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CABINET RESIGNATION ACCEPTED ... ASSIGNED AS CARETAKER

Inaugural Assembly session June 20

Little change seen in election



Photo by Mahmoud Jadedd

Former Parliament Speaker and 2nd Constituency winner Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanim with 6,661 votes celebrate with his supporters.



Photo by Ihab Qurtal

One female candidate emerged victorious – Jenan Bu Shehri who took the sixth spot in the Third Constituency with 5,048 votes.



Photo by Mohamad Morsi

Abdulwahab Aref Al-Essa and his supporters celebrate his victory in the Parliamentary elections.



Photo by Ihab Qurtal

Fares Saad Al-Otaibi celebrating his victory after winning 4,796 votes in the 3rd Constituency.

NewsWatch

Pope set to undergo op

ROME, June 7: At the end of the general audience today (Wednesday) morning Pope Francis was admitted to Rome's A. Gemelli University Hospital where he was to undergo laparotomy and abdominal surgery under general anesthesia decided upon over the past few days by the medical team assisting the Holy Father, according to Vatican News.

The Pope's admission to the hospital follows a visit and consultation with doctors at the same facility on Tuesday afternoon.

The Pope will remain in hospital for several days to allow for a post operative course and full functional recovery.

The surgery decided upon over the past few days became necessary due to an incisional laparotomy (hernia) that is causing recurrent, painful and worsening subjective syndrome.

The Holy See press office has announced that, as a precautionary measure, all papal audiences have been suspended until June 18, 2023.

BAGHDAD: Baghdad Operations Commander, Lieutenant General Ahmed Salim on Wednesday announced the death of four terrorists from so-called Islamic State (IS/Daesh) including the self-proclaimed Wali of North Baghdad.

The Iraqi forces ambushed and killed the four terrorists in Tarmiya district, north of Baghdad, based on accurate intelligence, Salim said in a press statement.

Meanwhile, in recent months the Iraqi forces have strengthened their presence in Tarmiya district, due to a number of security breaches as well as targeting army forces by terrorist organization "Daesh". (KUNA)

'Overall ties stronger' Blinken in Riyadh for talks

DUBAI, June 7, (AP): US Secretary of State Antony Blinken arrived Tuesday in Saudi Arabia and later met Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman amid strained relations between Riyadh and Washington.

Blinken's trip, his second to Saudi Arabia since becoming America's top diplomat, comes after the kingdom under Prince Mohammed has been more willing to disregard the U.S. in striking its own decisions. Riyadh has clashed repeatedly with President Joe Biden on its supply of crude oil to global markets, its willingness to partner with Russia in OPEC+ and reaching a détente with Iran mediated by China.

However, Saudi Arabia still relies - like other Gulf Arab nations - on the U.S. to be the security guarantor for the wider Middle East as tensions over Iran's nuclear program in recent years have spilled over into a series of attacks. Riyadh and Washington also have been working in tandem to try and strike a lasting ceasefire in Sudan, which has been elusive during weeks of fighting between that country's military and a rival paramilitary force. And Saudi Arabia wants to end its war in Yemen, something also sought by the U.S.

"Under the hood, especially when it comes to security and a few other matters like that, the relationship is stronger than it was a year ago," said Hussein Ibish, a senior resident scholar at the Arab Gulf States Institute in Washington. "It looks more strained - and in some superficial ways it is - but it is overall stronger."

Blinken arrived to a Saudi Arabia more eager to engage internationally, particularly after being involved in prisoner swaps in Moscow's war on Ukraine. The kingdom hosted Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy last month at an Arab League summit, then Russia's sanctioned interior minister immediately after.

With oil prices well below \$100 a barrel, the Biden administration doesn't have an immediate concern over prices at the pump in the summer driving season.



Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman (right), meets with US Secretary of State Antony Blinken in Jeddah, Wednesday, June 7, 2023. (AP)

By Saeed Mahmoud Saleh
Arab Times Staff and Agencies

KUWAIT CITY, June 7: The Cabinet has forwarded to His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah a draft decree to inaugurate the first session of the National Assembly's 17th legislative term on Tuesday, June 20.

Meanwhile, an Amiri order was issued, Wednesday, accepting the resignation of the government and assigning His Highness Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah and his Cabinet to act as caretaker government.

This order came within the framework and articles of the constitution and the National Assembly will be informed.

Earlier, the Cabinet held an extraordinary session on Wednesday at Bayan Palace under chairmanship of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

Following the session, Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Dr. Khaled Al-Fadhel said the ministers were briefed by First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Interior and Acting Minister of Defense Sheikh Talal Khaled Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah as well as by Minister of Justice, Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Dr. Amer Mohammad Ali Mohammad about the National Assembly elections and their results.

Polls of the assembly's 17th legislative term were held on Tuesday and final results of the polling were declared early today.

The ministers expressed appreciation for the great efforts exerted by the judiciary, the public prosecution, personnel of the ministries of interior, justice, information, health, education, the municipality, NGOs and volunteers.

They also applauded the voters whose patriotism was translated through their participation in the process and congratulated winners of parliamentary seats, wishing them success in serving the homeland and the citizens.

In line with provision 57 of the Constitution, the ministers examined the government resignation motion that would be submitted to His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah from His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

Moreover, His Highness the Prime Minister, personally and on behalf of the executives, expressed deep gratitude to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah on their valuable confidence and significant support.

He also lauded the ministers for their sincere efforts during the service.

Voters in Kuwait returned most of their lawmakers to Parliament in the third election in as many years amid widespread frustration with the ongoing political gridlock, according to results released Wednesday.

Thirty-seven lawmakers kept their seats in the 50-member assembly following Tuesday's election, the state-run KUNA news agency said.

Official results of the recent parliamentary elections held Tuesday showed 24 percent change; compared to the 2022 results, as 38 mem-

Winners congratulated

bers of the 2022 Parliament retained their seats while the number of new MPs reached 12.

Only one female candidate emerged victorious -- Jenan Bu Shehri who took the sixth spot in the Third Constituency with 5,048 votes.

Following are the winners in each constituency:

First Constituency: 1. Abdullah Jassim Al-Mudhaf: 5,815 votes; 2. Osama Zaid Al-Zaid: 4,570 votes; 3. Ahmad Haji Lari: 3,738 votes; 4. Khaled Marzouq Al-Amer: 3,575 votes; 5. Hassan Abdullah Jawhar: 3,560 votes; 6. Dawood Suleiman Marafi: 3,434 votes; 7. Issa Ahmad Al-Kanderi: 3,185 votes; 8. Hamad Mohammed Al-Madlej: 2,888 votes; 9. Osama Issa Al-Shaheen: 2,869 votes; 10. Adel Jassim Al-Damki: 2,731 votes.

Second Constituency: 1. Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanim: 6,661 votes; 2. Shuaib Ali Shaaban: 5,630 votes; 3- Abdullah Turki Al-Anbaei: 3,705 votes; 4. Falah Dhahi Al-Hajri: 3,265 votes; 5. Mohammed Barrak Al-Mutairi: 3,091 votes; 6. Abdul Wahab Arif Al-Essa: 3,031 votes; 7. Bader Nashmi Al-Enezi: 2,752 votes; 8. Fahd Abdulaziz Al-Masoud: 2,652 votes; 9. Hamad Mohammed Al-Mutar: 2,432 votes; 10. Bader Hamed Al-Mulla: 2,360 votes.

Third Constituency: 1. Mohalhal Khaled Al-Mudhaf: 7,268 votes; 2. Ahmad Abdulaziz Al-Saadoun: 6,325 votes; 3. Abdulkarim Abdullah Al-Kandari: 5,878 votes; 4. Muhannad Talal Al-Sayer: 5,772 votes; 5. Abdulaziz Tariq Al-Saqoubi: 5,730 votes; 6. Jenan Bu Shehri: 5,048 votes; 7. Hamad Adel Al-Obeid: 4,815 votes; 8. Fares Saad Al-Otaibi: 4,796 votes; 9. Hamad Abdurrahman Al-Olayan: 4,782 votes; 10. Jarrah Khaled Al-Fouzan: 3,633 votes.

Fourth Constituency: 1. Bader Sayyar Al-Shammari: 8,487 votes; 2. Mubarak Hummoud Al-Tasha: 8,376 votes; 3. Mutib Ayed Al-Thaydi: 7,721 votes; 4. Mohammad Awadh Al-Ruqaib: 7,196 votes; 5. Mohammad Hayef Al-Mutairi: 6,966 votes; 6. Mubarak Haif Al-Hajraf: 6,710 votes; 7. Abdullah Fahad Al-Enizi: 6,567 votes; 8. Saad Ali Al-Rashidi: 6,228 votes; 9. Fayed Ghanem Al-Jomhour: 6,035 votes; 10. Shuaib Al-Muwaizri: 5, 873 votes.

Fifth Constituency: 1. Saud Abdulaziz Al-Asfour: 12,784 votes; 2. Hamdan Salem Al-Azmi: 10,863 votes; 3. Khaled Mohammad Al-Otaibi: 8,028 votes; 4. Hani Hussein Shams: 7,644 votes; 5. Marzouq Faleh Al-Habini: 6,775 votes; 6. Fahad Falah Al-Azmi: 6,443 votes; 7. Abdulhadi Nasser Al-Ajmi: 6,341 votes; 8. Mohammad Hussein Al-Mahan (6,324) votes; 9- Majed Mused Al-Mutairi: 6,245 votes.; 10. Mohammad Hadi Al-Hewaila: 6,188 votes.

The First Constituency MPs changed by 10 percent with new MP Dawoud Marafi taking the sixth spot with 3,434; 30 percent in the Second Constituency with two new MPs -- Bader Nashmi Al-Anzi in seventh place (2,752 votes) and Fahd Al-Masoud in eighth place (2,652) while former Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanim had a strong comeback, landing in first place with 6,661 votes.

The Third Constituency changed by 20 percent with new MPs Hamad Al-Elyan and Jarrah Al-Fawzan occupying the ninth and 10th places with 4,782 and 3,633 votes respectively.

The Fourth Constituency recorded the highest percentage change at 40 percent with the victory of four new MPs -- Badr Sayyar Al-Shammari in first place with 8,355 votes; Meteb Raathan Al-Zaidi in third place with 7,175 votes; Muhammad Awadh Al-Regaib in fourth place with 7,175 votes and Fayed Al-Jomhour in ninth place with 6,007 votes

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UK launches new Electronic Travel Authorisation scheme

Visitors from GCC countries and Jordan to pay £10 for ETA

KUWAIT CITY, June 7: The UK's new Electronic Travel Authorisation scheme (ETA) will cost just £10, making travel to Britain cheaper and easier for visitors from the Gulf and Jordan.

Nationals from the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states and Jordan will soon only be required to pay £10 to apply for an ETA, which will allow them to visit the UK multiple times over a two-year period. This is compared to Gulf nationals currently paying £30 per visit to the UK under the current

Electronic Visa Wavier (EVW) scheme and Jordanian nationals £100 for a visit visa.

The scheme is set to launch for Qatari nationals in October 2023, and for the rest of the Gulf Cooperation Council states and Jordan in February 2024 ahead of a worldwide expansion throughout 2024.

Earlier this year, the UK government announced plans to introduce a new ETA scheme as part of a digitisation of the UK border by 2025 to further enhance border security and the customer experience. An

ETA is a digital permission to travel for those visiting or transiting through the UK who do not need a visa for short stays, or who do not currently hold another UK visa.

Immigration Minister Robert Jenrick said:

Visitors from the Gulf states and Jordan make a huge contribution to the UK's tourism industry and the new ETA scheme will make it easier and cheaper for them to travel to the UK.

The cost of an ETA will be one of the best value in the world

compared to similar international schemes. This small additional cost to visitors will enable us to bolster the security of the UK border and keep our communities safe.

Minister of State for the Middle East, North Africa and South Asia Lord Ahmad said:

I'm delighted that our partners across the Gulf and Jordan will be the first to benefit from the UK's new Electronic Travel Authorisation scheme. This scheme is further proof of the strong partnership between the UK and countries across

the region.

By cutting costs and visa requirements, the ETA scheme will ensure visitors from the Gulf states and Jordan can enjoy travelling with ease to the UK, boosting business and tourism links between our countries.

Gulf visitors are highly valuable to the UK economy, with over 790,000 Gulf visitors spending £2 billion during their stays in the UK last year.

The move to the ETA scheme means that the visa requirement

will be removed for nationals from GCC states and Jordan, bringing the requirements for them to visit the UK in line with other visitors, such as those from the US and Australia.

The application process for an ETA will be simple and fast to complete, with the process being entirely digital via a mobile phone app. To apply, individuals will need to provide biographic and biometric details such as a digital photograph and answer a set of suitability questions.

MoE signs contract for supply, operation of fingerprint units

Additional work hours payment to be deposited soon

KUWAIT CITY, June 7: The Ministry of Education has signed contracts for the supply, installation and operation of fingerprint devices to mark the attendance of employees in government schools, which are expected to start working during the next academic year 2023/2024, reports Al-Jarida daily.

The daily added, the employees had varying opinions and they remained divided between supporters and opponents of the idea of having fingerprints attendance in schools.

The Al-Jahra Educational zone said the supporters and opponents of this decision had their views on the reasons that prompted them to take their respective positions, as

some emphasized that the adoption of the fingerprint system will contribute to controlling work, and eliminating nepotism and favoritism by some school administrations, while others believe that it will contribute to create an atmosphere of reluctance from the teaching staff and give rise to more obstacles.

The President of the Teachers' Association, Hamad Al-Houli, said that the association is not against the application of fingerprinting in absolute terms, but rather has reservations about the application mechanism, as the procedures is marred by shortcomings, and "we have addressed, as an association, the former minister of education, Dr. Muhammad Al-Faris, about the existence of obstacles regarding fingerprint

and the nature of teachers' work in schools."

He pointed out that the Civil Service Commission did not respond to several queries, and did not resolve them until now, despite the passage of years since they were raised and Dr Al-Faris at the time had requested that teachers be excluded from the implementation of this decision.

Meanwhile, the payment for the additional work hours rendered by the faculty members at the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET) in the second semester of academic year 2022/2023 will be deposited to their accounts soon, reports Al-Anba daily quoting sources.

Sources revealed the relevant form has been forwarded to the Central Bank of Kuwait; indicating the beneficiaries thanked Director General of PAAET Dr Hassan Al-Fajam, his deputies, the Financial Department director and all employees for their efforts.



Dr Al-Faris



From left: Siham Nuseibeh – Technical Officer at ILO, Pete Swift – Chairman of the Board of ABCK-AmCham Kuwait and John Redfield CTIP Lead for RCC-KU from the U.S. Military.

AmCham Kuwait in collaboration with ILO holds workshop on 'combating' forced labor & trafficking in persons

KUWAIT CITY, June 7: AmCham Kuwait, in its unwavering commitment to corporate social responsibility (CSR), has partnered with the ILO, a leading international organization in labor rights and social justice, to spearhead this significant initiative. The workshop provided a platform for participants to engage in meaningful discussions, share experiences, and explore strategies to combat forced labor and human trafficking. Representatives from government bodies, industry leaders, and other relevant stakeholders came together to address the multifaceted dimensions of these issues.

The event commenced with opening remarks from Pete Swift, Chairman of AmCham Kuwait, who warmly welcomed the participants and emphasized the importance of global challenges that require collective action across the sectors. Swift then introduced Siham Nuseibeh, Technical Officer at the UN's International Labour Organization (ILO) and Mr. John Redfield CTIP Lead for RCC-KU from the U.S. Military.

The workshop highlighted the importance of responsible business practices and encouraged companies to adopt robust policies and procedures to prevent forced labor and human trafficking in their operations and supply chains. Participants gained valuable insights from experts in the field, who shared best practices, case studies, and innovative approaches to promote ethical and sustainable business practices.

John Redfield, the speaker from the U.S. Military spoke about their efforts in combating human trafficking (Counter Trafficking in Persons (CTIP)), Federal Acquisition Regulations as well as compliance and meeting minimum labor law requirements. Redfield highlighted that companies get an annual CTIPs compliance certification based on their review, and explained the process of remediation if a company is found to be in violation of CTIPs.

Through educational workshops such as this one, organizers aimed to contribute to the eradication of forced labor and human trafficking, making a lasting impact on the lives of vulnerable individuals. This workshop aligns with Kuwait's commitment to uphold human rights and its determination to eliminate all forms of modern slavery. Through knowledge-sharing, capacity-building, and collaborative efforts, the workshop intends to foster a culture of respect for human dignity and promote inclusive economic growth.

ABCK-AmCham Kuwait is a non-profit organization operating since 1985 and is composed of Fortune 500 corporations, small and medium-sized companies, and prominent business leaders and entrepreneurs, both American and Kuwaiti. ABCK-AmCham Kuwait has acted as an advocate for American interest in the state of Kuwait. For more information, please visit our website at www.amchamkuwait.org or follow us on the social media channel @abck1985

Inaugural Assembly

Continued from Page 1

The Fifth Constituency changed by 20 percent with the victory of new MPs -- Fahd bin Jame'e in sixth place with 6,405 votes and Abdulhadi Nasser Al-Ajmi in eighth place with 6,320 votes.

The Islamic Constitutional Movement (ICM) took three Parliamentary seats through the victory of Osama Al-Shaheen, Hamad Al-Matar and Abdulaziz Al-Saqaabi.

The Salafi Movement got three seats -- Hamad Al-Obaid, Mubarak Al-Tasha and Fahd Al-Masoud; the Independent Islamist got six seats -- Adel Al-Damkhi, Fayez Al-Jomhour, Hamdan Al-Azmi, Abdullah Al-Anbaie, Jarrah Al-Fawzan and Muhammad Al-Hewaila.

On the other hand, the Peace and Justice Alliance lost its parliamentary seats as former MPs Khalil Al-Saleh and Saleh Ashour lost in the election.

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent on Wednesday cables to candidates winning seats in the National Assembly, congratulating them on earning the Kuwaiti people's trust.

His Highness the Amir called on the winners of the 2023 elections to carry the responsibility of representing the people and diligently and realize their aspiration for a better future for Kuwait.

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received

Wednesday a congratulatory cable from His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

In the cable, His Highness the Crown Prince congratulated His Highness the Amir on the success of the parliamentary poll.

In reply, His Highness the Amir sent a cable to His Highness the Crown Prince thanking him for his sincere sentiments, evaluating national responsibility of citizens towards practicing their constitutional rights to select their candidates.

His Highness the Amir also prayed to Allah the Almighty to maintain the dear homeland safe, secure, and stable.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent cables on Wednesday congratulating the candidates that won seats at the National Assembly during the elections, which occurred yesterday.

His Highness the Crown Prince wished the future MPs luck in their upcoming endeavor to represent the people of Kuwait.

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent cables on Wednesday to the winners of the '23 National Assembly elections. The cabinet congratulated on Wednesday the candidates who were voted in the National Assembly during the 2023 elections on Tuesday, wishing them utmost luck in their future endeavor.

See Also Page 2



Weekdays (Saturday - Wednesday)	Price
Queen Cabana (2 persons inclusive of breakfast) per night.	BHD 61.000/-net
2 Bedroom Chalet (4 persons inclusive of breakfast) per night.	BHD 136.198/-net
Weekends (Thursday & Friday)	Price
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2 Bedroom Chalet (4 persons inclusive of breakfast) per night.	BHD 153.222/-net

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Innovative solution aims to disrupt the transgenic animal model

IPA releases new AI-driven rapid therapeutic screening platform

VICTORIA, British Columbia, June 7: ImmunoPrecise Antibodies Ltd. (NASDAQ: IPA) ("IPA" or the "Company") has introduced a transformative AI-driven rapid therapeutic screening platform, the result of a collaboration between IPA Canada and its subsidiary, BioStrand®. This innovative solution aims to significantly expedite the early stages of drug discovery by enabling the early elimination of less promising therapeutic candidates, thereby reducing time, cost, and the risk of failure during later stage discovery.

IPA has provided insights into its strategic approach for monetizing this breakthrough technology. The plan involves targeting their extensive existing client base, which includes 19 of the top 20 pharmaceutical companies and hundreds of biotechnology firms. These clients typically face substantial costs, when using transgenic animals, to progress a single therapeutic candidate through the commercialization process. These costs often reach tens to hundreds of millions of dollars per molecule, encompassing upfront payments, milestone payments, and commercial royalties.

Quality

By introducing a more reliable, efficient, and cost-effective solution via IPA's AI-driven platform, the Company is well-positioned to provide greater results and value for its clients, reducing their costs and accelerating their drug discovery timelines. This increase in quality, productivity, and value is expected to translate directly into increased revenue streams for IPA, fostering substantial financial growth for the Company and its investors.

BioStrand's HYFT technology extracts unique patterns, known as Universal Fingerprint™ patterns, from the entire biosphere, and integrates them with various data sources, such as scientific papers and medical records. The resulting Knowledge Graph encompasses over 660 million HYFTs and more than 25 billion relations, providing a powerful resource for researchers and AI-driven analysis. The LENS ai platform, powered by HYFT technology, takes advantage of the latest advancements in large language models (LLMs) to bridge the gap between syntax (sequences) and semantics (functions). This enables the platform to extract valuable insights from vast amounts of data, without the limitations of traditional LLMs. IPA's support of BioStrand's pioneering work reinforces its commitment to investing in cutting-edge biotechnology solutions with the potential to transform the industry.

The current transgenic animal model market, reaching USD 17.7 billion in 2021 and expected to grow by 8.1% CAGR from 2022 to 2028, has been widely adopted in novel therapeutic discovery, primarily to avoid what was previously seen as time-consuming, expensive, risk-laden, and sometimes unsuccessful humanization processes. However, despite its widespread adoption, transgenics pose limitations of their own, such as a lack of diversity in therapeutic outputs, loss of therapeutic efficacy, and high costs. Addressing these challenges, BioStrand's recently patented technology introduces a reliable, scalable, and cost-effective alternative for early-stage therapeutic discovery.

BioStrand's platform, termed the HYFT® Proprietary Proteome Presence Assessment, optimizes potential therapeutic drug candidates at an early stage using the multi-functional LENS ai™ humanization platform integrated with its patented HYFT technology. This allows a multitude of potential therapies to be analyzed concurrently, reducing analysis time and costs, and ensuring that only the most promising candidates proceed further into the drug discovery process.

The concept of humanization refers to the computational process of making an antibody or protein from a non-human source resemble human proteins. This is crucial for reducing the likelihood of immune responses against therapeutics, while preserving their functionality.

Technology

BioStrand's patented HYFT technology, incorporated into their proprietary LENS ai software, screens the entire human proteome (the entire complement of proteins that is or can be expressed by a cell, tissue, or organism), as well as various animal proteomes, against candidate therapeutics. This screening is accomplished in under . This process advances the most 'human-like' molecules, speeding up humanization, reducing the manipulation required before use in clinical trials, and offering a rapid, scalable, and cost-effective alternative to transgenic animal models.

Other existing methods can only assess candidates against a subset of the human proteome, which can result in an incomplete evaluation of a protein's humanness and immunogenicity. HYFT technology, however, uniquely addresses this limitation with several distinct advantages, including:

Leveraging these unique capabilities, the HYFT Proprietary Proteome Presence Assessment offers a more accurate and complete assessment of candidates' humanness and immunogenicity. This supports the development of safer, more effective therapeutic proteins and antibodies while greatly streamlining the drug development process.

"IPA's smooth fusion of computer-driven humanization and immunogenicity testing paves the way for faster development and boosts the potential of new treatment methods," stated Dr. Ingrid Brands, Co-Founder and General Manager of BioStrand. "Our dedication to innovation and pushing the limits of AI-driven therapeutic discovery is represented in this collaboration and integration. We're all about setting new standards in medicine and driving value for our investors."

MSK diseases affect more than one out of every 2 persons in US

Transcarent enhances surgery care experience with ViewFi partnership

PALO ALTO, Calif., June 7: Transcarent, a health and care experience company that makes it easy for people to access high-quality, affordable care, announced a partnership with ViewFi, bringing world-class orthopedic and musculoskeletal care directly to patients. ViewFi will power Transcarent's Orthopedic Consult solution, part of the Transcarent Surgery Care experience.

According to the United States Bone and Joint Initiative, Musculoskeletal diseases affect more than one out of every two persons in the United States over the age of 18. The direct healthcare costs of musculoskeletal disease and lost wages were estimated to be \$980.1 billion per year in 2012-2014.

Transcarent's Orthopedic Consult solution, powered by ViewFi, allows Members to be evaluated virtually by top-quality orthopedic physicians and surgeons, often removing the need to travel for evaluations or wait weeks for an in-person appointment. The industry average wait time to see an orthopedic provider is 16.9 days, up 48% from 2017. With Transcarent, Members can see an orthopedic provider for a comprehensive diagnostic exam virtually in less than two days. Transcarent Members receive rapid access, within the Transcarent app, to top orthopedic providers virtually from the comfort of their home – reducing high-cost specialty or emergency department visits which means Members get the care they need faster.

"We know that providing easy access to a high-quality orthopedic consultation as a part of our Surgery Care experience removes another barrier for our Members as they address their health and care needs," said Glen Tullman, Chief Executive Officer of Transcarent. "Our partnership with ViewFi means that our Members have easy access to some of the best orthopedic providers directly from their homes, resulting in less disruption for our Members, and translating to a faster road to recovery and less missed work. This is another example of how the Transcarent Surgery Care experience prioritizes the needs of our Members to have access to high-quality, affordable care on their terms."

Delivers

The patient-focused ViewFi Health technology platform delivers orthopedic exams with best-practice exam content and groundbreaking technology capabilities. ViewFi offers this technology platform combined with a clinical team of leading providers, with support from Hospital for Special Surgery, spanning a broad range of orthopedic specialties. Combin-

'Strategic evolution'

Vulcan accelerator connects CDISC, HL7, ICH M11 in project to digitize exchange of research

ANN ARBOR, Mich., June 7: A structured, harmonized, digitized protocol accessible to the biopharmaceutical industry and to researchers in the care setting will enable transformations to improve clinical research. The project announced by HL7 Vulcan and CDISC will build on work products of ICH M11 to accelerate this vision. Vulcan is an HL7® FHIR Accelerator dedicated to connecting clinical and translational research to clinical care through Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resources (FHIR®). CDISC is a non-profit standards development organization that develops standards that support acquisition, exchange, submission, and archive of biopharmaceutical data. CDISC is also a member of Vulcan. ICH M11 is the topic of the International Council for Harmonization to create a Clinical electronic Structured Harmonised Protocol (CeSHarP).

"The project marks an important milestone in the long journey towards a digital protocol," said Vulcan Co-Chair, Amy Cramer. "Over the years, various organizations have contributed key building blocks. Vulcan is pleased to serve as a convener where contributors across the global research community can collaborate towards this shared and important goal."

"We are looking forward to partnering with ICH M11 and HL7 on this important project that aims to enable the digital transformation of protocols in support of automation," said David Evans, President and CEO, CDISC. "This project represents another step in CDISC's strategic evolution to embrace

governance of clinical research information standards, not just clinical data standards."

FHIR-based exchange standard for ICH's Clinical electronic Structured Harmonised Protocol (CeSHarP), aligned to CDISC standards, will enable value across the clinical trials ecosystem. ICH M11 is developing a clinical protocol template, guideline, and technical specification, which will serve as the project's foundation.

Leveraged

CDISC's Unified Study Definition Model (USDM), co-developed with TransCelerate BioPharma, will be leveraged to accelerate development of the content model in addition to other inputs such as CDISC Controlled Terminology and Vulcan FHIR® Implementation Guides.

The project will be executed within the HL7 Vulcan Project Framework and supplemented by a Joint Leadership Forum to foster alignment among CDISC, ICH M11, and HL7 Vulcan. It is now in the discovery and scoping phase with full kick off anticipated this summer.

CDISC creates clarity in clinical research by convening a global community to develop and advance data standards of the highest quality. Required by the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Japan's Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices Agency (PMDA), recommended by the China National Medical Products Administration (NMPA) and adopted by the world's leading research organizations, CDISC

standards enable the accessibility, interoperability, and reusability of data. With the help of CDISC standards, the entire research community can maximize the value of data for more efficient and meaningful research that has invaluable impact on global health.

Health Level Seven® International (HL7) is an ANSI-accredited, not-for-profit standards developing organization with the mission of empowering global health interoperability. With affiliates in over 30 countries, HL7's global membership envisions a world in which everyone can securely access and use the right data when and where they need it. Widely implemented by vendor and healthcare systems, and required by governing bodies around the world, HL7 standards deliver solutions for health information technology, including HL7® Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resources (FHIR®), Version 2 (V2) and Clinical Document Architecture (CDA®).

A HL7® FHIR® Accelerator, Vulcan's mission is to accelerate interoperability of health data to seamlessly integrate clinical and translational research with clinical care in order to reduce burden, enable learning health systems, and improve patients' lives. Vulcan is a diverse research community that creates FHIR® implementation guides for the exchange of health and research data, creating alignment at the development of standards through to implementation. HL7 Vulcan Accelerator is currently accepting new members.

ing an internationally renowned clinical team with ViewFi's leading MSK technology platform provides high-quality, low-cost, convenient entry to orthopedic and musculoskeletal care for individuals.

"ViewFi and Transcarent are aligned in our commitment to change how care is delivered, ensuring that consumers are prescribed the very best care plan from the outset. The most important step in an MSK care journey is a clinically proven comprehensive exam and plan of care, and the ViewFi platform and providers can diagnose and make individualized treatment recommendations for our patients. This is a differentiator for us and for Transcarent," said Michael Wil-

liamson, Chief Executive Officer of ViewFi. "Our providers are able to recommend surgery when that's the appropriate treatment, prescribe medications, order and review advanced imaging, or order physical therapy, all based on what's right for the patient. Getting it right from the start is critical to achieving great patient satisfaction which translates to the best outcomes at the lowest cost."

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Murakami says pandemic, war in Ukraine create walls

TOKYO, June 7, (AP) — Japanese writer Haruki Murakami says walls are increasingly built and dividing people and countries after Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the COVID-19 pandemic fueled fear and skepticism.

"With feelings of suspicion replacing mutual trust, walls are continually being erected around us," Murakami said in late April at Wellesley College. That speech, "Writing Fiction in the Time of Pandemic and War," was released Wednesday in The Shincho Monthly literary magazine published by Shinchosha Co.

"Everybody seems to be confronted with a choice - to hide behind the walls, preserving safety and the status quo or, knowing the risks, to emerge beyond the walls in search of a freer value system," he said.

Like the protagonist in his new novel, "The City and Its Uncertain Walls" was released in April in Japan and an English translation is expected in 2024. The protagonist, as Murakami described, faces a tough choice between two worlds: an isolated walled city of tranquility with no desire or suffering, and the real world beyond the walls filled with pain and desire and contradictions.

The novel is based on a story he wrote for a magazine soon after becoming a novelist but was never published in book form. He said he knew it had important ideas and put it aside because he wanted to rewrite it.

Some 40 years later, he discovered "this tale fits perfectly with the age we live in now."

Murakami started rewriting the book in March 2020, soon after COVID-19 began spreading around the world, and finished it two years later, as the war in Ukraine passed its one-year mark.

"The two big events combined and changed the world in dramatic ways," he said.

The sense of safety that came with a common belief in globalism and mutual economic and cultural dependency "crumbled with Russia's sudden invasion of Ukraine," Murakami said, spreading fear of similar invasions elsewhere. Many countries, including his home Japan, have since bolstered their military preparedness and budgets.

As the war continues without an end in sight, so do the high walls being built around people, between countries and individuals, Murakami said. "It seems to me that the psychic condition - if someone isn't your ally, he is your enemy - continues to spread."

Trust

"Can our trust in each other once more overcome our suspicions? Can wisdom conquer fear? The answers to these questions are entrusted to our hands. And rather than an instant answer, we are being required to undergo a deep investigation that will take time," Murakami said.

He says that, while there's not much a novelist can do, "I sincerely hope that novels and stories can lend their power to such an investigation. It's something that we novelists dearly hope for."

Murakami has made other efforts to encourage people to think, combat fear or tear down walls. He hosted the radio show "Music to put an end to war" a month after Russia invaded Ukraine. His Japanese translation of "The Last Flower," former New Yorker cartoonist James Thurber's 1939 anti-war picture book, will be released later this month from Poplar Sha.

Did the protagonist stay inside the walls? "Please try reading the book yourselves," Murakami said.

Also:

NEW YORK: Combat veteran and Fox Nation host **Johnny Joey Jones** has a book coming out in June about serving with the Marines Corps in **Iraq and Afghanistan** and the friendships he formed.

Fox News Books, Fox News Media's publishing imprint, has announced that Jones' "Unbroken Bonds of Battle," will come out June 27.

Jones, 36, was a bomb technician who served eight years with the Marines before a devastating explosion in Afghanistan in 2010 — he stepped on an IED (improvised explosive device) — cost him both of his legs.

"For years people have asked me to write a book about 'my story,'" Jones said in a statement released Sunday by Fox Books. "However, I've always known all along that the most important part of my story is the amazing collection of people and warriors who've become a part of my life. Each of them with inspiring and heroic stories of their own."

Jones, 36, was a bomb technician who served eight years with the Marines before a devastating explosion in Afghanistan in 2010 — he stepped on an IED (improvised explosive device) — cost him both of his legs.

"Unbroken Bonds" is part of Fox Books' "Modern Warriors" series, which also includes Pete Hegseth's "Modern Warriors: Real Stories from Real Heroes."

People

Variety



This image released by Paramount Pictures shows Primal in a scene from 'Transformers: Rise of the Beasts.' (AP)

Film

Sequel tries but fails to energize the saga

Beasts enliven new 'Transformers'

By Mark Kennedy

With the "Transformers" franchise clearly at a crossroads, its latest protectors have turned to their deep bench of characters. But just adding more robots won't transform this tired series.

"Transformers: Rise of the Beasts" returns the franchise to its galaxy-wide self-importance after taking a nice detour with 2018's smaller "Bumblebee." We have a new cast of animal robots and a very evil enemy in the planet-eating Unicron, but they're not used right and the movie limps from fight to fight.

The key to the film is actually a key, some sort of ancient glowing shaft that will open a portal in space and time. Everyone wants it - to go home, to kill planets or to save planets. The audience may also want to use it to beam into a more interesting movie.

Directed by Steven Caple Jr. - using a screenplay by Darnell Metayer, Erich Hoeber, Jon Hoeber and Josh Peters based on a story by Joby Harold - "Transformers: Rise of the Beasts" is a big swing that seems to portend a multi-film arc nestled in time after "Bumblebee" and before the first live-action "Transformers" movie.

The problem with "Transformers: Rise of the Beasts" is the same problem faced by all of the installments - balancing the humanity with the metal. "Bumblebee" got the ratios right by bringing the machine down to size.

But a wide gulf between the humans and the giant space robots immediately appears in the new movie, with Optimus Prime being his classic, anal drill sergeant self - "If we are to die, then we will die as one," he'll intone. As the movie stutters on, the robots seem to soften only when the beasts show up for the last third - they mourn, get angry, feel protective, love even.

The filmmakers also have tried to bridge the divide with none other than Pete Davidson, who voices the juvenile robot Mirage, a wisecracking, fist-bumping silver Porsche 911 with a less rigid way of expression: "Don't mess with my boy!" and "Prime, you got to learn how to relax, my man." It mostly works - best line: "I'm not scared. That's just engine oil!" - but Davidson seems trapped inside that steel.

The special effects are astounding but sometimes numbing at the same time. The beasts - especially a nostril-flaring gorilla - are gorgeously realized and the baddies look cool as they control elements in space and time, like building sky walkways as they move on them.

Vintage

Setting the movie in 1994 gives the filmmakers some vintage fun, like adding beepers and references to O.J. Simpson, plus a soundtrack including A Tribe Called Quest and LL Cool J. But even here they get stuff wrong, like using Biggie's "Hypnotize," which came out in 1996, and having a character sing "Waterfalls" by TLC a year before it came out.

The Autobots are represented by Optimus Prime (voiced by veteran Peter Cullen), Bumblebee and Arcee (voiced by Liza Koshy). Then there are the Terrorcons, led by Scourge (Peter Dinklage), who controls swarms of horrifying insect robots and says things like: "Rip the flesh from their bones."

On the puny human side, Anthony Ramos plays an ex-military electronics expert from Brooklyn named Noah, who has a sick younger brother - Dean Scott Vazquez, the best actor of the bunch - and is tempted to criminality to get him proper care. On his first heist, he accidentally gets into Mirage and, after an excellent high-speed chase, meets the rest of the Autobots.

Looking for the portal key, he meets Elena, played by Dominique Fishback, a museum intern with an astonishing ability to recognize everything from a fake Leonardo da Vinci painting to an Nubian sculpture even though she's never been outside New York. Soon she'll be roaming ancient tombs in Peru like Indiana Jones.

Real-life friends Ramos and Fishback have talked about their chemistry, but none of it made it onto the screen. Just like the robots, their scenes are overly heightened and overacted, like an intense bubble of distilled humanity between giant robot fights. It's not clear even what their relationship is - more siblings? Would-be-lovers?

Much too late come the titular stars of the show - the beasts. There's Optimus Primal, a 13-foot-tall metallic silverback gorilla voiced by Ron Perlman; Cheator, a cheetah the size of a small truck voiced by Tongayi Chirisa; Airazor, a peregrine falcon who shoots fire, voiced by Michelle Yeoh; and Rhinox, a battering ram on legs, voiced by David Sobolov. The film comes to life with them.

They've been hiding out on Earth, too, and a lot longer than the Autobots. They've even become sort of fans of us humans: "There is more to them that meets the eye. They are worth saving," says Optimus Primal.

We Earthlings turn out to have been housing an awful lot of secret sentient robots and this latest clutch arise from the shadows like cicadas at a time when A.I. and ChatGPT are a societal worry. Look, maybe we should be anxious. ChatGPT clearly could have a written a better movie.

"Transformers: Rise of the Beasts," a Paramount Pictures release which arrives in theaters Friday, is rated PG-13 for "intense sequences of sci-fi action and violence, and language." Running time: 127 minutes. One star out of four. (AP)

Features

ARABIC TIMES

THURSDAY, JUNE 8, 2023

NEW YORK: The auction house Sotheby's will buy the modernist Marcel Breuer-designed building that housed New York's Whitney Museum of American Art for nearly 50 years, Sotheby's announced.

Sotheby's will start moving its New York sale room and galleries to the Breuer building on Madison Avenue in 2024 and will open to the public the following year, the auction house announced.

"We are honored to acquire and write the next chapter of such an iconic and well-known New York architectural landmark," Sotheby's Chief Executive Officer Charles F. Stewart said in a statement.

The cantilevered Madison Avenue building designed by the Hungarian-born Breuer opened in 1966 as the third home of the Whitney, which had been founded in 1930 to showcase American art. The five-story granite and concrete structure is considered an important example of the architectural style known as brutalism.

The building was leased to the Metropolitan Museum of Art for five years after the Whitney's 2015 move to its new Renzo Piano-designed building at the foot of the High Line, the elevated park on Manhattan's west side. The Met operated the former Whitney building as the Met Breuer until 2020, and the Frick Collection has occupied the building since 2021 while its permanent home is being renovated.

Sotheby's is buying the building from the Whitney for an undisclosed sum.

"The iconic Breuer Building will always be a beloved part of the Whitney's rich history," Whitney Director Adam Weinberg said. "We are pleased that it will continue to serve an artistic and cultural purpose through the display of artworks and artifacts."

The art-loving public will retain access to the building after Sotheby's moves in, as the auction house puts works on display before they are sold. The Breuer building a block from Central Park is more centrally located than Sotheby's current global headquarters on York Avenue on Manhattan's far east side. (AP)

WASHINGTON: The Biden administration is weighing in on the controversy over Pink Floyd co-founder Roger Waters, saying his

recent performances in Germany were antisemitic.

The State Department said Tuesday that Waters has "a long track record of using antisemitic tropes" and a concert he gave late last month in Germany "contained imagery that is deeply offensive to Jewish people and minimized the Holocaust."



Weinberg



Stewart

The comments came in a written response to a question posed at Monday's State Department press briefing about whether the administration agreed with criticism of Rogers from the US special envoy to combat antisemitism, Deborah Lipstadt.

"Special Envoy Lipstadt's quote-tweet speaks for itself," the

department said.

In a May 24 tweet after the concert in Berlin, during which Waters appeared on stage in a costume reminiscent of Nazi-era Germany, Lipstadt denounced the musician by echoing comments from EU antisemitism envoy Katharina von Schnurbein, who is German.

"I wholeheartedly concur with

@EUAntisemitism's condemnation of Roger Waters and his despicable Holocaust distortion," Lipstadt wrote in reply to a tweet from von Schnurbein.

Shortly after the concert, police in Berlin said they had opened an investigation of Waters on suspicion of incitement over the costume he wore. (AP)

Zain concludes football season with Excellence Awards



Al Shaheen and Al Khashti with the winners and members of the technical committee.

Winners in six categories receive total of KD 30,000 cash prizes

KUWAIT CITY, June 7: Zain held a special Excellence Awards ceremony to recognize the top athletes in the recently concluded 2022-2023 football season of the Zain Premier League (Dawri Zain). During the event, the very best players were recognized on stage after being selected by the technical committee for their top performance, winning them the affection of fans and the wider local sports community.

The special event was held at the St. Regis Hotel, attended by Kuwait Football Association Chairman Abdullah Al Shaheen, Zain Kuwait Chief Corporate Affairs and Relations Officer Waleed Al Khashti, and members of the local sports community and local and regional sports journalists.

During the ceremony, Zain and the KFA took to the stage to celebrate and award the top performers of the 2022-2023 season with the cash prizes announced at the season's kick-off last year. The recognition came after the technical committee officially announced the winners on-stage, after which they were presented with a total of KD 30,000 as cash prizes. The winners are:

In addition to the above awards, Zain also presented a weekly Player of the Round Award of KD 500 that started with the ninth week. These prizes came to reflect Zain's keenness in recognizing those athletes who pursued excellence and elevated the league's performance.

A special committee was formed in coordination with the Kuwait Football Association to outline the standards and criteria on which the winners were selected. The committee is membered by former Kuwaiti international players Saad Al Houti (as the committee's head), Wael Sulaiman, Osama Hussain, and Mohammed Benyaan, who were all recognized on stage by Zain during the event for their efforts in selecting the winners throughout the season.

During the event, Zain also awarded the top three winners of the Zain Fantasy League for the 2022-2023 season. The online competition was kicked-off by Zain last year to bring local sports to the digital scene, and since featured the registration of near 5000 players. The winners are: first place winner Abdullah Almatrouk (KD 5000), second place winner Mohammed Alqalaf (KD 3500), and third place winner Thamer Alhajerji (KD 1500).

With this spectacular awards ceremony, Zain has successfully concluded the first season under its official sponsorship of the KFA's competitions for the 2022-2026 seasons, which includes the Kuwait Premier League (Dawri Zain), the Zain First Division League, H.H. the Amir's Cup, H.H. the Crown Prince's Cup, and the KFA Cup (Zain Cup).

Zain's role centered around three main areas: supporting athletes with cash prizes, launching social events and interacting with fans at stadiums, and the first-ever Fantasy Football



The moment Mohammed Daham was announced Best Player.



Local sports community at the event.



An attendee poses for a photo.



Some of the award winners.



Left to right: Some of the participants.

League in Kuwaiti football's history. These contributions and more went in line with the KFA's vision to further enrich the local football scene, given that it is the most beloved sports among Kuwaitis.

Zain firmly believe that the private sector has a vital and active role in developing the local sports and youth sectors, and it makes this belief a real-

Winner	Club	Award
Mohammed Daham	Naser SC	Best Player (KD 10,000)
Taha Yaseen Alkhunaisi	Kuwait SC	League Top Scorer (KD 5000)
Shibeeb Alkhalidi	Kazima SC	League Top Local Scorer (KD 5000)
Abdulrahman Kameel	Kuwait SC	Best Goalkeeper (KD 5000)
Firas Alkhatteeb	Fahaheel SC	Best Coach (KD 3000)
Hussain Ashkanani	Arabi SC	Best Rising Star (KD 2000)

ity by sponsoring and supporting some of the biggest sports programs in the nation.

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



Poland's Iga Swiatek celebrates winning her quarterfinal match of the French Open tennis tournament against Coco Gauff of the U.S. in two sets 6-4, 6-2, at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris. (AP)

Sports

Latest sports scores at — <http://sports.arabtimesonline.com>

Swiatek reaches French Open semis

Haddad Maia upsets Jabeur to advance; Alcaraz vs Djokovic

PARIS, June 7, (AP): This felt like a game Coco Gauff simply needed to claim if she intended to finally win a set, let alone a match, against No. 1 Iga Swiatek.

With shouts of "Go, Coco!" and "Allez, Coco!" emanating from the Court Philippe Chatrier stands, Gauff frittered away two break points as Swiatek served at 1-all. Then, at deuce, came the most memorable moment of Wednesday afternoon - and, while Gauff won the point, it soon would be Swiatek who seized complete control of this French Open quarterfinal that was a rematch of last year's final.

During a 14-stroke exchange, both women made their way to the net, and Gauff directed a swinging backhand volley right at Swiatek. The ball struck Swiatek's right leg, and she tumbled back onto the red clay, leaving rust remnants on her white dress and arm. That set up a third break chance for Gauff, but the 19-year-old American again failed to convert, and while it soon was 2-all, Swiatek pulled away from there to a 6-4, 6-2 victory.

"I didn't try to hit her. I was just trying to hit the ball hard in the middle of the court, and it happened to hit her, obviously. I apologized after, but I think she knows that's part of the game. If you hit a bad ball and you decide to run to the net, there's always a risk that you get hit - and there's always the risk that the person might miss, trying to avoid you," Gauff said.

TENNIS

"If I was in her position, I wouldn't be mad at me, either, because she ran forward. I think when I said sorry, she shook her head, and we had a mutual understanding that that was the only shot I really had."

When a reporter asked Swiatek whether it's unusual to get directly hit like that, she agreed with the premise. She also said she couldn't be sure whether Gauff had another option.

"But I know Coco is a nice person, and she wouldn't mean it," said Swiatek, a 22-year-old from Poland who is seeking a third title at Roland Garros and fourth Grand Slam trophy overall. "Nothing personal. It happens."

She improved to 7-0 against No. 6 Gauff and has won all 14 sets they've played against each other; that includes a 6-1, 6-3 victory for the 2022 championship in Paris.

"Obviously," Gauff remarked, "you lose to someone seven times, you feel crappy."

On Thursday, Swiatek will meet No. 14 seed Beatriz Haddad Maia, the first woman from Brazil to reach a Grand Slam semifinal since Maria Bueno at the 1968 U.S. Open. The other women's matchup for a berth in Saturday's title match will be No. 2 Aryna Sabalenka, who won the Australian Open in January, against unseeded Karolina Muchova of the Czech Republic. One men's semifinal is set: No. 1 Carlos Alcaraz vs. No. 3 Novak Djokovic.

Haddad Maia advanced by coming back for a 3-6, 7-6 (5), 6-1 victory over No. 7 Ons Jabeur, a two-time major runner-up in 2022.

Haddad Maia is a 27-year-old left-hander who was given a 10-month suspension after failing a doping test in 2019. She arrived in Paris with a 7-11 record at majors, never winning so much as one second-round match, until this 5-0 run.

"One of my qualities," Haddad Maia said, "is that I wait and I'm very patient and I never give up."

Before even knowing she would face Swiatek, Gauff spoke about hoping for that opportunity. She insisted she wanted another shot at Swiatek, who has topped the rankings for more than a year.

Gauff tried some new tactics, with a measure of success early, looping high-arcing, high-bouncing shots, instead of her standard big hitting.

This one was even early, at 4-4 in the first set, before Swiatek edged ahead. First she held, then she broke at love, smacking a cross-court forehand to own that set, then raising her right fist and shaking it.

Swiatek's heavy-topspin forehand is probably her best shot. That also happens to be Gauff's weaker side. A glance at the stats demonstrated the disparity: Swiatek finished with a 12-1 advantage in forehand winners.

And it was Gauff, wearing a bandage on her right knee after scraping it in her previous match, who began having trouble with shot selection and execution. By the end, Gauff had far more unforced errors, 23, than winners, 13.

Yet to drop a set in the tournament,



Spain's Carlos Alcaraz plays a shot against Greece's Stefanos Tsitsipas during their quarterfinal match of the French Open tennis tournament at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris. (AP)



Hernan Barcos of Peru's Alianza Lima (left), fights for the ball with Hulk of Brazil's Atletico Mineiro during a Copa Libertadores Group G soccer match at Alejandro Villanueva stadium in Lima, Peru. Atletico won 1-0. (AP)

Swiatek broke to go up 4-2 in the second with the help of a double-fault, and again in the last game with the help of another double-fault.

Gauff was told at her news conference that she didn't seem quite as crestfallen as she appeared to be after a fourth-round loss at the Australian Open in January.

"I wouldn't say I'm more at peace. To be honest, I'm still very frustrated, but I guess I'm trying not to show it as much," Gauff said. "Yeah, I don't want those pictures on the internet."

Two weeks ago, before the start of play at the French Open, the brackets were set for the tournament, and one possible semifinal matchup immediately demanded attention: No. 1 Carlos Alcaraz, the Next Big Thing in men's tennis, against No. 3 Novak Djokovic, the Current Big Thing in men's tennis.

The heightened anticipation was not merely because it would be fascinating to see the two of them play at Roland Garros. It also would be fascinating to see them play each other, period: They've only met once, and it was 13 months ago, with Alcaraz coming out on top.

So get ready: Alcaraz and Djokovic will finally share the stage again on Friday in Court Philippe Chatrier, where they will compete for a spot in the championship match.

"Since the draw came out, everyone was expecting that match - the semifinal against Novak. Myself, as well," Alcaraz said after completing his half of the bargain by outclassing Stefanos Tsitsipas 6-2, 6-1, 7-6 (5) in the quarterfinals Tuesday night. "I really want to play that match."

MANCHESTER, England, June 7, (AP): With its massive spending power, Manchester City's run to the Champions League final has hardly come as a surprise.

The same cannot be said for Inter Milan, City's opponent on Saturday in Istanbul.

While Inter is one of European soccer's most storied teams, it enters the game as an outsider, having somewhat surprisingly reached the final. After all, Inter is the third best team in Italy, a league that has long-since lost its shine after being considered the ultimate destination for the world's best players in the 1990s.

Inter finished the season 18 points behind league champion Napoli, the team many expected to go far before losing to AC Milan in the quarterfinals.

Inter went on to beat its city rival in the semifinals to advance to the final of European club soccer's elite competition for the first time in 13 years.

To put that achievement into context, this was the first time it had even been in the quarterfinals since 2011, when it was the defending champion. But it is also a club that has tasted success in recent years after winning the Italian league in 2021, back-to-back Italian Cups in 2022 and 2023, and the Italian Super Cup this season.

"Manchester City have won two tro-

SOCCER

phies (this season), but so have Inter. They will be facing an opponent who deserve to be in Istanbul as much as they do," Inter coach Simone Inzaghi said.

The power in European soccer has shifted considerably since Inter last won the trophy in 2010.

Back then City was still waiting for its first major piece of silverware since 1976. But backed by Abu Dhabi's ruling family, it has since gone on to win 16 more trophies, including seven Premier League titles.

This year City is bidding to become only the second English team to win the three biggest trophies in one season - the Premier League, Champions League and FA Cup.

Only Inter can stop City from emulating Manchester United's treble from 1999.

Looking at the respective two teams on paper, some may consider it a mismatch.

While City has superstar signings like Erling Haaland, Jack Grealish and Kevin De Bruyne, Inter has a mishmash of players who have managed to reboot

Walker misses training session due to back problem

Unlikely CL finalists Inter out to upset Man City

Benzema becomes latest star after signing with Al-Ittihad

Soccer world waits for Messi decision with Al-Hilal, Barca and Miami possible options

LONDON, June 7, (AP): The soccer world is waiting for Lionel Messi's decision.

The Argentina great, fresh off winning the World Cup in December, is essentially a free agent after bidding adieu to Paris Saint-Germain. The big question now surrounds where he will go next.

Things are still up in the air, however, sparking frenzied rumors about the next destination of one of the greatest soccer players in history.

There's the possibility of moving to Saudi Arabia, where attempts to bring in some of soccer's most high-profile - if aging - stars ratcheted up when the kingdom's sovereign wealth fund took a majority ownership stake of four of the country's top clubs. They include

Al-Nassr, the team of Cristiano Ronaldo since January; Al-Ittihad, the new team of reigning world player of the year Karim Benzema; and Al-Hilal, the team heavily linked with a move for the 35-year-old Messi.

Messi, after all, has already established a relationship with Saudi Arabia by agreeing to a commercial contract with the oil-rich Middle Eastern country last year to promote tourism there.

There's also the sentimental pull of Barcelona, where Messi's father - Jorge - was on Monday to intensify speculation about a possible return to the Spanish club by his son.

Messi "would like to return" to Barcelona, Jorge Messi said, but it seems a push if the club - in economic turmoil in recent years - is going to meet the

Spanish league's strict financial fair play rules.

How about Messi moving, as some rumors suggest, to Inter Miami, the MLS team co-owned by David Beckham which has occasionally been linked with the seven-time world player of the year and now has an Argentine interim coach in Javier Morales?

It would be a major boost for American soccer, which has attracted superstars like Pele, Beckham and Thierry Henry over the years, but signing Messi might require something creative from both the league and the Miami team.

The most recent post on Messi's Instagram account was on May 28 and shows him playing for PSG.

or prolong their careers at the club.

Edin Dzeko, for instance, is 37 years old and left City eight years ago, having been part of its first title-winning

team under Abu Dhabi ownership in 2012. Henrikh Mkhitaryan is 34 and disappointed at both Manchester United and Arsenal. Matteo Darmian, 33,

also failed to make a major impact at United.

Romelu Lukaku was generally considered to have flopped after big money transfers for United and Chelsea, but is one of Inter's players with genuine star appeal. Likewise Lautaro Martinez, who won the World Cup with Argentina in December.

Manchester City defender Kyle Walker is confident he will be fit for Saturday's Champions League final despite struggling with a back problem in recent days.

The England international did not take part in City's open training session on Tuesday in preparation for the game against Inter Milan in Istanbul.

Walker looked in discomfort as he left the field late on in his team's FA Cup final win against Manchester United on Saturday.

But the 33-year-old full back said he expected to be available to help City in its bid to be crowned champions of Europe for the first time in its history.

"I'm completely fine, it's just an extra day of recovery," he told Sky Sports News on Tuesday. "I've played a lot of minutes over the last number of weeks so the manager said, 'Just stay inside and come Saturday you will be raring to go.'"



In this Tuesday, March 7, 2023 file photo, Chelsea's Wesley Fofana (left), challenges Dortmund's Jude Bellingham during the Champions League round of 16 second leg soccer match between Chelsea FC and Borussia Dortmund at Stamford Bridge, London. Real Madrid and Borussia Dortmund have reached an agreement for the transfer of Jude Bellingham for a fee that could reach more than 130 million euros (\$139 million), the German club said. (AP)