults. The Jimmy Fund is an official charity of the Boston Red Sox, the Massachusetts Chiefs of Police Association, the Pan-Mass Challenge, and the Variety Children's Charity of New England. Since 1948, the generosity of millions of people has helped the Jimmy Fund save countless lives and reduce the burden of cancer for patients and families worldwide.

trial enrollment, fostering value-based oncology decisions, and facilitating data-driven cancer treatment. Serving over three dozen pharmaceutical companies, contract research organizations, and hospital networks, Massive Bio has earned recognition from the National Cancer Institute with an SBIR contract. Founded in 2015 by a team of clinical, technology, and M&A executives, Massive Bio boasts a global presence with nearly 100 people across 12 countries.

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Prince Harry gets his day in court against tabloids

LONDON, June 6, (AP) — Prince Harry arrived at a London court Tuesday to testify against a tabloid publisher he accuses of phone hacking and other unlawful snooping.

The prince arrived at the High Court in London in a black SUV and entered a modern wing of the court past dozens of photographers and TV cameras.

Harry accuses the publisher of the Daily Mirror of using unlawful techniques on an "industrial scale" to get scoops. He will face cross-examination by a lawyer for the defendant, Mirror Group Newspapers, which is contesting the claims.

The 38-year-old son of King Charles III will be the first senior British royal since the 19th century to face questioning in a court. An ancestor, the future King Edward VII, appeared as a witness in a trial over a gambling scandal in 1891.

Harry has made a mission of holding the UK press to account for what he sees as its hounding of him and his family.

Setting out the prince's case in court Monday, his lawyer, David Sherborne, said that from Harry's childhood, British newspapers used hacking and subterfuge to mine snippets of information that could be turned into front-page scoops.

He said stories about Harry were big sellers for the newspapers, and some 2,500 articles had covered all facets of his life during the

time period of the case - 1996 to 2011 - from injuries at school to experimenting with marijuana and cocaine to ups and downs with girlfriends.

"Nothing was sacrosanct or out of bounds" for the tabloids, the lawyer said.

Hacking - the practice of guessing or using default security codes to listen to celebrities' cellphone voice messages - was widespread at British tabloids in the early years of this century. It became an existential crisis for the industry after the revelation in 2011 that the News of the World had hacked the phone of a slain 13-year-old girl. Owner Rupert Murdoch shut down the paper and several of his executives faced criminal trials.

Apology

Mirror Group has paid more than 100 million pounds (\$125 million) to settle hundreds of unlawful information-gathering claims, and printed an apology to phone hacking victims in 2015.

But the newspaper denies or has not admitted any of Harry's claims, which relate to 33 published articles.

Mirror Group's attorney, Andrew Green, said there was "simply no evidence capable of supporting the finding that the Duke of Sussex was hacked, let alone on a habitual basis."

Green said he plans to question Harry for a day and a half.

Harry had been expected in court Monday for the opening of the hacking case, the first of his several lawsuits against the media to go to a full trial.

He was absent because he'd taken a flight Sunday from Los Angeles after the birthday of his 2-year-old daughter Lilibet, Sherborne said - to the evident chagrin of the judge, Timothy Fancourt. "I'm a little surprised," said Fancourt, noting he had directed Harry to be prepared to testify.

Harry's fury at the UK press - and sometimes at his own royal relatives for what he sees as their collusion with the media - runs through his memoir, "Spare," and interviews conducted by Oprah Winfrey and others.

He has blamed paparazzi for causing the car crash that killed his mother, Princess Diana, and said harassment and intrusion by the UK press, including allegedly racist articles, led him and his wife, Meghan, to flee to the U.S. in 2020 and leave royal life behind.

While Harry's memoir and other recent media ventures have been an effort to reclaim his life's narrative, which has largely been shaped by the media, he will have no such control when he faces cross-examination in a courtroom full of reporters taking down every word.

People

Variety



This image released by Apple TV shows Patricia Arquette in a scene from 'High Desert,' a series directed by Jay Roach. (AP)

Television

Roach forays into episodic TV with Apple series

Arquette shines in noirish 'High Desert'

By Lindsey Bahr

Filmmaker Jay Roach usually has a moment of panic and doubt before production starts on a project.

It's something Sydney Pollack, who was a mentor of his, once assured him was normal. He'd also read something similar about Mike Nichols in Mark Harris's biography. Good company to be in, sure, but still not the greatest feeling to be thinking "I've made a horrible mistake and how can I get out of this?"

But for his latest endeavor, "High Desert," his first foray into episodic television, he didn't have that. Currently five episodes into its eight-episode run on Apple TV+, "High Desert" stars Patricia Arquette as a hustler named Peggy Newman, an ex-addict and dealer scraping by in the Southern California desert, working as a saloon girl in an Old West themed park. Her husband (Matt Dillon) is in jail. Her mother (Bernadette Peters) has recently died. And more strait-laced siblings (Christine Taylor, Keir O'Donnell) are looking to sell the home she lives in. In an attempt to make some extra money to keep her place, she decides to pick up P.I. work on the side. And she's not bad at it, though her methods are different from her reluctant Philip Marlowe-styled boss (Brad Garrett).

Peggy, Roach said, was like a "rock 'n' roll Lucy Ricardo." She's dysfunctional on one level, but also has a wholly unique swagger and confidence that's not unwarranted, which comes to life through Arquette's singular performance, partly inspired by Patti Smith and The Runaways.

Roach got the script, written by Nancy Fichman, Jennifer Hoppe ("Nurse Jackie"), and Katie Ford ("Miss Congeniality"), from Ben Stiller, a longtime friend who is an executive producer, to see if he'd consider directing the pilot. Soon, Roach was asking to do all eight.

"It was heartbreaking and darkly funny," he said.

"Patricia talked about how people cope and how a character like Peggy might go off to be isolated but then ends up kind of collecting other lost people. I thought that was really moving, this idea of coping with tragedy and grief through a very off-center approach to life."

Roach has made a career directing features, including the "Austin Powers" trilogy, two "Meet the Parents" movies, "Mystery, Alaska" and, more recently, "Bombshell," as well as acclaimed HBO political dramas like "Recount" and "Game Change," both of which won him Emmys.

Though he's still developing films, including a glamorous "Ocean's Eleven" movie, set in Monte Carlo in 1962 and starring Margot Robbie and Ryan Gosling, he'd been interested in diving into longer-form storytelling.

Characters

"You get to go much deeper into character and develop more characters in a complicated set of predicaments," Roach said. "As a consumer of a great long-form TV, I love having time to get to know people, to find out what really makes them tick and really get lost in their predicament with them. The empathy factor can be even stronger."

Plus, the desert is a place he knew well. He grew up on the outskirts of Albuquerque, New Mexico. The series would be in the Mojave Desert in Yucca Valley, California, a town bordered by the San Bernardino Mountains and the Joshua Tree National Park. It's the kind of place where, next to a run-down plywood shack, it's not entirely unusual to see a single post with a Tesla charger.

"In Joshua Tree, everyone is a bit of a rebel and a recluse or, you know, a refugee of some sort," he said. "All types of classes come out there to get away and end up hanging out with each other. There's so many contradictions and there is such a

strong sense of community because there's almost a bonding over facing the challenges of surviving."

For the series, that meant larger than life characters, who are also doing some genuine soul searching, like Rupert Friend's "Guru Bob," a former local newscaster who had an on-air breakdown and remade himself as a self-styled guru in the desert. He's also being hunted by some bad people.

"Everyone's so quirky out there so there's going to be absurdity, there's going to be irony, there's going to be comedy," he said. "The tone is tricky, though. It gets broad and farcical at times but it veers back into something that's very, very emotional."

The cast was key - a group of actors who are "comedy capable," Roach said, even if they're not known for comedy. The music helped enormously, too. From music supervisor Maggie Phillips to the cast, everyone had something to contribute.

Soundtrack choices range from cheeky, Mel Tormé's "Nice Work if You Can Get It" and Frank Sinatra belting "I've Got the World on a String," to the more sincere and soul searching in Kevin Morby & Waxahatchee's cover of "Farewell Transmission" and Ellen McIlwaine's 1972 heartbreaker "Can't Find My Way Home."

"There's a number of songs that are pure irony, that we use as buttons at the end of the episodes," Roach said. "Others give you permission to connect to those emotional zones."

Roach listened to the McIlwaine song every day on his drive to the set. It felt to him like the heart and spirit of the show.

Even with the trickiness of shooting during COVID-19, budget ceilings and the quick pace of television, it was one of his best experiences. The vibes, he said, were just so good. He never even once "tried to get out of it." (AP)

Features

ARABO TIMES

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 7, 2023

LONDON: Britain's Princess Eugenie has given birth to a baby boy, Buckingham Palace announced Monday.

Eugenie, the niece of King Charles III, and her husband, Jack Brooksbank, welcomed their son, Ernest George Ronnie Brooksbank, on May 30th. The baby, who weighed 7 pounds 1 ounce, is the couple's second child.

The couple's eldest child, two-year-old August, is now a big brother.

"He is named after his great great Grandfather George, his Grandpa George and my Grandpa Ronald," the princess said on her Instagram page. "August is loving being a big brother already."

Eugenie, 33, is the younger daughter of Prince Andrew and Sarah, Duchess of York.

The child is 13th in line to the throne.

The new parents uploaded one photo of the infant wearing a blue and white stocking cap and another of August gently touching his brother's head. (AP)

NEW YORK: Actor Cuba Gooding Jr faces the start of a civil trial Tuesday on accusations that he raped a woman in a New York City hotel a decade ago, an encounter that he contends was consensual after the two met at a nearby restaurant.

The trial was scheduled to begin with jury selection in Manhattan federal court as the Oscar-winning "Jerry Maguire" star confronts allegations that he met the woman in Manhattan, persuaded her to join him at a hotel, and convinced her to stop at his room so he could change clothing.

The woman, who has proceeded anonymously but has been told she must reveal her name at trial, said in her lawsuit that Gooding raped her in his room. His lawyers, though, insist that it was consensual and that she bragged afterward to others that she had ... with a celebrity.

The lawsuit seeks \$6 million in damages. It was filed against a man who authorities say has been accused of committing sexual misconduct against more than 30 other women, including groping, unwanted kissing and other inappropriate behavior.

Late last week, Judge Paul A.

Crotty ruled that he will let three women testify that they also were subjected to sudden sexual assaults or attempted sexual assaults after meeting Gooding in social settings such as festivals, bars, nightclubs and restaurants.

One of the women planning to testify at the trial is Kelsey Harbert, who told police Gooding



Gooding



Eugenie

fondled her without her consent at Magic Hour Rooftop Bar & Lounge near Times Square in 2019. Harbert said last year after Gooding pleaded guilty in New York state court to a charge that spared him from jail or a criminal history that never getting her day in court was "more disappointing than words can say."

The Associated Press does not typically identify people who say they have been sexually assaulted unless they grant permission, as Harbert has done.

Gooding, a star in films including "Boyz n the Hood" and "Radio," was permitted to plead guilty in April 2022 to a misdemeanor, admitting that he forcibly kissed a

worker at a New York nightclub in 2018.

By staying out of trouble and completing six months of alcohol and behavioral counseling, Gooding was permitted to withdraw his guilty plea and plead guilty to a non-criminal harassment violation, eliminating his criminal record and preventing further penalties. (AP)

People & Places

Film

CNN chief apologizes

Actors guild votes to authorize strike

LOS ANGELES, June 6, (AP): Actors represented by the Hollywood union SAG-AFTRA voted Monday evening to authorize a strike if they don't agree on a new contract with major studios, streamers and production companies by June 30.

The strike authorization was approved by an overwhelming margin - nearly 98% of the 65,000 members who cast votes.

The guild, which represents over 160,000 screen actors, broadcast journalists, announcers, hosts and stunt performers, begins its negotiations with the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers on Wednesday, over a month after the Writers Guild of America began striking over its own dispute with AMPTP.

If the actors union ultimately moves forward with the strike, it would be limited to television and film productions; news and broadcast work would not be directly affected.

At stake is increased base compensation, which actors say has been undercut by inflation and the streaming ecosystem, the threat of unregulated use of artificial intelligence, benefit plans and the burden of "self-taped auditions" - the cost of which used to be the responsibility of casting and production.

"We are approaching these negotiations with the goal of achieving a new agreement that is beneficial to SAG-AFTRA members and the industry overall," the AMPTP said in a statement Monday.

The strike authorization vote, a tool at the bargaining table, comes at a pivotal moment for the industry as 11,500 writers enter their sixth week of striking and the directors guild reviews a recently reached tentative agreement with studios on issues like wages, streaming residuals, and artificial intelligence. Should the actors strike, the industry already hobbled by the writers strike would come to a near-standstill, from production to promoting completed projects.

Contracts

The WGA, DGA and SAG-AFTRA have shown solidarity with one another since the writers began walking the picket lines on May 2. Many in Hollywood worried about the very real possibility that all three guilds would strike at the same time, as both the directors and the actors contracts were soon due to expire as well.

That scenario changed Sunday night when the directors guild, which represents 19,000 film, television and commercial directors, announced that they had reached a "truly historic" tentative agreement with studios. The terms, which have not been disclosed in detail to the press or the other guilds, will be presented to the DGA board on Tuesday for approval and then to the membership for ratification.

Representatives for both the writers guild and the actors guild congratulated the directors group for reaching a tentative deal, though neither commented on specific points of the DGA terms. The WGA also said that its bargaining positions remain the same.

The DGA deal did not sit well with some individual WGA members, some of whom remembered when the directors negotiated their own contract while the writers were striking in 2007-2008. That deal 15 years ago, some felt, set precedent that forced the writers to fall in line with the terms agreed to by the DGA and end the strike.

"Zero surprise. The AMPTP continues to use their tired old playbook. And the DGA sadly continues to toe the line, knowing that they can draft off of the WGA's resolve to strike for a truly historic deal. Disappointing, but not surprising," veteran television writer **Steven DeKnight**, who also wrote and directed "Pacific Rim: Uprising," tweeted.

Seemingly anticipating a repeat, the WGA negotiating committee last week released a letter cautioning that the studios would once again pursue a "divide and conquer" strategy, pitting the guilds against one another.

"Our position is clear: to resolve the strike, the companies will have to negotiate with the WGA on our full agenda," the WGA letter had said. "We will continue to march until the companies negotiate fairly with us."

While the unions have appeared more united this time, their aims are also different in many arenas. For the directors, securing international streaming residuals that account for subscriber growth was a key component, as were wages, safety (like banning live ammunition on set), diversity and inclusion and the addition of Juneteenth as a paid holiday.

The WGA agenda includes increased pay, better residuals and minimum staffing requirements. One key area of overlap between all is artificial intelligence. The DGA said they'd reached a "groundbreaking agreement confirming that AI is not a person and that generative AI cannot replace the duties performed by members."

Duncan Crabtree-Ireland, the chief negotiator for SAG-AFTRA, maintains the needs of the guild's actor members are unique. Hollywood actors haven't gone on strike against AMPTP since 1980, which saw a 95-day strike over terms for paid television and VHS tapes.

Also:

NEW YORK: **Chris Licht**, the embattled chief executive of CNN, apologized to network employees on Monday for distracting from their work and promised to "fight like hell" to earn their trust amid criticism of his year at the helm.

Licht's tenure hit a low point last week with publication of a lengthy, damaging profile of him in Atlantic magazine and the appointment of a new executive from parent company Warner Bros. Discovery to help manage CNN.

Licht said on an editorial conference call that he was sorry that his role in the news cycle overshadowed the work of CNN's journalists, according to a transcript of the call. He described it as a humbling experience.

Licht said he would work to win their trust, "because you deserve a leader who will be in the trenches, fighting to ensure CNN remains the world's most trusted name in news."

"CNN is not about me," he said. "I should not be in the news."

A CNN spokesperson had no further comment on Monday.

Licht replaced a popular leader, **Jeff Zucker**, with a mandate to win back some of the viewers alienated from CNN by former President **Donald Trump's** attacks. That has caused some internal resentment and, for many, Trump's town hall meeting last month was a misstep.



This image released by Polk & Co. shows Yahya Abdul-Mateen II during a performance of the play 'Topdog/Underdog.' (AP)



Peter Dinklage, (left), and Erica Schmidt attend the premiere of 'Transformers: Rise of the Beasts' at the Kings Theater on June 5, in New York. (AP)



Shay



Oprah

Variety

LOS ANGELES: **Anna Shay**, an heiress, philanthropist and breakout star of the Netflix reality series "Bling Empire," has died at 62.

Shay died from a stroke, according to a family statement provided to The Associated Press on Monday. It was not immediately clear when she died.

"It saddens our hearts to announce that Anna Shay, a loving mother, grandmother, charismatic star, and our own brightest ray of sunshine, has passed away," the family said. "Anna taught us many life lessons on how not to take life too seriously and to enjoy the finer things. Her impact on our lives will be forever missed but never forgotten."

Shay, a Los Angeles socialite, amassed a fortune after she and her brother sold their father's company, Pacific Architects and Engineers, after his death.

She told OprahMag.com in a 2021 interview she had no idea what she was getting into when she joined the cast of "Bling Empire," which chronicled the lives of ultra wealthy Angelenos of Asian descent.

Originally, Shay thought her friend and executive producer on the series, **Jeff Jenkins**, wanted her to work behind the scenes.

"The next thing I knew, I was sitting in front of the camera. I'm really quite shy, so it was hard. I never thought about doing this, especially at my age," she said.

The series drew comparisons to the blockbuster film "Crazy Rich Asians." The series premiered in 2021 and was recently canceled after three seasons.

Shay, a fan favorite on the show, was a fixture in Los Angeles high society. She was the only daughter of **Edward Shay**, the American billionaire founder of the defense and government services contractor, and **Ai-San**, his half-Japanese, half-Russian wife. (AP)

DALLAS: The bar from the television series "Cheers" sold for \$675,000 at auction over the weekend, garnering the highest bid among the nearly 1,000 props, costumes and sets from classic TV shows offered up from a collection amassed by one man over more than three decades.

Heritage Auctions said that the items sold during its three-day event that wrapped up Sunday in Dallas brought in over \$5 million. **James Comisar** has said

Stage

"Topdog/Underdog" is just a gift

Abdul-Mateen earns Tony Award nod

NEW YORK, June 6, (AP): Yahya Abdul-Mateen II first encountered the play "Topdog/Underdog" in college, performing a section as a favor for a student director who needed actors for a showcase. It turned into a favor for Abdul-Mateen.

"I immediately came alive. I used to struggle with contemporary work because none of the characters felt like me. I didn't really relate," he says. "It unlocked something inside of me where I just could give everything that I had to give to it."

Abdul-Mateen returned to Suzan-Lori Parks' Pulitzer-winning work this winter, earning a Tony Award nomination in his Broadway debut opposite **Corey Hawkins**.

"To be on Broadway was always the goal. I didn't even need to be a star of a show. I just wanted to be on the stage and to have more than a few lines and that was success," he says.

"Just to be able to fulfill the artistic calling and to do it on that stage was what the goal was. And to have my first Broadway experience doing 'Topdog/Underdog,' it's just a gift. It's a full circle moment for me."

"Topdog/Underdog" is about two brothers, abandoned in their teenage years, named Lincoln and Booth, as they deal with the ramifications of their history while fending for themselves by hustling. It's about sibling rivalry, inequality and society's false promises.

Abdul-Mateen calls it "a peek into what life might be like for someone in the city over or in your next door neighbor's house or upstairs on the third floor. It's a deeply, deeply human story."

The play's revival came during a season with rich explorations of the Black experience, including a Black-led "Death of a Salesman" and a

revival of August Wilson's "The Piano Lesson." All show an American dream that is cracked.

"These guys are just really trying to strive to fulfill their dreams, to step into the identity of who they know they are on the inside. And their life doesn't really give them a chance to do that," says Abdul-Mateen.

Tony-winning director **Kenny Leon** says Abdul-Mateen wasn't finished exploring his character, even after the play opened or after the reviews came in. He and Leon were still talking about the work up until the show's closing in January.

Talent

"Almost up until the last audience, he was still trying to give his best. You don't find artists like that all the time who want to explore it like that. This is one of the few times that I met the talent that was willing to go with me as deep as I wanted to go, and as long as I wanted to go."

In a supremely ironic twist, Abdul-Mateen will face-off for the lead actor in a play Tony trophy with his onstage brother, **Hawkins**, extending their sibling rivalry off-stage.

"I honestly feel that I could not have given the performance that I gave without Corey and humbly I would say vice versa," Abdul-Mateen says.

"When we looked across the table and across the room, we saw someone who had the same level of respect for what it was that we were doing. It was like game recognize game."

The two actors had never worked together before but left a lasting impression. "If he wins, then I get to tease him. If I win, I get to tease him. And if neither of us win, then we get to tease ourselves, you know what I mean?"

On June 11 at the Tony Awards, Abdul-Mateen and Hawkins will also have to fend off competition from **Sean Hayes**, in "Good Night, Oscar," **Stephen McKinley Henderson** in "Between Riverside and Crazy" and **Wendell Pierce** from **Arthur Miller's** "Death of a Salesman."

If he wins, Abdul-Mateen will have a Tony to go along with an Emmy for his acclaimed performance as **Dr. Manhattan** in HBO's lauded series "Watchmen." His film credits include **Aaron Sorkin's** "The Trial of the Chicago 7" as **Bobby Seale**, **Jordan Peele's** "Us" and **Nia DaCosta's** "Candyman."

He played opposite **Jason Momoa** as the villainous **Black Manta** in the 2018 blockbuster "Aquaman" and will reprise his role in the upcoming "Aquaman and the Lost Kingdom." He's the rare actor able to jump from DC to Marvel, since he's also the lead of the Disney+ series "Wonder Man."

"I was thinking a couple of days ago about my career trajectory. And I think the story is just consistency - just patience and consistency. And that's really the recipe for me."

Abdul-Mateen has also launched a production company, **House Eleven10**, and signed a deal with **Netflix**, with the actor starring in and producing films for the streamer.

He says he hopes to attract top talent for whatever the company makes, big or small, with a commitment to culture, language, ambition and style - or CLASS.

"I don't want to do one type of thing, but I want to make sure that that there's a throughline through everything that I do," he says. "We have a chance to put our values into what it is that we care about, which I think makes it ultimately fresh and cool and unique."

that after his dream of creating a museum to house his collection failed to come together, it was time for the pieces to go to fans to enjoy.

"The auction's success confirmed what I have always known: that television characters are cherished members of our extended family and that their stories and our own are inseparable," Comisar said

in a news release from the auction house.

The Batman and Robin costumes worn by **Adam West** and **Burt Ward** in the 1960s television series went for \$615,000, while the set where **Johnny Carson** hosted guests on "The Tonight Show" went for \$275,000, Heritage Auctions said.

The set from "All in the Family"



The Riddler's jacket and Batman and Robin's costumes are among items on display, April 27, 2023, in Irving, Texas. The bar from the television series "Cheers" sold for \$675,000 at auction over the weekend, garnering the highest bid among the nearly 1,000 props, costumes and sets from classic TV shows offered up from a collection amassed by one man over more than three decades. Heritage Auctions said that the items sold during its three-day event that wrapped up Sunday, June 4, in Dallas brought in over \$5 million. (AP)

- which included **Archie** and **Edith Bunker's** living and dining rooms and stairwell - sold for \$125,000, and the auction house said the same buyer also made the winning bid of \$250,000 for the chairs used by the TV couple in the show's ninth season. (AP)

CLEVELAND: Two men who admitted stuffing fish with lead weights and fish fillets in an attempt to win thousands of dollars in an Ohio fishing tournament last fall were sentenced to ten-day jail terms and other penalties, including the forfeiture of a boat valued at \$100,000.

The cheating allegations surfaced in September when **Jason Fischer**, Lake Erie Walleye Trail tournament director, became suspicious of the fish turned in by **Jacob Runyan**, 43, of **Ashtabula**, Ohio; and **Chase Cominsky**, 36, of **Hermitage, Pennsylvania**, were significantly heavier than typical walleye.

A crowd of people at **Gordon Park** in Cleveland watched as Fischer cut the freshwater fish open, and found weights and walleye filets stuffed inside.

As part of a plea deal, **Runyan** and **Cominsky** pleaded guilty in March to cheating and unlawful ownership of wild animals - and agreed to three-year suspensions of their fishing licenses. **Cominsky** also agreed to give up his bass boat worth \$100,000.

Once the pair complete their county jail terms, they will serve a year and a half on probation and must each pay a \$2,500 fine - though half the fine will be waived if they each make a \$1,250 donation to a nonprofit organization that promotes fishing with children. (AP)

Science

Ancient human cousins

DNA in air filters 'tell' what wildlife nearby

NEW YORK, June 6, (AP) - DNA is all around us - even in the air we breathe. Now scientists have found that air quality monitoring stations - which pull in air to test for pollution - also pick up lots of DNA that can reveal what plants and animals have been in the area.

The method could help solve the tricky challenge of keeping tabs on biodiversity, according to a study published Monday in the journal *Current Biology*.

The findings suggest that biodiversity data has been collected "on massive scales literally for decades - and nobody's noticed," said study author **Elizabeth Clare**, a biologist at Canada's York University.

As animals and plants go through their life cycles, they leave little bits of themselves in the environment - scales, fur, feathers, pollen - which carry their genetic signature.



Clare

Scientists have long known that this kind of environmental DNA floats around in water, and have used it to track what species are swimming in lakes and rivers. But it's been harder to get a genetic picture of what's roaming around on land, said Kristine Bohmann, who studies environmental DNA at the University of Copenhagen and was not involved with the latest study.

In 2021, both Bohmann and Clare worked on similar projects to see whether they could pull animal DNA from thin air. After setting up vacuum pumps in local zoos, the teams were able to sequence DNA from dozens of species.

"You can actually, in a Ghostbuster kind of way, vacuum DNA out of the air," Bohmann said.

Then researchers wanted to try that on a bigger scale. For this latest study, Clare and her team tested air filters from two monitoring stations, one in London and one in Scotland, which are part of a national network to test for pollution.

After extracting DNA from pieces of the filter disks, the scientists were able to identify more than 180 different kinds of plants and animals, said study author Joanne Littlefair, a biologist at Queen Mary University of London.

Track

The filters picked up on a wide range of wildlife, including grasses, fungi, deer, hedgehogs and songbirds - along with "the ubiquitous pigeon," Littlefair said.

Now, the team hopes that this method could track ecosystems all over the world. Even though biodiversity decline is a global issue, it's hard to test for on a large scale, Clare said.

And it's an easy lift to use systems that are already in place, pointed out James Allerton, an air quality scientist at the UK's National Physical Laboratory. Many countries have networks set up to monitor air quality, and some of them store their old filters for years or even decades - an archive that could help show how ecosystems have changed over time.

More research is needed to see if the data from these filters can show real biodiversity trends over time, said Fabian Roger, who has been working on a similar project at ETH Zurich in Switzerland. But it's exciting that an existing system could be "co-opted" to monitor wildlife, he wrote in an email.

Fossils: An ancient human cousin may have buried its dead and carved symbols into cave walls, surprising findings for a creature with a small brain.

Fossil remains of the species - named *Homo naledi* - were uncovered in underground caves in **South Africa** a decade ago. Now, researchers say they've found evidence that the species was capable of complex behavior that so far has only been seen in those with bigger brains.

"We are facing a remarkable discovery here" for a species with brains one-third the size of humans, said anthropologist **Lee Berger**, who led the research funded by the National Geographic Society, where he now works.

Berger and colleagues describe their findings in studies posted online Monday. The research has not been peer-reviewed yet and some outside scientists think more evidence is needed to challenge what we know about how humans evolved their complex thinking.

"There's still a lot to uncover," said **Rick Potts**, director of the Smithsonian's Human Origins Program who was not involved in the research.

H. naledi is a pretty new addition to the family tree of hominins, which includes our direct ancestors and other extinct relatives who walked on two legs. Berger and his team announced the species in 2015, after a tip from local spelunkers led them to the Rising Star cave system near **Johannesburg** where they uncovered fossils from at least 15 individuals who lived around 300,000 years ago.

These creatures had some traits in common with modern humans, like legs made for walking upright and hands that could work with objects, said University of Wisconsin-Madison anthropologist **John Hawks**, a member of the research team. But other features looked more ancient, including their small brains.

Burial

In recent years, team members have ventured back into the caves, a tricky descent through tight underground spaces. What's down there shows the species in a new light, they reported.

One of the new studies describes what researchers say were intentional burial sites. The team uncovered fossil remains of adults and children in shallow holes in the ground, their bodies in a fetal position.

Another study describes a series of marks carved into the cave walls, including geometric patterns and cross-hatched lines.

"This is something that takes a lot of time and effort to do," said Berger, who led the initial research while at the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg.

All of this behavior would be surprising for a creature whose brain was closer in size to an ape's than a human's, experts said.

Decades ago, we thought *Homo sapiens* were the only ones who could figure out how to use fire, bury their dead or create art, said **Chris Stringer**, a human evolution expert at London's Natural History Museum who was not involved in the research.

Since then, we've learned that other groups like Neanderthals also lived complex lives. But those species still had big brains - unlike *H. naledi*, whose burials would raise further questions about human evolution, Stringer said.

Scientists haven't yet been able to identify how old the engravings are. So Potts said the current evidence can't say for sure whether *H. naledi* was truly the one to create the symbols, or if some other creature - maybe even *H. sapiens* - made its way down there at some point.

For study author **Agustin Fuentes**, an anthropologist at Princeton University, the *H. naledi* evidence takes the focus off brain size.

"Big brains are still important," Fuentes said. "They just don't explain what we thought they explained."



Researcher Lee Berger holds a reconstruction of the skull of *Homo naledi* at Magaliesburg, South Africa, Thursday, Sept. 10, 2015. In research released on Monday, June 5, scientists say they've found evidence that the ancient human cousin buried its dead and carved symbols into cave walls, actions previously tied only to bigger-brained species. (AP)



A SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket lifts off from Kennedy Space Center in Florida, on Monday, June 5. The rocket, carrying supplies for the International Space Station, is scheduled to dock with the station Tuesday. (AP)



Naramore



Strommen

Discovery

Wolverine spotted in Calif: A wolverine was spotted three times last month in the eastern Sierra Nevada, a rare occurrence for an animal that's only been seen one other time in California over the last 100 years, state wildlife officials said.

While wolverines are native to California, they've been essentially extinct from the state since the 1920s - likely the result of hunting and fur trapping in the decades following the gold rush, though records from the time don't indicate what exactly caused the population to decline.

One wolverine was spotted in the state from 2008 to 2018, beginning in the Tahoe National Forest, officials said. Last month's wolverine is likely a different one because the animal's lifespan is usually 12 to 13 years.

The latest wolverine appears to be a young male seeking a mate. The animal has been spotted twice in the Inyo National Forest and once in Yosemite National Park.

"It's just really exciting and surprising," said Daniel Gammons, a senior environmental scientist in California's Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Male wolverines walk through huge territories - easily several hundred square kilometers - and this winter's heavy snowfall in the West may have created "habitat bridges" for the wolverine, Gammons said. The animal could have traveled from the Rocky and Cascade mountain ranges, or from as far away as Canada or Alaska.

Wildlife officials are trying to get a specimen of the wolverine's hair or scat for genetic testing. The species - the largest terrestrial member of the weasel family - is listed as threatened under the California Endangered Species Act. (AP)

'Rewrite rules for mining': Minnesota regulators have concluded that state rules governing where copper-nickel mines can be built are insufficient to protect the pristine Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness from noise and light pollution, creating another potential obstacle to the proposed Twin Metals mine in northeastern Minnesota.

But the Department of Natural Resources declined as part of that decision to declare a watershed that flows into the Boundary Waters off-limits to copper-nickel mining altogether, which had been a goal of the environmental group that challenged the regulations, Minnesota Public Radio reported.

"We concluded that Minnesota's non-ferrous mine siting rule is largely protective of the Boundary Waters ... but should be reopened to better address the potential for mining-related noise and light impacts," DNR commissioner **Sarah Strommen** said in a statement.

Twin Metals, a proposed underground

The Conversation

New parents share meaning-making tales

'Birth of baby is also birth of story'

By Darby Saxbe

USC Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences

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

Gather a group of new parents and the conversation will likely turn to their childbirth stories - ranging from the joyful to the gnarly to the positively traumatic. Birth story podcasts and websites feature a curated range of birth experiences, and you can buy embossed leather "birth story" journals as a baby shower gift. People are fascinated by this pivotal, emotionally complex and literally life-and-death experience.

Birth narratives might also contain clues about how the adjustment to parenthood will go.

People have long used stories to understand difficult experiences. Stories may be particularly valuable as a source of "meaning-making," the process of finding order in chaos by making sense of unexpected events, identifying silver linings and discovering the patterns and connections that thread seemingly random events together into a coherent narrative.

In a new study led by Geoffrey Corner, a former graduate student in my lab, we found that the levels of meaning-making in the stories new parents told about their baby's birth predicted their relationship quality and parenting stress in the child's first months.

Finding meaningful themes and patterns in life's seeming randomness is a fundamentally human activity. As writer Joan Didion put it, "we tell ourselves stories in order to live."

"Meaning-making" can buffer despair in the wake of tragedy. Holocaust survivor Victor Frankl's memoir, "Man's Search for Meaning," argued that meaning and purpose can prevent the bitterness and disillusionment that can otherwise fester after great loss.

Research on what psychologists call post-traumatic growth has found that the level of "meaning-making" in people's narratives about a difficult event predicts their mental health over time.

For example, studies have found

links between meaning-making and resilience in cancer patients, bereaved parents and caregivers. Cancer survivors might discover that their chemo ordeal brought them closer to friends and family, or helped them step back from the hustle of everyday life and embrace a slower pace.

Although childbirth is typically experienced as a joyful rather than a tragic event, it can still be unpredictable, frightening and even life-threatening. Indeed, psychologists have begun to recognize that particularly difficult labors can trigger post-traumatic stress symptoms, not just in mothers but in their partners as well. Even normal, nontraumatic births require parents to cope with hours, sometimes days, of pain and discomfort. Therefore, we hypothesized that meaning-making might be an important part of couples' birth narratives, potentially promoting resilience in new parents.

Recorded

To test these hypotheses, we collected birth stories from 77 couples who were participating in our lab's longitudinal study of the transition to parenthood. We visited couples at the hospital within a day or two of their infant's birth, and audio-recorded them sharing their stories together. We told couples, "We'd like to hear you tell the story of your birth experience. Start from the beginning and tell us as much as you remember."

A team of coders listened to each story and recorded examples of meaning-making, using three categories established in the research literature:

Sense-making: Identifying reasons that an event might have unfolded the way it did or making connections that show why an event was meaningful. For example, one mother in our sample found meaning in her long labor, describing her baby as "very brave and tough" because she survived hours of pushing.

Benefit-finding: Pointing out silver linings or unexpected positive effects of a difficult experience. For example, after a difficult birth, one parent in our sample stated, "It was scary, but the nurses and the doctors were so nice

to us."

Change in identity: Describing how an event has transformed one's sense of self. As a parent in our sample said, "I feel like my life has changed completely with the baby now here."

Although couples told their story together, we tracked meaning-making separately for each partner. We also rated how much each partner participated in telling their story so we could adjust for their levels of engagement in sharing their birth narrative.

The couples in our sample were avid "meaning makers": Almost all the participants made at least some meaning-making statements in their birth stories. Of the three categories of meaning-making, "change in identity" language surfaced least often, appearing in about 37% of the birth stories. Mothers tended to use more "sense-making" and "benefit-finding" language than fathers. And both members of a couple tended to use similar amounts of meaning-making language.

After we had coded all of the narratives, we next looked to see whether "meaning-making" predicted relationship satisfaction and parenting stress in our couples. The transition to parenthood can be a "crisis event" for the couple relationship and is often linked with declines in relationship quality.

And partners of fathers who used more "change in identity" language also reported lower parenting stress later on, suggesting that dads who experience the transition to parenthood as transformative may be able to help mothers cope better with new parenthood. This study was limited by a fairly small sample of cohabiting heterosexual parents. Nevertheless, it highlights the value of stories in shaping family transitions. For therapists working with new parents in the wake of a difficult birth, encouraging couples to seek meaning in their birth story may help ease their transition to parenthood. Journaling and storytelling exercises may help couples process their feelings about their childbirth experiences. After all, the birth of a baby is also the birth of a story - and that story is well worth telling. (AP)

mine near Ely, outside the wilderness, was already in trouble. It suffered a major blow last year when President Joe Biden's administration canceled two federal mineral rights leases that were critical to the

project, a decision the company is challenging in court. Then the administration moved in January to ban new mining projects upstream from the Boundary Waters in the Ely area for 20 years.



This photo provided by the National Physical Laboratory in June 2023 shows air sampling filters stationed at the Auchenorth Moss research facility in Scotland. In a study published Monday, May 5, 2023, in the journal *Current Biology*, researchers found that air quality monitoring stations - which pull in air to test for pollution - also pick up lots of DNA that can identify local wildlife. The method could help solve the tricky challenge of keeping tabs on biodiversity. (AP)

Mining is already banned within the Boundary Waters, a million-acre wilderness of lakes and rivers that attracts visitors from around the world to its 1,200 miles of canoe routes. It's also prohibited in a narrow buffer zone surrounding the wilderness.

To address the potential noise and light impacts of mining, the DNR will write new rules to expand the existing buffer to provide a greater setback from the Boundary Waters. DNR Deputy Commissioner **Barb Naramore** said the rulemaking would take around 18 to 24 months. The process would help determine how large the buffer zone needs to be and whether it would include the Twin Metals site.

Wednesday's decision stems from a lawsuit filed in 2020 by Northeastern Minnesota for Wilderness, which argued that the DNR's 30-year old rule governing where nonferrous (non-iron) mines can be located was insufficient to protect the Boundary Waters because it would allow mines to discharge pollution upstream from the wilderness.

But the DNR said in its decision, filed in Ramsey County District Court, that Minnesota already applies the most protective water quality standards available, and that no mine would be issued a permit if it would have a measurable impact on the waters of the wilderness area.

Ingrid Lyons, executive director of the Campaign to Save the Boundary Waters, said her group is encouraged that the DNR recognized that its existing rules are inadequate but feels the DNR is out of step with scientific research on the risks to water quality. (AP)

Levy under pressure from supporters to get his latest appointment right

Spurs hire Postecoglou as latest manager after his departure from Celtic

LONDON, June 6, (AP): Ange Postecoglou was hired by Tottenham on Tuesday as the first Australian manager in the English Premier League as the London club began its latest rebuild after another turbulent season.

The 57-year-old Postecoglou, who has just won a trophy treble with Celtic in Scotland, is the fourth permanent manager to be hired since Mauricio Pochettino's departure in 2019, and is tasked with the responsibility of turning Spurs' fortunes around after 15 years without a trophy.

He signed a four-year contract and follows on from Jose Mourinho, Nuno Espirito Santo and Antonio Conte, who all had short-lived reigns.

"Ange brings a positive mentality and a fast, attacking style of play," Tottenham chairman Daniel Levy said.

"He has a strong track record of developing players and an understanding of the importance of the link from the academy - everything that is important to our club."

"We are excited to have Ange join us as we prepare for the season ahead."

Tottenham will hope Postecoglou can emulate the success he had in his two seasons at Celtic, where he won five trophies - two league titles, the Scottish Cup and two League Cups.

"Of course, we wanted Ange to stay with us at Celtic," Celtic chief executive Michael Nicholson said, "and while there is real disappointment that we are losing him, he has decided he wants to look at a new challenge, which we respect."

Born in Greece and raised in Australia, Postecoglou was previously coach of Australia and also Japanese club Yokohama F. Marinos. He is a blunt speaker, with his players and the media,

and has clarity in his vision of soccer.

Postecoglou joins Tottenham at the end of a season in which it failed to qualify for Europe for the first time since 2009.

Tottenham has also had to endure the upheaval of Conte's departure in March, which was quickly followed by the exit of his former assistant Cristian Stellini, who was appointed interim manager until the end of the season.

The team's form was so poor under Stellini that he lasted just four games - the last a 6-1 rout by Newcastle, which saw Spurs concede five goals inside 21 minutes. Another assistant, Ryan Mason, took over to the end of the campaign.

As well as managerial instability, Tottenham has also lost managing director of football Fabio Paratici after he lost his appeal against a 30-month ban for his part in a false accounting scandal involving former club Juventus.

SOCCER

Levy is under pressure from supporters to get his latest appointment right, with the ongoing trophy drought leading to growing unrest.

Levy's change of strategy - bringing in proven trophy winners in Mourinho and Conte, who are largely pragmatic, defensive-first coaches - didn't work, so he has gone back to his former approach of hiring a manager who plays more expansive soccer and promotes younger players.

One of Postecoglou's first jobs at his new club may be to try to convince Harry Kane that his future remains at Spurs.

The England striker has one year left on his contract and has been linked with moves to Manchester United and Real Madrid this summer.

Kane became Spurs' all-time leading scorer this season when surpassing club great Jimmy Greaves' record of 266 goals. He also set a new record for his country, with 55 goals.

Nola 'takes' no-hitter into 7th, Turner has 2 home runs as Phillies top Tigers



Texas Rangers' Corey Seager connects for a single off a pitch as catcher Willson Contreras and umpire Pat Hoberg look on in the first inning of a baseball game in Arlington, Texas. (AP)

Reds avoid four-game sweep

cost them a chance to take the lead after Paul Goldschmidt's sacrifice fly.

Arenado then had a drive to deep left, though the two base runners were close to each other when the ball ricocheted off the wall as left fielder Ezequiel Duran slammed into it. Nolan Gorman made the tying run but when Tommy Edman retreated toward third after making the turn, Arenado was sliding into the base.

Rays 4, Red Sox 1

In Boston, Shane Bieber pitched six innings of five-hit ball to earn his major league-leading ninth win and Tampa Bay eventually found a wall the Red Sox couldn't leap above.

In the makeup of Friday's rainout, the Rays beat Boston for a third straight game and seventh time in eight tries this year. They have 43 wins for the season; the next-closest team in the majors, AL East rival Baltimore, has 37.

BASEBALL

McClanahan (9-1) walked two of the first three Boston batters but took a shutout into the fifth inning before giving up a home run to Justin Turner. In all, McClanahan allowed five hits and struck out five to bounce back from his only loss of the season. Jason Adam pitched the ninth for his ninth save.

After watching the Red Sox rob Luke Raley and Francisco Mejia early, Tampa scored three in the fifth inning against starter Brayan Bello (3-4) to break a scoreless tie. Raley started the rally with a line drive double high off the Green Monster. Manuel Margot and Mejia followed with RBI singles, and Josh Lowe drove in another when he beat the relay on a potential double play groundout with the bases loaded.

Marlins 9, Royals 6

In Miami, Luis Arraez had three hits to raise his major league-leading batting average to .399, and Miami beat Kansas City.

Arraez drove in two runs for the Marlins, who erased an early four-run deficit and won their fourth straight game. Bryan De La Cruz hit his eighth homer, while Jon Berti, Nick Fortes and Joey Wendle had two hits apiece.

Braxton Garrett (2-2) overcame a difficult start and completed five innings of four-run ball. The left-hander gave up six hits and

struck out six.

Arraez's RBI single capped a four-run fourth and put Miami ahead 6-4. Berti hit a two-run triple and Jonathan Davis followed with an RBI double as the Marlins got five consecutive hits against reliever Mike Mayers (1-1) with two outs.

Pirates 5, Athletics 4

In Pittsburgh, Andrew McCutchen's tie-breaking sacrifice fly in the eighth inning lifted Pittsburgh its sixth straight win and sent Oakland to its record-tying 15th consecutive road loss.

The 15 straight defeats away from home matched the Athletics' record since they moved from Kansas City in 1968. Oakland set that mark in 1986. The major league-worst Athletics (12-50) have lost five games in a row overall. They are on pace to finish the season exactly 100 games under .500 at 31-131.

McCutchen also singled and drew three walks to go with two RBIs. The 2013 NL MVP now has 1,998 career hits.

With the score tied at 4, Ji Hwan Bae led off the decisive eighth inning with a single off Sam Moll (0-3) and advanced to third on Austin Hedges' one-out single. McCutchen's sac fly plated Bae.

Angel Perdomo (1-0) retired both hitters he faced, and Colin Holdeman pitched a scoreless ninth inning for his first career save. It was an eventful inning for Holdeman as the first three batters reached base, but he struck out Carlos Perez with runners on the corners to end it.

Padres 5, Cubs 0

In San Diego, Gary Sánchez hit a two-run home run and Blake Snell and three relievers combined on a four-hitter to lead San Diego.

Manny Machado had three hits, scored twice and made a sensational play at third base in his fourth game back from a stint on the injured list with a fractured left hand.

Sánchez, claimed off waivers from the New York Mets a week earlier, hit his third homer in seven games with the Padres when he lined a 2-2 pitch from Kyle Hendricks (0-2) into the left field seats with one out in the second. Machado was aboard on a leadoff single.

Plate umpire Phil Cuzzi ejected David Ross after the Cubs manager said something from the dugout during Sánchez's at-bat. Ross came out and continued the argument for a few minutes. He was replaced by Andy Green, who managed the Padres from 2016-19.

PHILADELPHIA, June 6, (AP): Aaron Nola took a no-hitter into the seventh inning and struck out 12, Trea Turner homered twice among his four hits, and the Philadelphia Phillies beat the Detroit Tigers 8-3 Monday night for their third straight win.

Nola (5-4) fanned 10 and had faced the minimum through six as he tried to pitch the Phillies' first no-hitter since 2015. The ace right-hander ran into trouble in the seventh when two batters reached on a walk and a fielding error. Nola still had two outs when he hung an 0-2 breaking ball to Nick Maton and the former Phillie crushed one into right to make it a 5-3 game.

Maton's bat-flip homer was the only hit allowed by Nola. He walked three over seven innings.

Seranthony Domínguez and Andrew Vasquez each tossed a scoreless inning out of the bullpen.

The Phillies scored one run in each of the first three innings on Turner's RBI single, Nick Castellanos' run-scoring double, and Turner's solo shot in the third. Bryce Harper added an RBI single in the fifth. Turner connected the same inning off Tigers starter Joey Wentz (1-6) for his seventh homer of the season and first multi-homer game with the Phillies.

Reds 2, Brewers 0

In Cincinnati, Stuart Fairchild and Tyler Stephenson hit solo home runs and Andrew Abbott threw six scoreless innings in his major league debut to lead Cincinnati.

The struggling Reds (27-33) turned to Abbott, their top pitching prospect, to help the club avoid a four-game sweep at the hands of the Brewers (32-28), and it worked. The 24-year-old Abbott, the 2021 second-round draft pick from the University of Virginia, allowed just one hit, walked four and struck out six. The left-hander threw 105 pitches.

Cincinnati relievers Buck Farmer and Lucas Sims and closer Alexis Diaz completed the combined three-hitter. Diaz picked up his 14th save.

Fairchild scored the first run of the game in the third inning, taking an 0-2 pitch from Brewers starter Julio Teheran (1-2) 395 feet to left field for his second home run of the season. Stephenson doubled the Reds' output with his third homer of the year, a 363-foot shot to right-center in the fourth.

Rangers 4, Cardinals 3

In Arlington, Nathaniel Lowe hit a game-ending RBI single with one out in the ninth inning and AL West-leading Texas won its fourth straight.

Marcus Semien, who had already extended his majors-best hitting streak to 24 games with two hits, had a one-out walk in the ninth off Génesis Cabrera (1-1). Semien scored the winning run when Lowe hit an opposite-field grounder through the left side of the infield.

Corey Seager had followed Semien with a single, a popup to shallow left field that third baseman Nolan Arenado chased down but was unable to catch.

Rangers closer Will Smith (1-2) worked a scoreless ninth for the victory.

The Cardinals, who have lost four straight, tied the game in the eighth after loading the bases with no outs against rookie reliever Grant Anderson. Some botched baserunning



Real Madrid's Karim Benzema runs to the ball during a penalty shot during the Spanish La Liga soccer match against Athletic Bilbao at the Santiago Bernabeu stadium in Madrid. (AP)

Benzema bids Real adios at clubhouse 'ceremony'

MADRID, June 6, (AP): Karim Benzema officially bid farewell to Real Madrid on Tuesday, saying he wanted to end his career with the club but life gave him another opportunity.

The French striker did not give any hints about his future, which reportedly remained linked to a lucrative move to play in Saudi Arabia.

Benzema played the last of his 648 games with Madrid on Sunday, when he scored the equalizer in a 1-1 draw against Athletic Bilbao on the final day of the Spanish league.

"It's a bit of a sad day, because it hurts to be leaving this club," Benzema said. "I had a dream and I signed for Madrid, and I wanted to finish at Madrid, but life sometimes gives you another opportunity and I've taken it along with my family."

Benzema spoke at a farewell ceremony organized by Madrid at the clubhouse and attended by his teammates, former players and club president Florentino Pérez, who handed the French star a gold insignia.

"When you arrived you were almost a child and today you leave as one of our greatest legends and one of the greatest players of all time," Pérez said. "Your legacy will last forever as a beautiful love story between Benzema and Real Madrid."

"I'm sure that wherever you are, you will be one of our greatest ambassadors and you will continue to represent the values of Real Madrid. Because this is and always will be your home."

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Philadelphia Phillies' Nick Castellanos (right), scores past Detroit Tigers catcher Eric Haase on a single by Bryce Harper during the fifth inning of a baseball game in Philadelphia. (AP)

MLB Results/Standings

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

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Tampa Bay	4	4	.500	—
Miami	9	8	.524	—
Philadelphia	11	8	.576	—
Houston	8	7	.533	—
Pittsburgh	5	4	.556	—
Texas	4	4	.500	—
Cincinnati	2	2	.500	—
San Diego	5	5	.500	—

American League				
East Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Tampa Bay	43	19	.694	—
Baltimore	37	22	.627	4-1/2
New York	36	25	.590	6-1/2
Toronto	33	28	.541	9-1/2
Boston	30	30	.500	12
Central Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Minnesota	31	29	.517	—
Cleveland	27	32	.458	3-1/2
Detroit	26	32	.448	4
Chicago	26	35	.428	5-1/2
Kansas City	18	42	.300	13
West Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Texas	39	20	.661	—
Houston	36	24	.600	3-1/2
Los Angeles	31	30	.508	9
Seattle	29	30	.492	10
Oakland	12	59	.194	28-1/2

National League				
East Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Atlanta	35	24	.593	—
Miami	33	28	.541	3
New York	30	30	.500	5-1/2
Philadelphia	28	32	.467	7-1/2
Washington	25	34	.424	10
Central Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Pittsburgh	32	27	.542	—
Milwaukee	32	28	.533	-1/2
Cincinnati	27	33	.450	5-1/2
Chicago	26	33	.441	6
St. Louis	25	36	.410	8
West Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Arizona	35	25	.583	—
Los Angeles	35	25	.583	—
San Francisco	29	30	.492	5-1/2
San Diego	28	32	.467	7
Colorado	26	35	.428	9-1/2

Matt Carpenter and Ha-Seong Kim followed with consecutive doubles to make it 3-0. Machado doubled with two outs in the third and scored on Jake Cronenworth's opposite-field single to left. Matt Carpenter hit a bases-loaded drive to the center field fence for a sacrifice fly in the eighth.

Snell (2-6) allowed just two singles and walked three in six innings while striking out eight.

Astros 11, Blue Jays 4

In Toronto, Corey Julks hit his first career grand slam, Brandon Bielak matched his career high by pitching 6 2/3 innings and Houston Astros used a season-high 19 hits to beat Toronto.

Yordan Alvarez and Kyle Tucker hit solo homers and Jake Meyers added a two-run blast as the Astros won for the eighth time in 11 games. Houston has won 19 of 25. Astros catcher Daulton Diaz had four hits, including two doubles.

Bielak (3-2) allowed three runs and 10 hits in winning for the third time in four starts. He walked one and struck out two.

Alejandro Kirk and Daulton Varsho hit solo home runs as Toronto had its four-game winning streak halted.

Alek Manoah (1-7) failed to get out of the first in his seventh straight losing decision, retiring just one of the nine batters he faced. Manoah allowed six runs and seven hits and walked one. His ERA rose from 5.46 to 6.36.

Anti-racism campaigns and slogans are increasingly viewed as tokenism

Racist abuse of Vinícius highlights entrenched problem in soccer

MADRID, June 6, (AP): Hanging from a highway bridge in Madrid, an effigy of one of the world's most famous Black soccer players stands as a graphic reminder of the racism that sweeps through European soccer.

In truth, the signs are everywhere. In Italy, where monkey chants swirled around the stadium in April as a Black player celebrated a goal. In England, where a banana peel thrown from a hostile crowd during a game in north London landed at the feet of a Black player after he scored a penalty. In France, where Black players from the men's national team were targeted with horrific racial abuse online after

they lost in last year's World Cup final. Go outside Europe and you'll find them, too.

In Australia, where there were monkey noises and fascist chanting during last year's Australia Cup final. In South America, where matches in the continent's biggest competition, the Copa Libertadores, have been blighted by monkey chants. In North Africa, where Black players from visiting teams from sub-Saharan Africa have complained of being targets of racist chants by Arab fans.

The manifestation of a deeper societal problem, racism is a decades-old issue in soccer - predominantly in Europe but

seen all around the world - that has been amplified by the reach of social media and a growing willingness for people to call it out. And to think that it was only 11 years ago that Sepp Blatter, then president of soccer governing body FIFA, denied there was any racism in the game, saying any abuse should be resolved with a handshake.

The Black player currently subjected to the most vicious, relentless and high-profile racist insults is Vinícius Júnior, a 22-year-old Brazilian who plays for Real Madrid, arguably the most successful soccer team in Europe.

It was around the neck of an effigy of Vinícius that a rope was tied and

the figure hung from an overpass near Madrid's training ground in the Spanish capital in January. It was Vinícius who, two weeks ago in perhaps a defining incident for the Spanish game, was reduced to tears during a match after confronting a fan who called him a monkey and made monkey gestures toward him.

It's Vinícius who is emerging as the leading Black voice in the fight against racism, which continues to stain the world's most popular sport.

"I have a purpose in life," he said on Twitter, "and if I have to keep suffering so that future generations won't have to go through these types of situations,

I'm ready and prepared."

Vinícius' biggest concern is that Spanish soccer authorities are doing little to stop the abuse, leading to racism being an accepted part of the game in a country where he has played since he was 18.

Indeed, federations around the world have been too slow - in some cases, apparently unwilling - to equip themselves with the powers to sanction teams for the racist behavior of their fans, despite being given the authority by FIFA to do so since 2013.

Fines? Sure. Partial stadium closures? OK. But more stringent punishments, like point deductions or ex-

pulsion from competitions? They are typically reserved for matters such as financial mismanagement, not racial abuse of players.

The result is frustration and a sense of helplessness among Black players and those wanting to protect them. Asked what he expects to happen after the Vinícius incident, Real Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti said: "Nothing. Because it has happened lots of times and nothing happens." Anti-racism campaigns and slogans are welcomed but increasingly viewed as tokenism, especially when fines handed to clubs or federations for racial abuse committed by fans often are so pitiful.

Nole perfect in key tiebreaker, nearly perfect in next set of French Open win

Sabalenka and Muchova reach semifinals

PARIS, June 6, (AP): Novak Djokovic has come back after dropping a set for the first time in the tournament to beat Karen Khachanov 4-6, 7-6 (0), 6-2, 6-4 at the French Open on Tuesday to reach his 45th career Grand Slam semifinal.

Roger Federer holds the men's record of 46 appearances in the final four of a major.

The victory over the 11th-seeded Khachanov, a semifinalist at the U.S. Open last September and the Australian Open this January, put Djokovic in that round for the 12th time at Roland Garros. Only Rafael Nadal has done it more often, with 15 semifinals; he had arthroscopic hip surgery last week and is sitting out this edition of the clay-court major.

The No. 3-seeded Djokovic now waits to see whether he will face No. 1 Carlos Alcaraz next. Alcaraz, who beat Djokovic on clay at the Madrid Masters last year in their only previous encounter, was scheduled to meet No. 5 Stefanos Tsitsipas in the last men's quarterfinal Tuesday night.

No. 2 seed Aryna Sabalenka and unseeded Karolina Muchova both

TENNIS

reached the women's semifinals in Paris for the first time by winning earlier in the day.

Sabalenka, the reigning champion at the Australian Open, eliminated Elina Svitolina 6-4, 6-4, then appeared at a news conference for the first time in nearly a week. Muchova defeated 2021 runner-up Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova 7-5, 6-2.

Djokovic is a two-time champion in Paris, in 2016 and 2021, and is seeking a 23rd Grand Slam trophy overall, which would break a tie with Nadal for the men's record.

Before facing Khachanov, Djokovic had claimed all 12 sets he'd played in the tournament. But he acknowledged coming out "quite sluggish, quite slow" on Tuesday.

The second set wasn't ideal, either. Until the tiebreaker, at least. That's when Djokovic raised his play what he called "a couple of levels higher."

Well, that's an understatement.

He did not make a mistake, didn't drop a point at all. Indeed, he has gone 5-0 in tiebreakers over the past week-plus, and has not made an unforced error across any of those 47 points.

The mastery continued in the third set. On the 10th point of the opening game, he flubbed a backhand. But then did not commit an unforced error the rest of the way in that set, while compiling 19 winners in that span.

Things appeared to be headed completely his way in the fourth, too, represented by a 4-2 lead. But when he played a shaky game that ended with a double-fault, suddenly it was 4-all.

"A little bit of a scare," Djokovic termed it afterward.

And then? Well, Djokovic turned back into that perfect version of himself, collecting the last eight points - breaking at love, then holding at love.

"You're not going to have your victories handed over to you," Djokovic said.

Muchova and Sabalenka had never progressed beyond the third round in Paris.

Svitolina was booed by some sections of the crowd because she snubbed the Australian Open champion after the final point, instead of shaking her hand at the net.

Sabalenka is from Belarus, and Svitolina - playing in her first major since becoming a mother - is from Ukraine. Belarus aided Russia in its invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, and the war continues. Like other players from Ukraine, including Sabalenka's first-round opponent last week, Svitolina has not been shaking hands with players from Belarus or Russia after matches.

Sabalenka's all-risk tennis paid dividends despite 37 unforced errors. Her aggressive returns and deep groundstrokes put Svitolina on the backfoot from the start. Under pressure at the beginning of the second set and 2-0 down, Sabalenka raised her game to win four games in a row and sealed the match with a forehand winner.

Sabalenka has yet to drop a set in the tournament.

Pavlyuchenkova played for more than three hours in her previous match and appeared tired as she got off a



Serbia's Novak Djokovic plays a shot against Russia's Karen Khachanov during their quarter final match of the French Open tennis tournament at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris. (AP)



Karolina Muchova of the Czech Republic celebrates after beating Russia's Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova in their quarter final match of the French Open tennis tournament at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris. (AP)

sluggish start and gave away too many easy points.

She tried to fight back using her powerful groundstrokes but her hopes of a comeback were dashed when she went down 4-1 in the second set after another big forehand bounced wide.

Pavlyuchenkova missed most of the 2022 season with a knee injury. Ranked No. 333, she was the lowest-ranked woman to reach the Roland Garros quarterfinals in the Open Era, and the lowest at any Grand Slam since 2017.

Muchova has also been slowed by an injuries as an abdominal problem forced her to rest for six months after the 2021 U.S. Open. She damaged an ankle during her third-round match at Roland Garros last year.

Muchova will be playing her second semifinal at a major after making it that far at the Australian Open two years ago.

French Open tennis player Miyu Kato forfeited all of her 21,500 euros (about \$23,000) in prize money and rankings points from women's doubles because she accidentally hit a ball girl in the neck with a ball after a point during a match, but she is allowed to keep participating in mixed doubles.

Kato's partner in women's doubles, Aldila Sutjiadi of Indonesia, did receive her money and points for reaching the third round in that competition.

French Open tournament referee Remy Azemar made the rulings on penalties. Azemar decided that the ball kid was hit inadvertently and Kato was permitted to continue in mixed doubles with Tim Pütz; they are scheduled to play in the semifinals Thursday.

On Sunday, in the third round of women's doubles, Kato took a swing with her racket and the ball flew toward the ball kid, who was not looking in the Japanese player's direction while heading off the court.

Seoane moves to Moenchengladbach

Stuttgart prolong Hamburg's wait to rejoin league

HAMBURG, Germany, June 6, (AP): Stuttgart ended Hamburger SV's last hopes of a return to the Bundesliga this year by winning the second leg of their playoff 3-1.

Enzo Millot scored twice and Silas Katompa Mvumpa grabbed another to cancel Sonny Kittel's opening goal and seal a 6-1 win on aggregate for the first-division team.

It's Hamburg's second straight failure to clinch promotion in the playoff against the team that finished third from bottom in the Bundesliga and it condemns the former league heavyweight to a sixth season in the second division since its demotion in 2018.

Hamburg, which lost 3-0 in the first leg, needed a good start to keep the raucous supporters' hopes alive and Kittel provided it in the sixth minute when he left fly with his right boot to send a brilliant shot in off the left post.

Serhou Guirassy thought he'd equalized with his heel with Stuttgart's first attack in the 17th minute, but the goal was ruled out through VAR as he'd originally come from an offside position in the buildup.

The decision prompted more wild celebrations from the home fans and Hamburg coach Tim Walter, and Stuttgart goalkeeper Florian Müller was the busier of the two before the break, but Hamburg needed goals.

Instead, Guirassy set up Millot to equalize right after the break, and a mistake from goalkeeper Daniel Heuer Fernandes - Hamburg's best player in the first leg - gifted Millot the second goal to seal the result in the 64th.

Kittel did not appreciate the French

midfielder's celebrations in front of the Hamburg fans, leading to a flare up with rival players rushing to join the melee. Referee Bastian Dankert responded with two yellow cards for each side.

Silas scored Stuttgart's third in the seventh minute of stoppage time.

Stuttgart players celebrated in front of the visiting fans - though not with them as they were surrounded by lines of riot police.

Hamburg, the last remaining founding member of the Bundesliga, finished fourth or third every season since its demotion to the second division. Only the top two are promoted automatically.

Borussia Moenchengladbach appointed Swiss coach Gerardo Seoane on Tuesday in his first new job since

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a troubled end to his time with fellow Bundesliga club Bayer Leverkusen.

Seoane joined Gladbach on a three-year contract as the replacement for Daniel Farke, who left last week after a 10th-place finish following a season of inconsistent results. Gladbach beat title contenders Bayern Munich and Borussia Dortmund but failed to win back-to-back Bundesliga games all season.

"Gerardo Seoane has been successful for several clubs over the past few years. He's a young coach, but one with lots of experience. He plays the style of football we want to see here," said Roland Virkus, Gladbach's man-



Stuttgart's Chris Fuehrich (left), and Hamburg's Moritz Heyer fight for the ball during the German Bundesliga relegation soccer match between Stuttgart and Hamburger at the Mercedes-Benz Arena in Stuttgart, Germany. (AP)

Coaches preach slow, steady approach

Ridley sneaks in extra reps

JACKSONVILLE, Fla., June 6, (AP): Jacksonville Jaguars coach Doug Pederson is trying to get receiver Calvin Ridley to slowly work his way back following an 18-month absence.

Ridley has other thoughts.

The former Atlanta Falcons standout is sneaking in extra repetitions during Jacksonville's organized team activities, a clear sign how eager he is to "get my body back to football" after missing most of the past two seasons.

"I only really know one speed," Ridley said.

The Jaguars would prefer Ridley save full throttle for training camp, maybe even the preseason. But convincing the 28-year-old Ridley of that seems to be a tough task considering how long he was sidelined.

"I'm picking (the tempo) up a little bit, just trying to get myself those reps," he said. "But they just want me to slowly build toward the season."

"I've got to gradually get my body back to football and be peaking into the season, not out here. Just got to get my body ready for the long ride."

Ridley's wait has been a lengthy one.

He last played an NFL game in October 2021, first stepping away to focus on his mental health and then serving a yearlong suspension for violating the NFL's gambling policy.

He was suspended after the league determined he bet on NFL games while away from the Falcons to deal with a home invasion he detailed in an article for The Players Tribune.

The league reinstated Ridley in March, clearing the way for him to join his new team in Jacksonville. The Jaguars gave up a fifth-round draft pick in 2022 and a conditional fourth-round pick in 2024 to get Ridley from Atlanta at the trade deadline in November.

Ridley has spent the past three months getting to know new teammates, new coaches, new surroundings and a new playbook. He

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worked out with quarterback Trevor Lawrence and fellow wideouts several times before the offseason program even began.

Those working closely alongside Ridley rave about his work ethic, which was evident on one play last week. Ridley failed to get in the right position on one route, which caused him to drop a pass from Lawrence. Ridley immediately signaled for a do-over and then followed with a flawlessly executed play.

"I've watched him the last few years and was super excited about that aspect of him joining our team," Lawrence said Monday. "But just to get to know him as a person and just to see his work ethic and how hungry he is to get back into play and how happy he is to be a part of our team, I think that's been the coolest part of having him here."

Ridley caught 90 passes for 1,374 yards and nine touchdowns despite dealing with a broken left foot in 2020. He had 31 receptions for 281 yards and two scores before sitting out the final two months of the 2021 season.

He's essentially starting over in Jacksonville, hoping to earn a new contract and stay close to his hometown of Fort Lauderdale. He insists 1,400 yards receiving is an attainable goal despite sharing the spotlight with Christian Kirk, Evan Engram and Zay Jones.

Pederson, though, just wants to get Ridley to September in one piece. And he believes the best way to do that is to slow him down now and through the rest of the summer.

"It's exciting to see what he can do and what he can bring," Pederson said. "But look, some of the things that I'm doing with the team drills is I'm trying to eliminate collisions. We're slowing the pace down so he can actually get in there (and learn)."

"If you notice he's not a full speed. He's not doing anything a 100%. It's a way to get him in there under a controlled tempo. But it's good to see him get in there as he continues to learn and process the information, and he's doing good."



Manchester City players, are seen during a training session at a UEFA Champions League Media Day before the forthcoming Champion's League final, Manchester. City will play Inter Milan in the final of the Champion's League on Saturday, June 10 in Istanbul. (AP)

Sports

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Dominant Golden Knights take 2-0 lead

Marchessault scores twice

LAS VEGAS, June 6, (AP): No team in over 25 years has been more dominant than the Vegas Golden Knights through the first two games of a Stanley Cup Final.

They have outscored the Florida Panthers by eight goals, including Monday night's 7-2 victory in Game 2 that put the Knights two wins from the first championship in the franchise's short six-year history.

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It will take a rare rally for the Panthers to come back as the series shifts to Florida for Game 3 on Thursday. Teams that took a 2-0 series lead in the Stanley Cup Final are 31-3 in the expansion era, but the Panthers opened the playoffs by storming back



Vegas Golden Knights right wing Jonathan Marchessault (81) celebrates his goal against the Florida Panthers during the third period of Game 2 of the NHL hockey Stanley Cup Finals in Las Vegas. (AP)

from 3-1 down to beat the heavily favored Boston Bruins.

Florida will have to significantly up its level of play to beat a Vegas team that won by three goals on Saturday and then five in this game. The last team to win the first two games of a Cup Final by more than eight combined goals was the 1996 Colorado Avalanche - who outscored the Panthers by nine.

"I think our depth has been a strength all year," Vegas coach Bruce Cassidy said. "It is the biggest reason we are still here, why we beat Winnipeg, Edmonton, Dallas. I just feel that we have the best team from player one through 20."

Jonathan Marchessault scored twice for the Knights and started an early blitz that chased Sergei Bobrovsky, the NHL's hottest postseason goalie.

Marchessault also had an assist to finish with three points. His 12 postseason goals set a Golden Knights record, with all of them coming after the first round. The only player with more following the opening round was Pavel Bure, who scored 13 for Vancouver in 1994.

"They want to set the tone with being undisciplined like Game 1 and we set the tone back," Marchessault said. "It was scoring that first goal there. But we're still pretty far from our goal here."

Brett Howden scored twice for the Knights, who also got goals from Alec Martinez, Nicolas Roy and Michael Amadio. Six players had at least two points for Vegas, all 18 Knights skaters were on the ice for even-strength goals and their nine goal scorers through the first two games are a Stanley Cup Final record. The Knights' seven goals tied a franchise mark for a playoff game.

It was too much for Bobrovsky, who was removed 7:10 into the second period down 4-0. It was the fifth time in 12 games the Knights have chased the opposing goalie.

Bobrovsky, a two-time Vezina Trophy winner, carried Florida through the Eastern Conference playoffs. Coming into the Stanley Cup Final, he



Florida Panthers center Anton Lundell (left), battles Vegas Golden Knights right wing Mark Stone for the puck during the third period of Game 2 of the NHL hockey Stanley Cup Finals in Las Vegas. (AP)

had won 11 of his past 12 starts with a 1.95 goals-against average and .942 save percentage during that stretch. But he's given up eight goals in 87 minutes against Vegas, compiling a 5.52 GAA and .826 save percentage in the series.

"We can be a little better in front of our goaltender," Panthers coach Paul Maurice said. "I got him out to keep him rested."

Matthew Tkachuk and Anton Lundell scored for Florida.

Adin Hill continued his stellar play in net with 29 saves for the Knights. Hill once again brought his feistiness as well

as his A-game. He stopped Carter Verhaeghe on a breakaway in the first, and later that period hit Tkachuk, who was in his net, with his blocker and then slashed him with his stick.

"He's been unreal for us," Vegas forward William Carrier said. "He's been unbelievable."

A group of four fans behind one of the nets wore sweaters that spelled out his last name, and Hill has often received the loudest cheers from Knights fans, reminiscent of when Marc-Andre Fleury was in goal for Vegas in its first three seasons.

"It's probably the most fun I've ever had playing hockey," Hill said. "I'm just enjoying it, cherishing every day. It's been awesome to be part of the journey with this team."

The Knights were dominant early, taking a 2-0 lead in the first period on goals from Marchessault and Martinez. It was Vegas' third game in a row with a power-play goal, its first such stretch since Christmas week.

The Panthers lost their biggest, toughest defenseman early in the game when Radko Gudas was injured on a hit by Vegas forward Ivan Barbashev.

Gudas left 6:39 in and did not return.

That was one of several big hits by Barbashev, the Golden Knights' biggest trade-deadline acquisition, a Stanley Cup champion with St. Louis in 2019. Barbashev broke the sternum of Colorado defenseman Samuel Girard during the playoffs last year, also on a clean hit.

Vegas had its own scare late in the second period when Jack Eichel was nailed in the right shoulder by Tkachuk. Eichel returned in the third and set up Marchessault's second goal for his second assist of the game.

'We don't feel any pressure'

India carry failure on biggest stages into world test cricket final against Australia

LONDON, June 6, (AP): The first World Test Championship final didn't go as expected. Or maybe it did.

India started as the marginal favorite against New Zealand in 2021 in neutral Southampton, and unraveled under pressure on a low-scoring fast bowlers' pitch from New Zealand's five-prong pace attack on the fifth day.

India has made it back to the final to face Australia on neutral turf at The Oval from Wednesday.

Given it is ranked No. 1 and has beaten Australia in their last four test series, including two in Australia, India starts the second final of the International Cricket Council's World Test Championship the slight favorite again.

But India's record in global tournaments hasn't lived up to expectations. For all of its leverage on world cricket's finances and outsized influence in the Twenty20 franchise game, India hasn't won a global event for 10 years; not since the 2013 Champions Trophy under Mahendra Singh Dhoni's leadership. Since then, another Champions Trophy, two Cricket World Cups, four T20 World Cups and a WTC have come and gone without an India triumph.

Coach Rahul Dravid denies that record has become baggage for India. "We don't feel any pressure in terms of trying to win an ICC trophy," Dravid said. "Of course, it would be nice to do it. It would be nice to get them on the right side of the result."

The main reason they haven't? The batting. There's no lack of self-belief. But that has also been India's undoing at crunch times in global tournaments. The team is full of personalities wanting to express themselves and take risks. And the charismatic Virat Kohli often hasn't had enough support from other senior batters.

The main questions about the lineup aren't about the batting, though. They concern whether to pick a second spinner, Ravichandran Ashwin or Axar Patel, to back up Indian Premier League final hero Ravindra Jadeja,

and which of KS Bharat or Ishan Kishan will keep wicket while Rishabh Pant continues to rehab from a car crash in December. Bharat has the inside running after featuring during the home series win over Australia in February-March.

As for Ashwin or Patel? Ashwin and Jadeja were the players of the series for India against Australia. If selectors go for four seamers, then Shardul Thakur - the only Indian to score two half-centuries in the 2021 final - Umesh Yadav and the inexperienced Jaydev Unadkat are in the mix.

India suffered by playing three seamers in the 2021 final, even after rain washed out the scheduled first day. But there's no rain forecast this week; there hasn't been any rain in London for three weeks. The track is dry and bouncy. Whether it will break up is a mystery. The Oval has never

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before staged a test in June in 143 years.

The Oval crowd will undoubtedly sound more like Mumbai than Melbourne this week but Australia's confidence is boosted by the test not being in India.

Australia cleared up one doubt by ruling out injury-prone pace bowler Josh Hazlewood to ensure he's fit for the Ashes series starting next week.

Scott Boland, on his first tour of the United Kingdom, is expected to be the third seamer after captain Pat Cummins and Mitchell Starc.

The fourth will be allrounder Cameron Green, who went the deepest in the IPL of the four Australians in the squad. Green scored his first test hundred in March at Ahmedabad, and though his preparation for this final has been heavy on Twenty20s, he's expected to benefit from the high-class intensity of the IPL.

Opener David Warner has only one hundred in test cricket since January 2020 but he's hoping to overcome a poor recent record in England to play a farewell test in his Sydney hometown in January. Australia coach Andrew McDonald backed Warner to come right: "We think he's got some good games left in him."

If the final is drawn or tied, the title, prize money and winner's mace will be shared. Monday is a reserve day in case of rain.

West Ham, Fiorentina aim to end long European trophy droughts

PRAGUE, June 6, (AP): West Ham and Fiorentina haven't won a European trophy for more than 50 years.

The drought will end for one of them when they play out the Europa Conference League final on Wednesday in Prague.

West Ham earned its lone European title in 1965, the old European Cup Winners' Cup. Alan Sealey scored twice to beat 1860 Munich 2-0 at Wembley Stadium. The Hammers reached the final again in 1976.

En route to this, West Ham's third European final, forward Jarrod Bowen contributed four goals and can't wait to play it.

"I've played for England, but I think achieving this with your teammates who you've been with together to get to a final and you have the opportunity to win a trophy together, it will be a massive moment," Bowen said.

Fiorentina's only European trophy was also the Cup Winners' Cup, the first one back in 1961 when it defeated Rangers in a two-leg final 4-1 on aggregate.

By reaching the second finale of the Europa Conference League, Fiorentina has become the first club to contest a final in four major continental competitions.

Fiorentina was defeated by Real Madrid for the 1957 European Cup (the forerunner of the Champions League), and by Juventus in the 1990 UEFA Cup final. It also failed to win

SOCCER

the Cup Winners' Cup back to back, losing the 1962 final to Atletico Madrid.

Fiorentina has had a good buildup. It played the Italian Cup final two weeks ago and was beaten by Inter Milan 2-1. That's the only loss for the Florence-based club in its last six matches. The last warmup for the Conference final was beating Sassuolo 3-1 last Friday for an eighth-place finish in Serie A.

Despite struggling to a 14th-place finish in the English Premier League, West Ham has been a European title contender for a second straight year under manager David Moyes.

Following a campaign to the Europa League semifinals a year ago, West Ham marched to Prague as the only undefeated team in the third-tier Europa Conference League. West Ham won 13 games including qualifying, and was held by Gent to 1-1 in the first leg of their quarterfinal. The Hammers

Henry back with France to prepare for Women's WC

PARIS, June 6, (AP): Former France captain Amandine Henry was called up by coach Herve Renard on Tuesday to prepare for the upcoming Women's World Cup.

Renard chose 26 players who will ultimately be trimmed to 23 for the tournament in Australia and New Zealand next month.

Henry played 93 matches for France but hasn't appeared since November 2020.

Experienced Paris Saint-Germain midfielder Kheira Hamraoui missed out.

Renard was appointed in March after the players rebelled against predecessor Corinne Diacre.

The 54-year-old Renard quit as coach of the Saudi Arabia men's team this week, ending a four-year spell highlighted by a win over eventual champion Argentina in the group stage of last year's World Cup in Qatar.

He said his goal with the women's team was to at least reach the semifinals at the World Cup and the Paris Olympics.

Squad:

Goalkeepers: Mylène Chavas (Bordeaux), Constance Picaut (PSG), Solène Durand (Guingamp), Pauline Peyraud-Magnin (Juventus Turin)

Defenders: Selma Bacha (Lyon), Estelle Cascarino (Manchester United), Elisa De Almeida (PSG), Sakina Karchaoui (PSG), Eve Périsset (Chelsea), Maëlle Lakrar (Montpellier), Aïssatou Tounkara (Manchester United), Wendie Renard (Lyon)

Midfielders: Kenza Dalil (Aston Villa), Amel Majri (OL), Laurina Fazer (PSG), Grace Geyoro (PSG), Sandie Toletti (Real Madrid), Amandine Henry (Angel City FC), Oriane Jean-François (PSG), Léa Le Garrec (Fleury)

Forwards: Viviane Asseyi (West Ham), Kadidiatou Diané (PSG), Eugénie Le Sommer (Lyon), Clara Mateo (Paris FC), Vicki Becho (Lyon), Naomie Feller (Real Madrid)



Vissel Kobe's Yusei Ozaki (left), battle for control of the ball with Barcelona's Marc Casadó during a friendly soccer match between his Japanese club Vissel Kobe and his old club Barcelona at the National Stadium in Tokyo. Andres Iniesta said goodbye to old friends as he played for his Japanese club Vissel Kobe against his former club Barcelona in a friendly at the National Stadium on Tuesday. Barcelona won the match 2-0. Iniesta played 674 games for Barcelona from 2002-18,

winning 30 trophies. He also scored the winning goal for Spain in the 2010 World Cup final.

Last month, he announced he was leaving the Japanese club after his final match on July 1 in the western city of Kobe.

Iniesta played five seasons with Vissel Kobe and has not announced his plans. The 39-year-old midfielder says he wants to keep playing, which he has not been doing much of this season. (AP)

were the first club to win all six group stage encounters.

At Eden Arena in the Czech capital,

West Ham will face a team that scored the most goals in the campaign, 36, led by forward Arthur Cabral's seven.

The reward for the winner of the final is not just a trophy but also a berth in the Europa League next season.