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## UKRAINE, SOUTH CHINA SEA NOTED AMONG CRISES FOR RESOLUTION

# Kuwait affirms centrality of Palestine

Pacific ties valued

**RIYADH, June 12, (KUNA):** The Arab League countries and the island nations of the Pacific are keen on bolstering ties on all levels and also are interested in resolving various challenges, said Kuwait Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah on Monday.

This came during Sheikh Salem speech to the second ministerial meeting for the Arab League countries and small developing Pacific nations held in the Saudi capital Riyadh.

The meeting is presided over by Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan, Palau Foreign Minister and the Pacific group's coordinator Gustav Aitaro with the participation of Arab League Secretary General Ahmad Abul-Gheit and ministers of both blocs of member nations.

During his speech to the meeting, Sheikh Salem affirmed his country's eagerness to explore new ways to expand cooperation between Arab countries and their Pacific Island nations to achieve security and development for all.

He commended the previous meeting held in Abu Dhabi, UAE, in 2010, saying it laid the foundation stone to which this meeting was standing on.

Reflecting Kuwait's stance on important regional issues pertaining to the Middle East, Sheikh Salem expressed his country's unwavering stance on the issue of Palestine, indicating that the world must find ways to prevent the Israeli aggressors from continuing their assault on the Palestinian people who are eager to establish an independent state with east Jerusalem as the capital.

He also displayed Kuwait's interest in resolving international crises whether in the Ukraine or the South China Sea.

On the issue of nuclear proliferation, Sheikh Salem stressed that it was important to spread awareness on the issue to keep the world free of weapons of mass destruction.

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### Wrangling ends

## Iraqi parliament approves budget

**BAGHDAD, June 12, (AP):** Iraq's parliament belatedly approved a record \$152 billion budget for 2023 on Monday, after months of wrangling over the sharing of oil revenue between the central government in Baghdad and the semi-autonomous Iraqi Kurdish region in the north.

The process was also hampered by infighting between different Iraqi Kurdish parties. The budget - approved six months into the fiscal year and after four chaotic late-night voting sessions - allocates 12.6% of the revenue to the Kurdish region and is seen as strengthening Baghdad's hand on the oil revenues.

The central government in Baghdad and the Kurdish regional government in the city of Irbil have been locked in a dispute over oil revenue for years, while competing Kurdish parties are also at loggerheads over their shares.

In the absence of a binding law detailing the sharing of funds from oil and gas exports, the Kurdish region has moved ahead with exports on its own, while Baghdad has maintained that all exports should be run through the state-owned oil marketing company, SOMO, with Irbil receiving a share of the profits.

Under the new budget, the Kurdish region can market its own oil but must deposit the revenue in a bank account that officials from the central government can monitor. Baghdad will then deduct that amount from its monthly allocation to the Kurdish regional government and transfer any surplus money to Irbil.

The budget vote was dragged out over several days, in part due to objections by the largest Kurdish party, the Kurdistan Democratic Party, to the provisions on the revenue sharing process and a related dispute resolution mechanism.

### Second-largest

The Shiite majority coalition holds the most seats in the 329-seat Iraqi parliament, with 220 seats. The Kurds, who are the second-largest ethnic group in Iraq, have about 60 seats, but they are divided between two main parties: the KDP and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), which are often at odds.

The finalization of the budget on Monday was a victory for Prime Minister Mohammed Shia al-Sudani's government, which was formed last year following a lengthy political vacuum in the wake of the 2021 elections.

Al-Sudani came to power with the support of the Coordination Framework, a coalition of pro-Iranian parties, after the influential Shiite cleric and political leader Muqtada al-Sadr - whose party had won the largest share of seats but not enough to form a government - withdrew from politics.

Paralyzed by the political stalemate, the parliament did not pass a budget last year. With a budget now in place for 2023, al-Sudani's government is hoping to combat poverty and bring much-needed economic stability.

However, some analysts say the budget is predicated on an overly rosy outlook and warned of a ballooning deficit. The budget projects 2023 revenue at about \$103.3 billion, based on a projected price of \$70 per barrel for oil exports, the main source of income for Iraq, with exports estimated at 3.5 million barrels a day, including 400,000 thousand barrels from the Kurdish region. The budget estimates a deficit of about \$48 billion.

"The new budget is a cause for concern, as it relies heavily on oil revenue," said Mudhar Mohammed Salih, al-Sudani's adviser for financial affairs. "If oil prices drop, the deficit will increase, forcing the government to borrow money. This is a risky proposition, as it could lead to debt problems."

A report last month by the International Monetary Fund on Iraq's finances warned that the "fiscal loosening" proposed in the budget plan could lead to inflation and exchange rate volatility in the short run, while in the medium term, oil price fluctuations could lead to "critical macroeconomic stability risks."

"Barring a large increase in oil prices, the current fiscal stance could lead to mounting deficits and intensifying financing pressures in the coming years," the report said. Monday's vote also approved the same budgets of \$152 billion for 2024 and 2025 - apparently to avoid haggling over the issue for the next two years.

### Opinion

## Umayyad dynasty fell by keeping enemy closer and friend distanced

By Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

COUNTRIES fall, which becomes a lesson in the chapters of history when there is deliberate dodging of responsibility by leaders, and when they leave the affairs and responsibilities to the mediocres as opposed to the learned ones.

Anyone who learns from others' misfortunes and understands the ramifications of the errors committed would be able to change the fate of his nation, but those who ignore them condemn his nation to ruin.

This is what can be reaped from history, especially the Umayyad dynasty, as the personal whims of the rulers and the governors corrupted the state, after it turned into a member kingdom, and injustice and oppression prevailed in it.

This reached the extent that in order for the caliphs to preserve their kingship, they turned to arrogance and oppression, and they delegated their affairs to the young. A testimony to this is what the second Abbasid Caliph Abu Jaafar Al-Mansour said about the reasons for the fall of their state. He said, "We entrusted big matters to the young, and small matters to the adults. We kept the friend and brought the enemy close to us in fear of his enmity, so the enemy did not turn into a friend, and the friend turned into an enemy."

At that time, security and political unrest pervaded all parts of the Islamic state, and some of the rulers revolted against the caliph. Also, revolutions began to flare up in the state.

During 80 years, it witnessed about five of these revolutions, and its conditions did not stabilize except through Caliph Omar bin Al-Aziz who, within two years and a few months, was able to restore the state's strength and impose justice on people.

This situation changed after his death as a result of a conspiracy by some of the Umayyads who were displeased by how Caliph Omar bin Abdul-Aziz ended their privileges and equated them with every other citizen.

Nonetheless, the dynasty continued to weaken as the result of the weakness of its caliphates after him, and their tragic efforts in bringing enemies closer, especially those who were greedy to rule, until the arrival of the last Caliph Marwan II, who was nicknamed "the donkey".

During his reign, the calls for reforms and revolts intensified, huge sums of money were spent by their leaders, and their men spread throughout the country harming the Umayyads. On the other hand, the Umayyads did not cooperate in facing the difficult and frightening crisis. They instead stirred up the spirit of partisanship, and allied sometimes with one party and sometimes with another, which made it easier targets, and so the winds of chaos blew them away.

At that time, the Amir of Khurasan Naser bin Sayyar, who was the only one to foresee the future of the dynasty, had warned of the inevitable fate. He hence sent a letter to Marwan bin Muhammad, in which he wrote some verses of poetry in order for the ruler to rectify the matter.

He wrote, "I see through the ashes a flash of fire, and it is about to have a sore in flames. The fire is kindled by two sticks, whereas the beginning of war starts with words. If the wise people did stop the fire, it would end up being fueled by corpses and carcasses."

In fact, this painful lesson applies today to many countries whose rulers put those who are not qualified in the position of decision-making, and gave power to advisors, conciliators, and bribe-takers. They end up messing the state, as they divide its institutions and positions within sects, tribes, and families. They keep the enemy closer and the friend away while they devote themselves to entertainment and amassing wealth. They did not work on building their countries, establishing good relations with their people, or seeking to solve people's problems.

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### Day by Day

The wife of the thief who stole the plane has fled Kuwait with her children. She panicked after her friends realized that all that was registered in her name was stolen property and that charges of fraud and breach of trust inevitably lead to imprisonment.

She swears she did not know that what was registered in her name was property fraudulently stolen by her trickster husband. She also says she is unaware that her husband is being legally pursued by more than one party. ... Yet tomorrow is another day.

Zahed Matar



The Italian and the European flags are lowered to half-mast in the Senate on the death of Senator Silvio Berlusconi, in Rome, Monday, June 12, 2023. (AP)

### Kuwait offers condolences

## Silvio Berlusconi dies, 86

**MILAN, June 12, (Agencies):** Silvio Berlusconi, the boastful billionaire media mogul who was Italy's longest-serving premier despite scandals over his parties and allegations of corruption, died Monday. He was 86.

Supporters applauded as his body arrived at his villa outside Milan from the city's San Raffaele Hospital, where he had been treated for chronic leukemia. A state funeral will be held Wednesday in the city's Duomo cathedral, according to the Milan Archdiocese.

A onetime cruise ship crooner, Berlusconi used his television networks and immense wealth to launch his long political career, inspiring both loyalty and loathing.

To admirers, the three-time premier was a capable and charismatic statesman who sought to elevate Italy on the world stage. To critics, he was a populist who threatened to undermine democracy by wielding political power as a tool to enrich himself and his businesses.

His Forza Italia political party was a coalition partner with current Premier Giorgia Meloni, a far-right leader who came to power last year, although he held no position in the government.

His friendship with Russian President Vladimir Putin put him at odds with Meloni, a staunch supporter of Ukraine. On his 86th birthday, while the war raged, Putin sent Berlusconi best wishes and vodka, and the Italian boasted he returned the favor by sending back Italian wine.

When former U.S. President Donald Trump launched his political career, many drew comparisons to Berlusconi, noting they both had long business careers, sought to upend the existing political order, and grabbed attention for their over-the-top personalities and lavish lifestyles.

Meloni remembered Berlusconi as "above all as a fighter."



Former Italian Premier Silvio Berlusconi waves to reporters as he arrives at the Chamber of Deputies to meet Mario Draghi, in Rome, on Feb. 9, 2021. (AP)

"He was a man who had never been afraid to defend his beliefs. And it was exactly that courage and determination that made him one of the most influential men in the history of Italy," Meloni said on Italian TV.

Former Premier Matteo Renzi recalled Berlusconi's divisive legacy on Twitter. "Silvio Berlusconi made history in this country. Many loved him, many hated him. All must recognize that his impact on political life, but also economics, sports and television, has been without precedence."

Putin sent a telegram of condolence, hailing Berlusconi as a "patriarch" of Italian politics and a true patriot.

In Kuwait, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent on Monday a cable of condolences to Italian President Sergio Mattarella over the death of former Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi.

His Highness the Amir recounted in the cable Berlusconi's service to Italy in numerous posts

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## Tunisia offered aid to stem migrants

**TUNIS, June 12, (AP):** European leaders visiting Tunisia on Sunday held out the promise of more than 1 billion euros in financial aid to rescue its teetering economy and better police its borders, in an effort to restore stability to the North African country - and to stem migration from its shores to Europe.

A Tunisian rights group denounced the EU proposal as "blackmail," saying it would worsen abuses of migrants and was aimed at closing Europe's doors to those in need.

Tunisia's increasingly autocratic president hosted the leaders of Italy, the Netherlands and the European Commission for talks aimed at smoothing the way for an international financial bailout of the troubled country.

On the eve of the talks, Tunisian President Kais Saied made an unannounced visit to a migrant camp in the coastal city of Sfax, a central jumping-off point for boat journeys crossing the Mediterranean to Italy. Saied spoke with families living in the camp, and pleaded for international aid for Africans who converge on Tunisia as a transit point to reach Europe.

His caring words - and sympathetic images of the president with migrant babies posted on his Facebook page - contrasted sharply with Saied's stance earlier this year. He stoked racist

abuse of Black African migrants in Tunisia with a speech railing against a perceived plot to erase his country's Arab identity.

The president and Tunisian Prime Minister Najla Bouden met Sunday with Italian Premier Giorgia Meloni, Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen.



This photo provided by the Tunisian presidential palace shows Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte, (third right), Tunisian President Kais Saied, (second right), European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, (center), and Italian Premier Giorgia Meloni, talking on a terrace of the presidential palace in Tunis, on June 11, 2023. (AP)

### NewsWatch

**TOKYO:** Japanese Foreign Minister Yoshimasa Hayashi and his United Arab Emirates (UAE) counterpart Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al-Nahyan vowed on Monday to continue to work together under the Comprehensive and Strategic Partnership Initiative, Japan's Foreign Ministry said.

During their talks in Tokyo, Hayashi and Sheikh Abdullah also exchanged views on cooperation in the fields of defense, the ministry said in a press release.

Hayashi said the cooperation between Japan and the UAE covers a wide range of areas, and is no longer limited to the boundaries of the two countries, and is now taking place in various locations, including in the Middle East region and third countries.

In response, Sheikh Abdullah expressed his strong commitment to further strengthening the bilateral relationship with Japan, according to the ministry.

Hayashi emphasized the importance of the rule of law and the principles of the UN Charter, noting that the leaders of the Group of Seven (G-7), invited countries and Ukraine confirmed this point at the G-7 Hiroshima Summit last month.

Sheikh Abdullah replied that the UAE would like to work together with Japan including in cooperation in the UN Security Council. In addition, the two ministers exchanged views on the situation in Ukraine the situation in the Middle East, Ukraine and East Asia. (KUNA)

**BEIRUT:** Turkish shelling in northern Syria early Monday hit a vehicle killing one Russian soldier and wounding several others, Syrian Kurdish media and an opposition war monitor reported.

Monday's shelling came after a day of violence between U.S.-backed Kurdish fighters and Turkish troops in northern Syria left several dead on the Kurdish side. (AP)

**ISLAMABAD:** The Pakistani government on Monday welcomed the arrival of the first shipment of discounted crude from Russia under a key deal between Islamabad and Moscow.

Prime Minister Shabbaz Sharif hailed it as a "fulfillment of promises" to the nation while Information Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb tweeted that it marked a "true service" for the people. (AP)

## Prayer Timings

Fajr ..... 03:13    Asr ..... 15:22  
 Sunrise .. 04:48    Maghrib .. 18:48  
 Zohr ..... 11:48    Isha ..... 20:20

# Local

**Expected weather for the next 24 hours:**  
**By Day:** Very hot with light to moderate freshening later on southeasterly wind changing to northwesterly wind later on with speeds of 10-42 km/h.

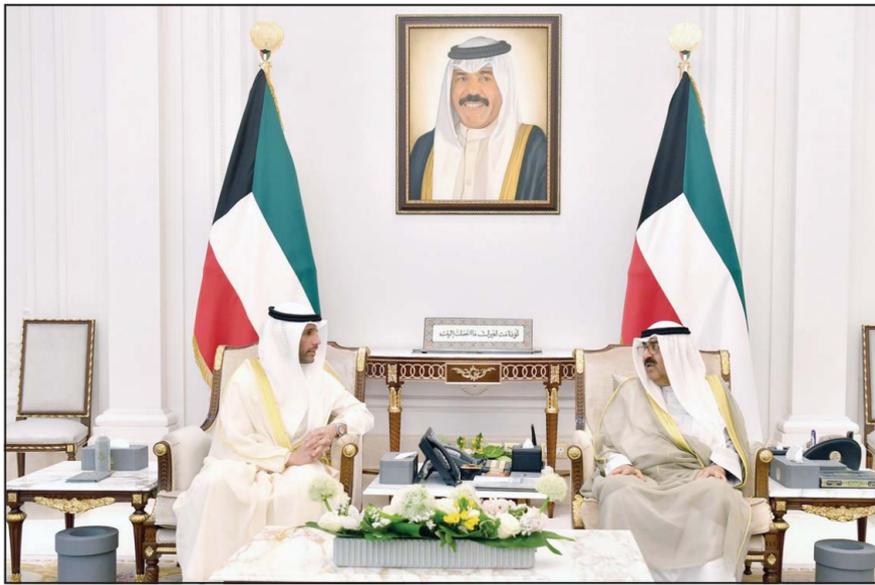
## Weather

**By Night:** Rather hot with light to moderate northwesterly wind to light variable wind with speeds of 06-28 km/h.

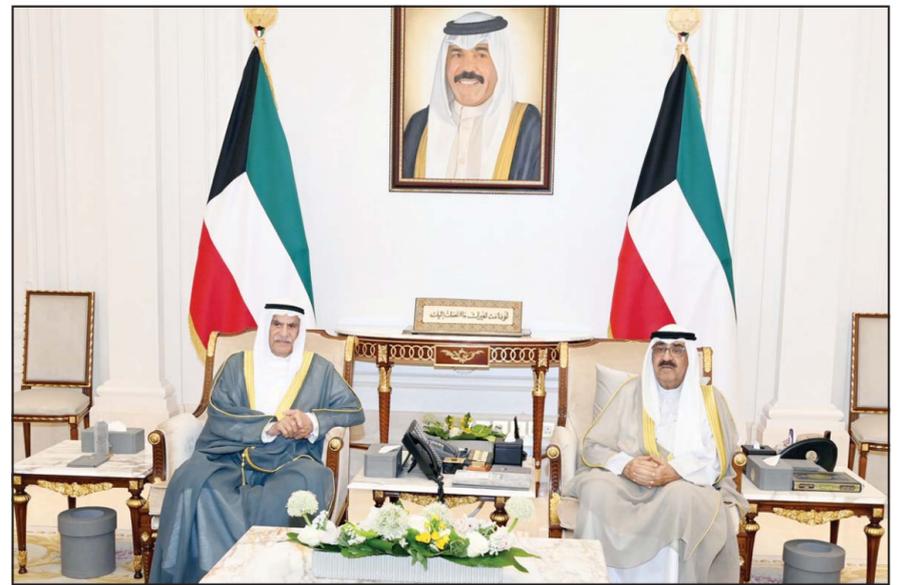
Station	Max Exp	Min Rec
Kuwait City	47	35

	Kuwait Airport	Abdaly	Jahra	Salmiyah	Ahmadi	Nuwaisib	Wafra
	48	31	48	30	49	33	38
	38	32	38	35	47	31	48
	48	32	48	30	49	33	38

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



KUNA photo  
His Highness the Crown Prince receives former National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanim.



KUNA photo  
His Highness the Crown Prince receives former Speaker of the National Assembly Ahmad Abdulaziz Al-Saadoun.

## HH Crown Prince meets ex-Speakers for gov't formation

Lawmaker or Speaker, will serve people: Al-Ghanim

By Saeed Mahmoud Saleh  
Arab Times Staff

**KUWAIT CITY, June 12:** HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah recently met with former National Assembly speakers Ahmad Al-Sa'adoun and Marzouq Al-Ghanim, as part of traditional procedures prior to the formation of the new government.

Meanwhile, a total of 47 MPs-elect attended the coordinative meeting held recently in the office of MP-elect Muhammad Hayef Al-Mutairi.

Al-Ghanim did not attend the meeting, clarifying that he did not receive an invitation. He affirmed that he will serve the people as a lawmaker or speaker, pointing out he is not concerned about the position.

He said he handed over the proposal he announced during his campaign to HH the Crown Prince; stressing the citizens who voted for him approved the

proposal, so he just represented them. He suggested that the political leadership should form a committee to interview members of Sabah Family nominated for the prime minister position. He said the committee will listen to their presentations and determine the best among them.

He also suggested that the appointed prime minister should present his agenda to the Assembly whose members will vote for or against him. If they vote for him, he shall assume the post. If not, he leaves the office and another one is nominated, Al-Ghanim explained.

On the other hand, MP-elect Muhammad Hayef Al-Mutairi clarified that the invitation to the meeting was sent only to pro-reform MPs-elect who share the same opinion on issues. He also pointed out that MP-elect Jenan Bu Shehri knows well why she was not in the meeting, emphasizing she is respected and the issue has nothing to do with ignoring the women.

He revealed the meeting focused on priorities and coordinating views on

electing the leadership positions like speaker and deputy speaker.

Those present at the meeting agreed on supporting MP-elect Ahmad Al-Saadoun as speaker; while their choice for the deputy speaker post could be Muhammad Al-Mutairi, Marzouq Al-Hebeini or Falah bin Jame'e who affirmed that he respects Al-Mutairi and Al-Hebeini and he will respond once the attendees take a decision.

Another meeting will be held on Tuesday in the office of MP-elect Khalid Al-Otaibi for further coordination.

In a relevant development, Assembly Secretary General Khalid Busleed accompanied first time MPs Abdulhadi Al-Ajmi, Badr Nashmi Al-Anzi, Muhammad Al-Regaib, Meteb Al-Anzi and Jarrah Al-Fawzan during the orientation visit to the legislative building. They were briefed on the procedures in parliamentary sessions, voting for members of parliamentary committees and Assembly Office positions, and services that different departments provide for lawmakers.



KUNA photo  
Deputy Chief of the National Guard Sheikh Faisal Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah is briefed on weapons available to the National Guard.

### 'Upgrade infrastructure'

Deputy Chief of the National Guard Sheikh Faisal Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah stressed today, Monday, the importance of developing the infrastructure in all camps to upgrade the role of the National Guard in the security system.

The National Guard said in a press statement that this came during the inauguration of Martyrs' Square in Al-Samoud Camp, after it was renovated and developed, in the presence of the Undersecretary of the National Guard, Lieutenant General Engineer Hashim Al-Rifai and senior commanders.

Sheikh Faisal Al-Nawaf stressed the importance of developing the Martyrs' Square in Al-Samoud Camp, to be a

complement and support for the shooting ranges in the camp of His Highness Sheikh Salem Al-Ali, with the aim of honing the skills of the National Guard members to perform the tasks entrusted to them to the fullest extent in defending the homeland.

He said that the redevelopment and modernization of Martyrs' Square comes within the objectives of the 2025 directive document 'Protection and Support' to develop the infrastructure in all camps to comply with the plans and aspirations of the National Guard in upgrading its role in serving the security system in cooperation with the Ministries of Defense and Interior and the Kuwait Fire Force. (KUNA)

### 1,000 'bedoun' get nod

## 8,000 pilgrims to go for Hajj from Kuwait

**KUWAIT CITY, June 12:** For the benefit of Hajj pilgrims from Kuwait the Acting Director of the Directorate-General of Civil Aviation Imad Al-Jalawi said an air bridge has been established between Kuwait and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and according to the senior official about 8,000 pilgrims will be flown to the pilgrimage in Saudi Arabia, reports Al-Qabas daily.

The daily added, the agencies operating at Kuwait International Airport are preparing to intensify their efforts in conjunction with the launch of the pilgrimage flights to the Holy House of God, saying the pilgrims will depart through the airport -- 4,000 pilgrims will be flown by the national carriers (Kuwait Airways and Jazeera Airways) and another 4,000 by the Saudi air carrier Adele, beginning from June 21. He added that an integrated plan has been prepared to organize Hajj flights, in cooperation with the competent authorities.

Al-Jalawi stated that the plan relies on many controls aimed at facilitating the movement of pilgrims from the moment they arrive at the airport until they board the plane, stressing the administration's endeavor to develop work in the operational sectors with the direct support of the Minister of Works, Dr Amani Bouqammaz.

He indicated that the operating system has been confirmed and procedures have been eased to facilitate the pilgrims, as counters will be increased and work teams will be set up for guidance and direction around the clock.

He said the administration has completed all its preparations for organizing the Hajj season through an operational plan for trips in cooperation with Kuwaiti campaigns and Kuwaiti and Saudi airlines.

### Flights

He stated that the Kuwait Airways flights will be operated from the "T4" terminal, and "Al-Jazeera" flights from the "T5", while "Adele" flights will be operated from the "T1".

He pointed out the concerned authority must coordinate with the airline to complete the procedures for weighing baggage and issuing boarding passes according to the times specified by the companies, saying there will be special counters through which campaign representatives will distribute boarding passes for pilgrims. The pilgrims are requested to complete travel formalities at least an hour before the departure time of the plane.

Al-Jalawi said that "Civil Aviation" has put in place the necessary plans to provide support and assistance to their fellow shift employees, to organize and facilitate the movement of departure and arrival during the Hajj season.

He praised the cooperation of government agencies, especially the Ministry of Interior, Endowments and Customs, in addition to Kuwaiti Hajj campaigns, airlines and ground services.

Meanwhile, the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Dr. Bader Hajar Al-Mutairi announced the approval to allocate 1,000 seats in the Hajj expedition this year for the Bedoun residents of Kuwait based on the directives of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah to provide seats for illegal residents (Bedoun) and following the fruitful efforts by the Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs with the Saudi Arabia, reports Al-Anba daily.

Al-Mutairi affirmed the keenness of the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs is keen, as seen every year, to facilitate Hajj procedures for the Bedoun residents.

He said based on the directives of His Highness the Prime Minister and the instructions and efforts of the Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, it has been approved to allow this group to perform Hajj in the upcoming season.

Al-Mutairi indicated that the subsequent procedures will be completed urgently in coordination with the Department of Hajj and Umrah Affairs to ensure the preparation of the numbers and to provide an opportunity for those wishing to perform Hajj to register.

### Other Voices

## Tutu, Bible and migration of 'non-Arabs' to country

By Ahmad alsarraf

"...IT appears that the danger of non-Arabs migrating to Kuwait will not end easily, and that the methods that these intruders resort to infiltrating into the country are many and varied. What we have heard about recently is that they come in small boats and land on Failaka Island, where they reside for a little time, and then they sneak into Kuwait with the help of fishing boats, and they stay in the shops or in the homes of their compatriots here. The officials must pay attention to this danger looming over this Arab country, and increase Coast Guard measures and combat smuggling, the greatest threat to the country's security, health, morals, national entity, and future!"

"... when we demand to stop the migration of Iranians, we do not do so because they have seized the opportunity of our weakness and snatched a dear part of our homeland, and they are preparing their equipment to swallow up other parts of the Arab world ... (and their goals are in the Gulf) ... and they are trying to drown Kuwait with a torrent of migration.. It is not we who started the enmity. It was they who targeted our dignity and they are still carrying out plots against us. We should not be blamed if we try to protect our identity. This situation has nothing to do with enmity."

The aforementioned paragraphs have been published by Al-Iman magazine in the editions of April and May 1953. Iman was edited and supervised by Ahmad Al Saggaf, Ahmad Al Khateeb, Yousef Ibrahim Al Ghanim and Yousef Al Meshari 70 years back.

Desmond Tutu, South African Anglican bishop and theologian, says: When the missionaries came to Africa they had the Bible and we had the land. They

said 'Let us pray, we closed our eyes. When we opened them we had the Bible and they had the land!'

In our case, we have been engaged with those whom we considered enemies and we closed our eyes to the other dangers. All of a sudden, we opened our eyes to see that we have been invaded by brothers. After disposing of the invasion and feeling secure, we opened our eyes again to find out that the population has increased multiple times over the natural growth rate.

I do not believe the Iranian danger and I do not want to start arguments on this issue. I had enough troubles from the Iranian regime. Our enemies are still the same. It is not necessary that everyone who smiles in our face seeks our good. It is also not necessary that those whom we consider enemies wish evil to us.

Israel and Iran supported Kuwait against the Iraqi invasion while some sisterly countries, including the one which obtained the largest part of Kuwaiti aid, supported the invaders. Foreign enemies are well known and we can get ready to compete them either through strengthening the home front or signing treaties with major (powers) allies.

The most dangerous enemy is the invisible one who lives among us. Fifth column is the real enemy. They try to empty the society of its context, heritage and fortune. Their number is growing and they include drug traffickers and the corrupt. They seek to dominate the entire country. They are loyal to foreign parties and they have taken the oath to be loyal to them and not to the Kuwaiti leadership. We have seen some parties celebrating the winning of their candidates of the recent parliamentary elections. We saw them raising their own flags not the flag of Kuwait.

**Note:** We will be away for two months on a long vacation abroad, and the articles will continue, non-stop.

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### E-media outlets under probe

## Power use rises as it grows hot

**KUWAIT CITY, June 12, (Agencies):** The power consumption index reached 15,515 megawatts recently when the temperature rose to 43 degrees Celsius, reports Al-Qabas daily.

So far, this is the highest power consumption recorded since the beginning of summer. It is expected that power consumption will keep on increasing as temperatures continue to rise.

The Ministry of Electricity and Water conducted studies on the power consumption in the current year; and these studies revealed that the expected power consumption peak this summer is 17,000 megawatts.

Sources from the ministry confirmed that the country's power reserve has 2,500 megawatts more than the highest consumption recorded so far; indicating the available electricity is estimated at about 18,000 megawatts.

**Probe ordered:** The Kuwaiti Information Ministry has sent a number of electronic media outlets to the Public Prosecution for publishing interviews with school students while they were taking exams.

The move was taken as these outlets had broken earlier ministerial instructions and orders banning press interviews with school students, which "could subject them (students) to legal accountability or endanger their lives", the ministry's assistant undersecretary for the press, publishing and publications, Lafi Al-Sebei said in a statement.

The official, therefore, urged all media outlets to observe law and ministerial edicts and circulars pertinent to electronic media.

**Digital education:** The Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS) has stressed its backing to the efforts aiming to enhance innovation, technology and science to evolve digital transformation in the educational sector.

The KFAS made the statement Sunday while concluding the digital educational platform project, which seeks to find global models for high-quality educational platforms with successful experience to help public sector teachers utilize digital platforms, and test educational environment and its needs.

The project comes in line with directives of board of directors of the KFAS led by His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah that aim to direct students about how to learn and explore science concepts, and do activities amid an attractive environment, the statement said.

It referred to meetings held with Singapore's Ministry of Education and technology development companies to develop a national educational platform and identify partners of cooperation as well as set standards for science and mathematics development, in accordance with the goals of education and localization of national education content.

### Rates of items manipulated

## 'June salary before Eid holidays'

**KUWAIT CITY, June 12:** Sources confirmed that the June salary of public sector employees will be deposited into their bank accounts before the Eid Al-Adha holiday.

Sources added the government agencies that have completed discussions of the State budget, as well as the attached and independent budgets, for fiscal 2023/2024 are fully prepared to attend meetings to respond to queries in order to complete its report, which will be submitted to the Assembly. Sources reiterated that deliberations on these budgets were completed in February, in addition to

responses to the queries of lawmakers and members of the Budgets Committee.

**Rates manipulated:** The Ministry of Interior has formed a committee tasked to investigate the alleged discrepancy in the prices of some commodities being sold in the central market for ministry employees, reports Al-Anba daily. The ministry warned that the necessary legal measures will be taken against anyone who will be proven to be involved in the alleged price manipulation.

Opinion

# Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad ... an outstanding diplomatic figure

By Sattam Ahmed Al-Jarallah  
CEO, the Arab Times

EVERYONE in Kuwait is demanding pumping fresh blood into the arteries of the State. The appointment of Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah as Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs is one way of upgrading the State, especially since he has vast experience in the field and known for his efficiency in his career.

Without a doubt, all public institutions are in need of efficient leaders in order to improve their performance and address the deterioration we have been witnessing over time, because of maintaining old positions.

When an experienced and competent figure is appointed, it means the field will witness development and innovation. It is known that Sheikh Jarrah learned a lot from HH the late Amir Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. He is an experienced diplomat who served at the United Nations (UN), which is considered the 'kitchen' of global decision making. Thus, he is aware of the vital issues concerning Kuwait, the region and the Arab world. He knows well what



Al-Jarallah

should be done in his new position. In fact, many people do not know much about the contributions of Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Sabah to the UN, because he does not like being under the spotlight. He focuses only on the interests of Kuwait, with the aim of presenting a suitable image for the country. He played a distinguished role as part of the Kuwaiti mission to the UN, particularly in enhancing the world's view about Kuwait.

Actually, global politics is very sensitive; hence, the need for experienced persons to occupy such a position. All those who were previously appointed to the post were competent and efficient diplomats, so the appointment of Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad is

highly appreciated.

We cannot ignore the role of Ambassador Mansour Ayyad Al-Otaibi in this position. We can say Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad is the best successor to the best predecessor.

Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah needs to address a number of issues. Definitely, he is aware of the details about these issues; considering his long and successful career, as well as his vast relations with the employees at the ministry and ambassadors of other countries to Kuwait. In conclusion, Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Sabah is a competent diplomatic figure who is not interested in showing off.

## diwaniya ديوانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

### 'Construction of labor cities can help solve many problems facing Kuwait'

"THE government has allocated 450,000 square meters of state property lands for the establishment of labor cities, and a group of areas and locations have been selected for these labor cities, including west of Shaddiya, north of the western Shuaiba region, west of Jahra, north of Khairan, north of the Mutlaa region, and east of Arifjan," columnist **Fawaz Ahmed Al-Hamad** wrote for **Al-Qabas** daily.

"We do not know when the allocation and selection of the lands for the labor cities will be completed?"

"Everything stopped because of the problems and conflicts of the National Assembly and the government, and the continuation of the series of annulment and dissolution of the National Assembly and the resignation of the government, which greatly contributed to stopping state projects, including the construction of labor cities.



Al-Hamad

"Where public auctions are supposed to be held to offer these projects to the private sector, bureaucracy and slow correspondence between government agencies, our letter and your letter and the delay in completing and obtaining official approvals, all of which contributed to the delay in the implementation and launch of the labor cities project.

"The labor cities are a solution to many problems, including the overcrowding of laborers in some areas of private housing, such as Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh, Khaitan, Jabriya and Salwa, and other areas that suffer from an increase in housing for singles. Many families complain about the increase in bachelor housing in residential areas.

"Establishing and building labor cities is a complement to the development plan and projects, as labor needs adequate housing and living, in which all housing requirements are available in terms of privacy, comfort, availability of water, electricity, and places of entertainment and recreation, away from residential areas between families.

"The labor cities also provide a great investment opportunity for the private sector, which in turn will operate the construction sector to work in Kuwait after the long hiatus since the corona pandemic.

"Banks will flourish by providing loans and credit facilities to companies, and the construction wheel will return once again to contracting companies, under which the iron, cement, brick, aluminum, air conditioning, insulation and dyeing works, electricity, sanitary works, blacksmithing and carpentry work will return.

"Labor cities also include the provision of central markets, banks, cafes, restaurants, and shops, to provide everything that those workers need to provide them with decent livelihoods, so that they can work and achieve excellence and high quality.

"The government should include the owners of small and medium enterprises to participate in building labor cities, and involve them in investing in the various investment sites that will be offered, so that all relevant sectors participate in building labor cities."

Also:

"In the 2023 parliamentary elections, the Kuwaiti citizen is the first winner with distinction. The elections, their results, and the positions of the winners in them bore indications that the Kuwaiti citizen is a good observer and follower, and is capable of correcting political scenario, and holding the bad accountable and supporting the good," columnist **Souad Fahad Al Mojil** wrote for **Al-Qabas** daily.

"The rate of change in the current assembly reached 24%, and it brought with it new youthful faces, as the results showed the rise of 10 new faces from the 2022 council. Meaning that there are ten newcomers who will undergo an evaluation process by the citizen throughout their time as representatives of the nation.

"Political participation in any democratic system does not depend only on the actual presence under the dome of Parliament, but it usually extends through continuous practice to become part of the awareness of the citizen, regardless of his position, who contributes to political action through trade union and civil activity, protest movements, demonstrations, petitions, referendums, and government and parliament evaluation. All of them are activities and practices that flow into the political movement in its overall form.

"The 2023 elections that Kuwait recently witnessed reflect a positive step in the journey of maturation of the process of political participation in general, but this time, as it was in the 2020 elections, it was not limited to the competing candidates and support for the deserving, so that these elections produced surprises, some of which were amazing, whether at the level of names or at the level of some numbers and positions.

"Who believes that the 2023 elections did not bring about significant change, and that the previously dominant currents are still harvesting and taking the lead, he must review the results of the elections of the nineties and the beginning of the millennium, to see how the influential political blocs within the assembly overlapped and diversified, and how some tribal and sectarian affiliations began to dissolve within the framework of affiliation and pure patriotism, independent of any other affiliation.

"Today, the active political blocs, whether during the electoral campaigns or while working within the assembly, are made up of different colors and spectra, absent from their work any project that does not carry a purely national identity.

"The 2023 Parliament has come with a youthful disguise, supported by an unprecedented influx of young people to the election venues on June 6 to read it carefully, and realize that the criteria by which the National Assembly's evaluation was measured and then the methods of dealing with it have changed radically, which necessitates that wisdom be the criterion for dealing with newcomers.

"Kuwait has changed, and with it the language and demands of the young deputies and those who support them from outside the parliament, whether from civil society institutions, trade unions, or political, intellectual and social currents, have changed.

"These demands no longer call for reforms, but for an integrated national project complete with vision and goals.

"Reform, however long it takes, remains a transitional project. Accidentally, it may end with the end of its era or the circumstances that necessitated its existence as a political demand, but the national project is an ongoing and continuous project that is not surrounded by a specific time frame, but rather remains open, inherited by generations and constantly circulated by national currents.

"The ball is now in the court of the government, which must understand the rules of the game well, and realize the reality of the insistence that has become part of the awareness of the Kuwaiti citizen regarding his role, his responsibility, and his right to political participation seriously and effectively.

"Despite the repeated dissolution, annulment and re-election, which took place in the past ten years, this did not spread despair in the heart of the citizen, but rather increased his certainty of the need to adhere to these political gains that guarantee him rights and freedoms, and guarantee him dignity and entitlement to true citizenship, devoid of any considerations or considerations.

"Perhaps the most truthful of what was said describing that reality is what came in a poem by colleague Nashmi Muhanna (Waddah) about the elections.

"So thank you to the Kuwaiti people who won on 6/6, and thank you to all the candidates, those who were fortunate or those who were not so fortunate, and to the voters and the organizers.

"Everyone participated, whether successful or not, boycotting or participating. Only the experience is fortified, refined, and its secretions harvested through the path.

"It is only discontinuation that stifles any experience or practice, so the Kuwaiti candidate and voter insisted on continuing, no matter how severe the challenge."



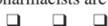
"Since the corona 'invasion', the Ministry of Health has been facing the lack of medicines issue. Many medicines have completely disappeared. We do not know where they went and who is behind the disappearance of medicines in hospitals, dispensaries and even private pharmacies," columnist **Fatma Al-Khaldi** wrote for **Annahar** daily.

"Is it possible that the ministry has been suffering from the shortage or disappearance of medicines for three years and it has not found solutions until now?! Where were the health ministers during this period? Did they not pay attention to this serious problem, particularly the disappearance of diabetes medicines and needles of all sizes? Most of the time, small needles intended for children are used for adults. The tools in operating rooms and the clothes that doctors and nurses wear, the gloves and beds for patients in observation rooms, are not in good condition although the hospitals are new.

"This is a small part of the huge problems. No minister could find solutions, because of corruption in all of the ministry's corridors. This is the reason behind the disappearance of medicines from the ministry.

"Also, there is an acute shortage of antibiotics and medicine for respiratory, blood pressure and heart diseases, including medicines for children. Therefore, the State must deal with international companies, not cheap companies. It should store huge quantities of medicines.

"Why don't we have a pharmaceutical factory? Our situation is like other countries. What do we lack? Money is abundant, we have land, and the Kuwaiti doctors and pharmacists are among the best."



"Over the years, the Arab Gulf region and Arab countries have been witnessing escalation in incidents and means of piracy through the mobile phone - the friend of everyone, especially the people in need, the elderly, the blind and others in various continents," columnist **Mohamad Al-Saqr** wrote for **Al-Anba** daily.

"This issue disturbs their safety and comfort, because wicked people work throughout the night and until the end of the day using criminal means to obtain unlawful money!

"Unfortunately, the modern media has been unable to monitor these criminals, foil their plot against other people, achieve the required protection and provide the desired alternatives. Is the human mind, which is more rational and focused on Science, space travel and laboratories of Science, treatment, and creativity, incapable of confronting these criminals?

"Without a doubt, our efforts in this field are limited, but we can present a few methods that resemble children's play as follows: 'For a strange number, turn off your device, for a strange call, do not show your account, and for a fabricated conversation, express your objection.'"

- Compiled by Mai Elsoukary

## 'Traffic accidents claim lives of 135 people in last five months'

8 accidents happen every hour in Kuwait: statistics

**KUWAIT CITY, June 12:** After the recent traffic statistics showed eight accidents happen every hour in Kuwait, largely due to recklessness, talking on the phone while driving - which has become a common feature among drivers - the Ministry of Interior has tightened procedures to control those who disregard the traffic law, reports **Al-Qabas** daily.

The ministry sources said about 29,000 traffic accidents were recorded during the past first five months of 2023 which claimed the lives of 135 citizens and residents - an average of 27 victims every month.

The numbers reveal 5,800 traffic accidents occur every month in the country, "that is, an average of 193.3 accidents per day, which requires concerted efforts by state agencies and civil society institutions topped by the Ministry of Interior, to apply the traffic law without compromise.

The sources stressed the need to develop an integrated plan to reduce recklessness and awareness of the seriousness of violations, excessive speed, red-light crossing and other causes of loss of life and serious injuries.

### Amending

The sources pointed to the importance of amending the traffic law and increasing penalties. One of the main causes of fatal accidents is driving under the influence of drugs as a result of which many reckless motorists cross the red lights and drive at crazy speeds, exposing their lives and the lives of others to danger.

Meantime, the sources revealed more than 2.4 million cars ply on the country's roads, while the total valid driving licenses reached more than 1.6 million until the end of 2022.

The sources stressed the need to remedy these risks, and work to prevent the heavy losses of traffic accidents, according to awareness plans and impose the prestige of the law, pointing to "tragedies, permanent disabilities, and clinical death for some cases that were transferred to hospitals, as a result of injuries that cripple their victims for life," causing serious social and economic repercussions.

Six prominent reasons why the accidents occur include not paying attention while driving, using a



KUNA photo

Kuwaiti ambassador to Ireland meeting with the Irish Parliament Speaker.

### Kuwait envoy to Ireland discusses boosting ties

**KUWAIT CITY, June 12, (KUNA):** Kuwaiti Ambassador to Ireland Mohammad Fahad Al-Mohammad met with the Irish Parliament Speaker Sean O'Fearghail, where they discussed boosting bilateral relations.

On his part, O'Fearghail praised

His Highness the Amir of Kuwait and His Highness the Crown Prince of Kuwait on their efforts in achieving stability and maintaining peace in the region, as well as congratulating Kuwait on the success of the recent 2023 National Assembly's elections, while admiring the established democracy.

### Syrian survives one accident, dies in another; two injured

**KUWAIT CITY, June 12:** A Syrian who survived one accident died on the way to Amir Hospital when the motorist who hit him in Adailiya was taking him to the hospital, reports **Al-Rai** daily.

According to security sources the Syrian was run over by a Ku-

waiti in Adailiya and he was taking the man to the hospital when he collided with another vehicle driven by a Yemeni.

In that accident the Syrian died and the Kuwaiti and the Yemeni who were injured were rushed to a hospital.

mobile phone, wrong side overtaking, failure to maintain the vehicle, recklessness and speeding and potholes and damaged roads

### Awareness

The source explained that despite the General Traffic Department carrying out continuous awareness campaigns for vehicle drivers, traffic violations that lead to fatal accidents often claim the lives of young people for failure to abide by the laws.

Health sources told **Al-Qabas** that the Medical Emergency Department deals with a large number of reports daily, whether related to traffic accidents or other emergen-

cy and non-urgent cases, indicating that numbers of them are transferred to emergency departments in public hospitals, while treatment is provided for other cases in different locations.

The sources indicated that the emergency medical operations room deals daily with separate and varying numbers of road accidents from day to day, and there are accidents that cause several injuries to more than one person in the same accident, indicating that 10-15 accidents are dealt with daily, while accident rates rise during official holidays and reach to about 25 accidents, especially on weekends.

### 28 violators of laws arrested

**KUWAIT CITY, June 12:** The intensified campaigns of the Residence Affairs Investigation General Department in Farwaniya resulted in the arrest of 28 expatriates proven to have violated the Residency and Labor laws, reports **Al-Rai** daily.

The Security Media Department in the Ministry of Interior affirmed that the Violations Monitoring Unit at the department regularly carries out such campaigns to track down all those who violated the laws of the country and take the necessary legal action against them.



**Youth held:** The Mubarak Al-Kabeer police have detained a young Kuwaiti youth for damaging the property of others and assaulting a security man, reports **Al-Anba** daily.



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HH Crown Prince and HH Prime Minister send greetings

HH Amir congratulates Philippines and Russia on national days

KUWAIT CITY, June 12, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent on Monday a cable to the President of Philippines Ferdinand Romualdez Marcos Jr, congratulating him on his country's National Day.

In the cable, His Highness wished the president everlasting health and wellness, and further progress and prosperity to his country and friendly people.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a cable to President Ferdinand Romualdez Marcos Jr, congratulating him on his country's National Day.

In the cable, His Highness, wished him and his people everlasting health and further progress and prosperity.

Also, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Al-Nawaf Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a cable to the President Ferdinand Romualdez Marcos Jr, congratulating him on his

country's National Day.

In the meantime, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad on Monday sent a cable of congratulations to Russian President Vladimir Putin on the occasion of his country's National Day.

In the cable, His Highness the Amir wished President Putin good

health, and for Russia its friendly people further progress and prosperity.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad also sent a cable of congratulations to President Putin on the occasion of his country's National Day.

In the cable, His Highness the

Crown Prince wished President Putin good health, and for Russia its friendly people further progress and prosperity.

Also, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf sent a cable of congratulations to President Putin on the occasion of his country's National Day.

Minister reassures graduates of seats for higher education

Dr Al-Adwani tours number of schools during final exams

KUWAIT CITY, June 12: The Minister of Education and Higher Education Dr. Hamad Al-Adwani reassured high school graduates that they will find seats for higher education according to the announced conditions and ratios, indicating that these could either be internally in Kuwait, Abdullah Al-Salem universities, and in colleges and institutes of Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET) or through external scholarships, reports Al-Qabas daily.



Al-Qabas photo

Education minister during the exam inspection.

explained that higher education institutions have prepared a plan to absorb the graduates of the public secondary schools so that all graduates who achieve the previously approved acceptance rates are absorbed, in addition to internal and external scholarship plans.

Students who wish to study abroad at their own expense must choose institutions and universities that meet

the requirements of quality education and stay away from some institutions that do not provide education that commensurate with the certificates they grant because "their certificates will not be approved by the Ministry of Higher Education."

On Saturday, the Ministry of Higher Education announced the opening of registration from June 10 to July 2 for the scholarship plan of the 2023/2024 academic year through the website designated for that purpose.

Keep distance of 200 mt of private pharmacies: min

KUWAIT CITY, June 12: Minister of Health, Dr. Ahmed Al-Awadi, has issued a ministerial decision in addition to Ministerial Resolution No. 395/1997 regarding the executive regulations of Law No. 28/2016 referred to in Article 16 bis (a), specifying the distance between the pharmacy in the private sector saying pharmacy closest to the one already exists should not be less than 200 meters away in all directions, and that the Food and Drug Control Sector undertakes to set the necessary controls and conditions for calculating that distance, reports Al-Rai daily.

The decision excludes from the provisions of Article 16 bis (b) pharmacies located in cooperative societies, private hospitals, private medical centers, commercial complexes, and central markets.



Al-Qabas photo

A group photo during the event organized by the Ibrahim Al-Baghli Foundation for the Righteous Son.

Efforts on to improve charity work: MoSA

The Assistant Undersecretary for Social Development Affairs at the Ministry of Social Affairs Salem Al-Rashidi affirmed the continuation of efforts to support charity work and charity associations in the country, and to work on complete digital transformation in the performance of services, adding that reports on the 2023 Ramadan season indicate that donations during the holy month amounted to KD 55.8 million, reports Al-Qabas daily.

On the sidelines of an event organized by the Ibrahim Al-Baghli Foundation for the Righteous Son on Wednesday in commemoration of the International Day of Parents, Al-Rashidi expressed appreciation for the efforts of the foundation that were aimed at promoting

the concept of dealing virtuously with parents, and the importance of honoring them as noble steps complementing community cohesion.

He said charity work outside Kuwait is linked to a system in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Al-Rashidi revealed the application of an electronic program to link with charities and public benefit organizations, adding that observations are currently being made on the performance of the program, and this will continue until October.

Regarding the sacrificial animal project, Al-Rashidi said the inspection teams will continue their work until mid-July to monitor the performance of seasonal projects.

Power supplied to Al-Mutlaa project

KPC decides to cancel tender for consultancy study: reports MEED

KUWAIT CITY, June 12: The MEED magazine said the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation has decided to cancel a tender that it had floated last December for consultancy study to determine financing options for state-owned oil and gas companies, reports Al-Rai daily.

The magazine quoted the KPC Higher Purchasing Committee as saying the companies that purchased the tender documents are eligible to receive back their money, without giving reasons for this cancellation.

This happens although, Kuwait has been looking forward to increasing efficiency and restructuring state-owned oil and gas companies for several years. In 2020, UK-based company had won a study contract to consider restructuring.

The plan was expected to cut costs and consolidate several state-controlled companies in the country's oil, gas and petrochemical sectors. KPC said at the time that the mergers would reduce the number of large state-controlled companies in the sector from 8 to 4.

In 2020, local reports said that the Supreme Petroleum Council and the KPC had already approved plans to restructure the oil sector in the belief that restructuring can bring significant benefits to the organization in the long run.

A similar restructuring by the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) helped open the door for increased foreign investment in the UAE's energy sector.

In May 2022, KPC said that it was studying selling shares in its affiliate, the Kuwait National Petroleum Company in the field of refining, processing and marketing, with the Supreme Purchasing Committee presenting a contract for a feasibility study regarding "the partial sale of shares in the KNPC."

Although Kuwait has publicly discussed

restructuring its oil and gas sector for several years, no tangible progress has been made toward carrying out the planned mergers.

**Power supplied:** The Public Authority for Housing Welfare announced the delivery of power supply to a number of public buildings in suburb N11 within the Al-Mutlaa Residential City project, reports Al-Anba daily.

The PAHW said in a statement in order to ensure the operation of the services to Al-Mutlaa in conjunction with the citizens' completion of building their plots, and based on the directives of the Council of Ministers to speed up the delivery of power supply to residential plots and public buildings.

The PAHW revealed power supply is expected to be given to a number of other buildings in the same suburb, including the police station building, shops, the health center and the ambulance building.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy is focusing on the Gulf interconnection project with Iraq due to its strategic importance in supporting cooperation between the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries and Iraq, reports Al-Anba daily quoting sources.

Sources disclosed the interconnection contracts with Iraq will be implemented soon, including the construction of electrical interconnection lines from Wafra station to Faw station in South Iraq to supply it with about 500 megawatts of energy from the GCC countries.

Chief Executive Officer of Gulf Electricity Interconnection Authority Ahmed Ibrahim announced through Saudi Arabia media that the implementation of the electrical interconnection project with Iraq will start next week in Khobar.

Umayyad dynasty

Continued from Page 1

The destinies of such nations are similar because the principle is rational governance that is capable of realizing what Nasser bin Sayyar said, "War begins with words". There is no greater flash of fire under the ashes, and this can only be stopped by firm action and decision.

Either the rule of any state should be like the way it is described in the biography of Omar bin Abdul-Aziz, or it will be short lived, like in the biography of Marwan "the donkey". That is when the states will have peace.

Nonetheless, we do not need examples from history, as the Arab reality is filled with modern examples in this regard.

Kuwait affirms

Continued from Page 1

Back to the relations between the Arab and Pacific regions, Sheikh Salem urged both blocs to boost numbers of commercial exchange via taking decisions during the current and future meetings.

The meeting's agenda would be focusing on developing ties with numerous domains in addition to finding solutions into matters hindering collaboration between the two blocs.

Regional and international happenings were also highlighted during the session.

Meanwhile, Kuwait Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah on Monday met with his Saudi counterpart Prince Faisal bin Farhan on the sidelines of the second ministerial meeting for the Arab League countries and small de-

veloping Pacific nations held in the Saudi capital Riyadh.

During the meeting, both sides discussed the strong bilateral ties between Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, ways to enhance those ties and common efforts to strengthen international cooperation in the upcoming events, prioritizing the support for Saudi Arabia in Expo 2030 in Riyadh.

Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah headed Kuwait's delegation participating in the 156th GCC foreign ministerial meeting, held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

The meeting discussed supporting and strengthening the historical march of joint Gulf action in various fields.

Mechanisms of developing various fields of cooperation between the Gulf States, friendly countries, and regional and international organizations were also touched on.

Silvio Berlusconi

Continued from Page 1

he had held, expressing his deepest sorrow to the family of the former Prime Minister and the people of Italy.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent on Monday a cable to President of Italy Sergio Mattarella over the death of former Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi.

In his cable, His Highness the Crown Prince wished peace and solace to the family of the deceased.

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent on Monday a cable to Italian President Sergio Mattarella over the passing away of former Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi.

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# Consumer, house financing loans to Kuwaitis amount to KD 14.72bn

Locals constitute 21% of total borrowers

**KUWAIT CITY, June 12:** Kuwaiti borrowers who have a consumer loan and a housing loan at the same time constituted 21 percent of the total borrowers at the end of last year, reports Al-Rai daily.

The sources pointed out that the value of personal loans granted to Kuwaitis, which consist of consumer and housing financing, was more than 14.72 billion dinars at the end of last year (excluding December 2022), without calculating interest.

Sources close to the daily revealed, the portfolio of personal loans for citizens is distributed over more than 625.3 thousand loans, which include approximately 517 thousand customers, consisting of 232,815 thousand consumer loans with a value of more than 1.747 billion dinars, in addition to 392.51 thousand housing loans with a value of more than 12.974 billion dinars.

### Classification

The sources pointed out that according to the classification there are 7 segments of customers' salaries, the lowest of which is the category of citizens who borrow and whose incomes start from 500 dinars or less, and their number is about 7,018 thousand customers, constituting 3.01 percent of the total consumer loans, while exceeding the balance of their financing excluding interest of more than 38.743 million dinars.

As for the sixth category, it includes clients with salaries ranging from 501 to 1000 dinars, amounting to 52.76 thousand, constituting 22.66 percent, with financing amounting to more than 298 million dinars.

In fifth place are borrowers with salaries ranging from 1,001 to 1,500 dinars and their number reaches 79,939 thousand clients, equivalent to 34.34 percent of the total consumer loan portfolio, with a balance of more than 601 million dinars, while borrowers with salaries ranging from 1,500 dinars up to 2000 dinars lead the pack and are ranked fourth with 44,018 thousand customers, representing 18.91 percent of the total consumer loan portfolio, with loans amounting to more than 314.49 million dinars.

In third place are borrowers whose salaries range from 2001 to 2,500 dinars, reaching 23,661 thousand customers, or 10.16 percent, with loans of approximately 206.205 million dinars.

In the second place are the borrowers, whose salary scale starts from 2501 to 3 thousand dinars, and they number 11,513 thou-



Global Communications Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent.

KUNA photo

## KRCS stresses Kuwait's humanitarian role

AMMAN, June 12, (KUNA): Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) underlined on Monday Kuwait's humanitarian role to support those affected by natural or man-made disasters.

Director of the Public Relations and Media Department at KRCS Khaled Al-Zaid made the remark to KUNA on the sidelines of the Global Communications Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent.

He added that the three-day conference, which kick-started

in Amman earlier today, aims to emphasize the future of media as well as qualify young people to face challenges, take responsibility and develop media.

He considered the conference, organized by the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the Jordanian Red Crescent, to be one of the most important platforms for global dialogue on media issues.

sand, constituting 4.95 percent of the total consumer loans, with a value of loans (without interest) amounting to 117.88 million dinars.

At the top of the consumer portfolio in terms of borrowers, whose salary amounts to 3001 dinars; they number 13,902 thousand, constituting 5.97 percent, with loans granted to them at 170.39 million dinars.

As for the housing loan portfolio, it also includes 7 salary segments, the least number of them are those with salaries that start with 500 dinars or less, as they amounted to about 2.5 percent of the total portfolio, and the number of 9,829 thousand borrowers, while their financing (without calculating interest) is close to 237.631 million dinars, and in sixth place, came clients with salaries that range from 501 to 1000 dinars, and their number reached 104,446 thousand, or 26.61 percent of the total housing portfolio, with loans exceeding 2.393 billion dinars.

In fifth place, customers who receive salaries starting with 1001 to 1500 dinars came, with a number of 137,294 thousand, or 34.98 percent, with a value of more than 4.494 billion dinars.

As for the fourth, they are those with salaries between 1501 and 2000 dinars, and their percentage reaches 18.72 percent, with a number of 73,467 thousand, and a financing value of approximately 2.981 billion dinars. 8.57 percent of the total housing loan portfolio, with a value exceeding 1.421 billion dinars.



Australian Charge d'Affaires to Kuwait, Amanda McGregor with Dr. Qais Saleh Al-Duwairi, Director-General, and Tarek Abdullah Aleryan, Director of Public Relations and Media at Dasman Diabetes Institute.

## Australian Charge d'Affaires to Kuwait lauds DDI achievements

KUWAIT CITY, June 12: Her Excellency the Australian Charge d'Affaires to Kuwait, Ms. Amanda McGregor, paid a field visit to Dasman Diabetes Institute, which was established by Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences. H. E. was met by Dr. Qais Saleh Al-Duwairi, Director-General, and Mr. Tarek Abdullah Aleryan, Director of Public Relations and Media at Dasman Diabetes Institute. Her Excellency's visit aimed of getting to know closely the important institutions in Kuwait and strengthening scientific cooperation. During her visit to the institute, many scientific and research topics and issues of common interest between the two sides were discussed.

Dr. Al-Duwairi briefed H.E. about the institute's scientific progress, its importance, and its role in the service of scientific research in



Australian Charge d'Affaires to Kuwait, Amanda McGregor receives token of appreciation from Dr. Qais Saleh Al-Duwairi.

Kuwait, discussing ways to enhance joint research and scientific cooperation. In turn, Charge d'Affaires Amanda McGregor praised the institute's impressive developments and achievements.

## Forum discusses latest developments

# About 150 children in Kuwait suffer from sickle cell anemia

KUWAIT CITY, June 12, (KUNA): Head of the Pediatrics Association and Head of the Department of Hematology, Pediatric Cancer and Stem Cell Transplantation at the National Bank Hospital, Dr. Sondos Al-Sharida, said that there are about 150 children with sickle cell anemia in Kuwait.

In a press statement, on the occasion of the launch of the 'Sickle-Cell Anemia Forum' activities Sunday, in cooperation between the Department of Hematology and Cancer and the Pediatrics Association, Al-Sharida explained that the rates of sickle cell anemia in the country do not differ from the rest of the world.

She pointed out that the one-day forum discussed several topics about the latest developments in apheresis (replacement of red cells for the injured) for patients with sickle cell anemia.

It indicated that leukemia (blood cancer) and tumors of all kinds are

among the most common diseases among patients in the Department of Hematology at the National Bank Hospital.

She stated that the causes of infection are hereditary and others acquired, explaining that among the symptoms and warning signs are high body temperature, infections, bruises, weight loss, extreme fatigue, flatulence, lymph nodes and other signs that parents should pay attention to and visit the attending physician if they appear.

Al-Sharida announced the organization of many events to celebrate the International Day of Sickle Cell Anemia, which falls on the 19th of this month, including the organization of an open day for sickle cell anemia patients and their families next Saturday at the Sheikh Abdullah Al Salem Museum, in addition to the sickle cell anemia children's marathon, which will be held in the Capital Mall.

## Envoy praises success of festival

# Ambassador Tahboub thanks Kuwait's support

KUWAIT CITY, June 12: The Palestinian ambassador to Kuwait, Rami Tahboub, said Kuwait is and has been the biggest supporter of the Palestinian cause, reports Al-Qabas daily.

He was speaking at the end of the Palestinian Products Festival, which was held by the Palestine Embassy in cooperation with the Women's Cultural Association, at the association's headquarters.

Ambassador Tahboub praised the success of the festival, thanking Kuwaitis for supporting the exhibition throughout with their presence and for their confidence in the various Palestinian products and their quality.

He thanked Kuwait and its concerned ministries for all the facilities they provided to the embassy, wishing Kuwait, the Amir, the government and the people, continued security, safety and prosperity.

Tahboub also thanked the ambassadors and heads of diplomatic missions accredited to the State of Kuwait, and the embassy staff, for the remarkable attendance at the opening ceremony of the festival, and their shopping at the Palestinian Products Exhibition.

He thanked the Arab, foreign and Palestinian communities who went to the women's cultural and social association hall to get Palestinian products.

Meanwhile, ambassador Tahboub said the last batch of 30 teachers is expected to arrive this summer, saying "we are awaiting the issuance of their visas, pointing to the arrival of last Thursday's batch of 22 Palestinian teachers.



**THE GUEST SHOW**  
CHAITALI B ROY  
Radio Kuwait International English Station

Guest: **H.E. Claire Le Flecher**  
Ambassador of France

Director: **Anees Backer**

15/06/2023 @ 10am & 10pm  
93.3fm and 963am

## TGS presents French ambassador

The Guest Show (TGS) on Radio Kuwait International is honoured to present HE Claire Le Flecher, Ambassador of France to Kuwait. Ambassador Le Flecher's professional rise is an inspiring story of empowerment.

Born into an ordinary, unprivileged background, Claire Le Flecher made her way up with the help of strong ambition and hard work. Her dream was to travel, learn about cultures and build people-to-people connections. Diplomacy, she realised, was the perfect career for her.

Ambassador Le Flecher's career is as varied as her education. She started her professional life with budget and economy, then rose to

be Deputy Director for Russia and Eastern Europe at the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs.

Before being posted in Kuwait, she was ambassador to Armenia. Kuwait is her first posting in the Middle East. She is looking forward to an exciting journey of learning and bringing France and Kuwait closer together.

Here in this episode, she speaks to Chaitali B. Roy about her personal journey, the friendship between the two countries, the sectors they partner in, the contribution of France to the liberation of Kuwait and the strengthening of this strong partnership.

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### 1- CONTRACT MANAGING ENGINEER (CME)

**Qualifications**  
Level of B.Sc. (Electrical/ Mechanical/ Instrument) Engineer & Fifteen (15) years of experience in the maintenance of similar facilities.

**Salary: 1500 KD, Inclusive F&A.**

**Job Description**

- Implements the Contract.
- Ensures Cost control, invoicing and reporting.
- Prepares periodic progress and activity reports.
- To lead and direct the Safety Officers' and implement the Company's HSE policy and Plan.
- Be capable of making quick, sound decisions.
- Implements maintenance priorities to comply with the Company requirements.
- Ensures that contractual maintenance obligations are complied with.
- Ensures that all safety regulations and all government regulations pertaining to the employment of Contract staff and execution of services are fully complied with.
- Co-ordinates maintenance programme with Company Departments.
- Ensures implementation of Maintenance Schedules. Liaises with Company-appointed other Contractors as required for the related jobs.

### 2- AREA COORDINATOR

**Qualifications**  
Degree in Engg; relevant discipline

**Salary: 915 KD.**

**Job Description**

- Coordinates work functions & ensures implementation of maintenance schedules.

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**Chevron** **JOINT OPERATIONS WAFRA**

SAUDI ARABIAN CHEVRON INC. (SAC) - KUWAIT GULF OIL COMPANY

Joint Operations (Saudi Arabian Chevron Inc. / Kuwait Gulf Oil Company), announces the under-mentioned Public Tenders for procurement of materials.

Kuwaiti and Saudi Merchants, registered with either Company wishing to participate in any of the under-mentioned Tenders are invited to collect the Tender documents from Purchasing Section, Purchasing & Logistic Division, Administration Building, Ground Floor, Joint Operations, Wafra, during the official working hours from **13 JUN 2023** up to **9 JUL 2023** for a non-refundable fee mentioned against each tender. Tender Fees to be deposited in the National bank of Kuwait (NBK) Account No. 1001132057. Saudi Suppliers can collect the tender documents from Saudi Arabian Chevron office in Al-Khobar Telephone No.: (013) 8645104 - Fax No.: (013) 8985436

The closing date for the following Tenders will be on **Monday, 17 JULY 2023 @ 09:00 AM.**

S.NO.	TENDER NO.	MATERIALS	FEES ( IN KD )
1	2861892-R1	S/F AGAR AUTOMATIC DEWATERING CONTRPL SYSTEM	5
2	2862928-R1	S/F HYDROCYCLONE, PETRECO INTERNATIONAL	5
3	2865162-R1	S/F WELL HEAD PROCESS CONTROL SCADA SYSTEM, EPRODUCTION SOLUTIONS	5
4	2865534-R1	S/F BAKER HUGHES PROCESS SYSTEM, CAMERON	5
5	2871759	VALVES ( GLOBE - GATE - CHECK )	15
6	2871788	S/F LUFKIN AND AMERICAN PUMPING UNITS	50
7	2871790	INDUCTION BENDS	35
8	2871884	DATA FAULT AND POWER RECORDERS (SIEMENS - FUJITSU - MEINBERG) OR EQUIVALENT	35
9	2872138	CROSSOVERS	15
10	2872142	PIPES CARBON STEEL	15
11	2873307	TUBINGS AND PUP JOINTS	250
12	2873309	TUBINGS, CROSSOVERS & PUP JOINTS, INTERNALLY COATED TK-236	100

**Notes:** Gate Passes are required for Suppliers entering JO-Wafra Administrative Offices to collect the tender document and gate pass processing time is 48 hours. Please fill request for gate pass along with legible copies of Authorization letter, Civil ID, Car Registration, Supplier Registration (KGO or SAC) to e-mail [cbms@chevron.com](mailto:cbms@chevron.com) and [mydg@chevron.com](mailto:mydg@chevron.com) at least 48 hours prior to arrival.

For additional information, you may contact: Telephone No.: 23983639 - Ext. : 2502 - 3477

George Soros, founder and chairman of the Open Society Foundations, attends the Joseph A. Schumpeter Award ceremony in Vienna, Austria, June 21, 2019. The billionaire investor turned philanthropist is ceding control of his \$25 billion empire to a younger son, Alexander Soros. (AP)



### report: Soros cedes control of empire to a younger son

Billionaire investor turned philanthropist George Soros is ceding control of his \$25 billion empire to a younger son, Alexander Soros, according to an exclusive interview with The Wall Street Journal published online Sunday.

Soros' business holdings include his nonprofit Open Society Foundations, which is active in more than 120 countries around the world and funnels about \$1.5 billion annually to groups such as those that back human rights and promote the growth of democra-

cies around the world, according to its website.

The 37-year-old, who goes by Alex, told the Wall Street Journal that he is "more political" than his 92-year-old father, who has been a right-wing target for his backing of liberal causes such as reducing racial bias in the justice system. But he noted that the two "think alike."

Alex said he was broadening his father's "liberal aims" and embracing different causes including voting and abor-

tion rights, as well as gender equity. He said he aims to keep using the family's wealth to back left-leaning U.S. politicians.

Alex told the Wall Street Journal that he recently met with Biden administration officials, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer and heads of state, including Brazil's President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva and Canada's Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, to push for issues related to the family foundation. (AP)

### Market Movements

12-06-2023

	Change	Closing pts		Change	Closing pts		
UAE	- DFM	+0.09	3,701.91	PAKISTAN	- KSE 100	-0.32	41,772.33
JAPAN	- Nikkei	+0.52	32,434.00	PHILIPPINES	- PSEi	-0.49	6,507.15
SAUDI	- Tadawul	+0.24	11,423.13	EGYPT	- EGX 30	-0.20	17,704.58

# Business

## UBS completes takeover of Credit Suisse in deal meant to stem global financial turmoil

BERLIN, June 12, (AP) — UBS said Monday that it has completed its takeover of embattled rival Credit Suisse, nearly three months after the Swiss government hastily arranged a rescue deal to combine the country's two largest banks in a bid to safeguard Switzerland's reputation as a global financial center and choke off market turmoil.

A statement from the bank said that "UBS has completed the acquisition of Credit Suisse today, crossing an important milestone."

UBS had said last week that it expected to complete the acquisition worth 3 billion Swiss francs (\$3.3 billion) as early as Monday - which will

be the last trading day for Credit Suisse shares on the Swiss stock exchange. Credit Suisse will also no longer be traded on the New York Stock Exchange.

It's a pivotal moment for the two Zurich-based rivals, whose combination has raised concerns about thousands of expected job losses, drawn rebukes and lawsuits over the terms of the deal, and stirred fears about the impact of creating a Swiss megabank that would be too big to fail.

"This is a very important moment - not just for UBS, (but) for Switzerland as a financial location and for Switzerland as a country," UBS CEO Sergio Ermotti said on Friday. "So we do feel

the responsibility, but we are fully motivated."

Ermotti, who returned to UBS to push through the deal, acknowledged that "the coming months will certainly be bumpy" but said the bank was "very focused on doing on it right."

The Swiss government orchestrated the rescue of Credit Suisse over a weekend in March after the lender's stock plunged and customers quickly pulled out their money, fearing its collapse could further roil global financial markets in the wake of the failure of two U.S. banks.

"I'm pleased that we've successfully closed this crucial transaction in less than three months, bringing together

two global systemically important banks for the first time," UBS Chairman Colm Kelleher said in Monday's statement. "We are now one Swiss global firm and, together, we are stronger."

Ermotti said that "we'll present our clients an enhanced global offering, broader geographic reach and access to even greater expertise."

UBS Group AG will manage two separate parent banks, UBS and Credit Suisse, with each continuing to have its own branches and customers.

The 167-year-old Credit Suisse had seen a string of scandals over the years that hit the heart of its business, ranging from bad bets on hedge funds to

failing to prevent money laundering by a Bulgarian cocaine ring and accusations it didn't report secret offshore accounts that wealthy Americans used to avoid paying U.S. taxes.

UBS will inherit ongoing cases against Credit Suisse and the financial repercussions those entail, including a recent ruling in Singapore that said Credit Suisse owes former Georgian Prime Minister Bidzina Ivanishvili hundreds of millions of dollars for failing to protect the billionaire's money in a trust pilfered by a manager.

Credit Suisse is appealing that and a similar case in Bermuda, where Ivanishvili says a bank subsidiary failed to prevent "fraudulent mismanagement"

of his assets in two life insurance policies.

Switzerland's government has agreed to provide UBS with 9 billion Swiss francs (nearly \$10 billion) in guarantees to cover any losses it may face from the takeover after UBS covers any hits up to 5 billion francs (\$5.5 billion).

That emergency rescue plan is facing political pushback ahead of parliamentary elections in October. Switzerland's lower house has rebuked it in a symbolic vote, and lawmakers have approved setting up an inquiry into the deal and the events leading up to it. The Swiss attorney general's office already has opened a probe.

## WS 'drifts' higher ahead of Fed and inflation data

Asian shares mixed as investors await Fed policy decision

NEW YORK, June 12, (AP) — Stocks are drifting higher on Wall Street Monday ahead of a big week for central banks and interest rates around the world.

The S&P 500 was 0.4% higher in afternoon trading, coming off its fourth straight winning week. The Dow Jones Industrial Average was up 61 points, or 0.2%, at 33,938, as of 12:27 p.m. Eastern time, while the Nasdaq composite was 0.8% higher.

The S&P 500 had slightly more stocks gaining ground than slipping. Cruise operator Carnival rode a 14.7% upswing as analysts upgraded its stock on signs demand remains steady for the industry and that pricing is holding up. Nasdaq, the exchange company that's pushing more into technology, fell 13.1% after saying it would buy Adenza, a risk management and regulatory software provider, for \$10.5 billion in cash and stock.

The U.S. stock market is near its highest level since April 2022 on hopes the economy may avoid a recession and the Federal Reserve may soon take it easier on its hikes to interest rates. Traders are betting the Fed will hold rates steady at its next meeting, which concludes on Wednesday. That would be the first time it hasn't hiked rates at a meeting in more than a year.

A halt or a pause to hikes would give the economy and financial markets some breathing room. The Fed has already pulled rates to their highest level since 2007 in hopes of driving down inflation, and the increases have helped cause high-profile U.S. bank failures and a monthslong contraction in the manufacturing industry.

This week will also see the latest updates on inflation across the economy. On Tuesday, economists expect a report to show prices for consumers were 4.1% higher in May than a year earlier. That's way above the Fed's target of 2% inflation, but it would be down from 4.9% inflation in April and a peak of more than 9% last June.

Because prices were already much higher a year ago thanks to the worst inflation in 40 years, further increases

in upcoming months may not appear quite so dramatic. Inflation could fall to 3.2% in June, and the next two months could see one of the biggest drops in inflation over a two-month period over the last 70 years, according to Jonathan Golub, chief U.S. equity strategist at Credit Suisse.

But much of that easing would simply be because of how high prices had already climbed, and Wall Street traders are still bracing for the Fed to resume hiking rates in July. The question is how much further it will go beyond that.

The Fed is in a tight spot because any increases to rates would mean more pressure on the U.S. banking system. It's still absorbing all the past rate increases, which have caused some customers to yank their bank deposits as they herd into higher-yielding money-market funds. Higher rates have also forced down the values of bonds and other investments banks made when interest rates were low.

"While incoming data point to resilience in activity and stickiness in inflation, the Fed appears to want additional time to monitor policy lags and regional bank stress," Michael Gapen and other economists wrote in a BofA Global Research report.

They see a June pause by the Fed as a close call. Recent surprise hikes by central banks in Canada and Australia show a hike could still happen, but Gapen said the Fed doesn't usually hike rates when the widespread assumption on Wall Street is for a hold.



A person looks at an electronic stock board showing Japan's Nikkei 225 index at a securities firm in the rain in Tokyo, May 29, 2023. Asian shares mostly rose Friday, June 9, 2023, led by a jump on the Tokyo Stock Exchange where share prices got a boost of optimism from a new bull market on Wall Street. (AP)

That may change if Tuesday's inflation report comes in hotter than expected.

Besides the Federal Reserve, central banks in Europe and Japan will also be meeting this week on interest rates.

### Europe

Switzerland's UBS said it has completed its takeover of embattled rival Credit Suisse in a government-arranged rescue combining the country's two largest banks to safeguard the country's reputation as a global financial center and choke off market turmoil.

Germany's DAX jumped 1% to 16,109.01 and the CAC 40 in Paris advanced 0.9% to 7,278.89. Britain's FTSE 100 edged 0.2% higher, to 7,576.14, citing a need to wait and see if the inflation is sustained.

### Asia

Shares were mixed in Asia on Monday after the S&P 500 logged its fourth winning week in a row, while investors await another decision by the Federal Reserve on interest rates.

U.S. futures gained while oil prices were lower.

Many observers expect no change in rates given recent data suggesting the U.S. economy is slowing. This week also brings price data that might indicate whether the Fed is succeeding in snuffing inflation.

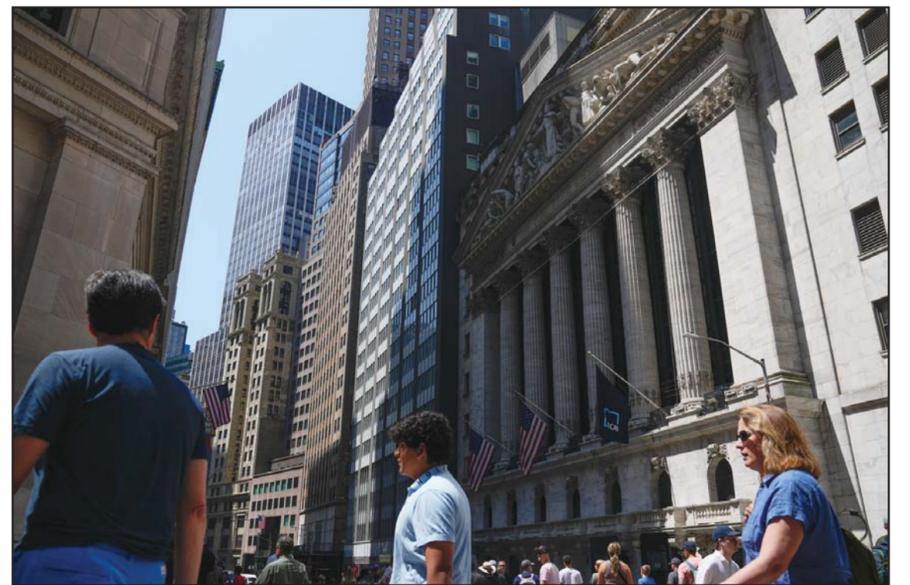
Friday also will bring a policy meeting of the Bank of Japan, which has refrained from making any major changes to its minus 0.1% benchmark interest rate despite rising prices, citing a need to wait and see if the inflation is sustained.

Tokyo's benchmark Nikkei 225 added 0.5% to 32,434.00, while the Hang Seng in Hong Kong was nearly unchanged at 19,398.75. In Seoul, the Kospi declined 0.5% to 2,629.35. India's Sensex edged 0.1% higher to 62,693.89.

The Shanghai Composite index slipped 0.1% to 3,228.72. Shares rose in Taiwan and India but fell in Bangkok. Australian markets were closed for a holiday.

### Currencies

In currency trading, the dollar climbed to 139.48 Japanese yen from 139.39 yen. The euro was nearly unchanged at \$1.0751.



People walk around the front of the New York Stock Exchange in New York, June 2, 2023. Wall Street is ticking higher ahead of a big week for central banks and interest rates around the world. The S&P 500 was 0.2% higher early Monday, June 12. (AP)

### SEC lawsuits unsettle cryptocurrency cos

## Question mark over industry's future

WASHINGTON, June 12, (AP) — First came the crypto winter, then the alleged fraud wrought by FTX founder Sam Bankman-Fried, and now the lawsuits.

The U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission filed lawsuits last week against the world's biggest cryptocurrency exchanges, Binance and Coinbase, deepening tensions between the government and a volatile industry that has been marred by scandals and market meltdowns.

Binance and Coinbase are both alleged to have violated the law by operating as securities exchanges without registering their businesses with the SEC. Binance faces additional charges, along with its CEO, of diverting customer funds to a separate business, among other accusations. Most recently, the SEC asked a federal judge to freeze the assets of Binance's U.S. platform.

The lawsuits are the latest in an ongoing tussle between government officials who describe the crypto industry as the "Wild West," and creators of digital assets who seek to legitimize cryptocurrency as a currency of the future.

Industry leaders say that, with their latest actions, U.S. regulators are more

clearly signaling that they seek to ensure cryptocurrency has no room in the traditional financial system.

And leading regulators are more open about their thoughts on the merits of cryptocurrency. SEC Chair Gary Gensler told Bloomberg on Tuesday: "We don't need more digital currency ... we already have digital currency - it's called the U.S. dollar."

What results from the legal battle could greatly diminish the growth of the crypto industry or, alternatively, restrict the scope of the SEC's regulatory authority.

Federica Pantana, an attorney at Davidoff Hutcher & Citron in New York who handles SEC cases, has been watching the episode unfold and is now clear with her crypto clients in the interim: "With the SEC taking a strong enforcement agenda, there is no question that firms have to take the view that crypto assets are securities and platforms that exchange these assets have to accept that."

Whether companies that trade in crypto decide it makes business sense to register with the SEC, or drop their businesses all together, will determine the landscape of the industry in the future, Pantana said. The reverberations of the litigation

could put some companies out of business, she said.

The crypto industry already knew it was under a tough spotlight from Washington's regulators and politicians. The collapse of crypto prices last year as well as the demise of several notable crypto companies - including FTX - exposed investors to billions of dollars in losses. Gensler had repeatedly stated, both to Congress and in public appearances, that he believes the SEC has more than enough authority to regulate the industry.

Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen told CNBC Wednesday that she's "very supportive" of the SEC using the tools it has to protect consumers and investors.

Despite the increased scrutiny from regulators, the crypto industry was expecting Congress to eventually intervene and help legitimize the industry through new laws. Several bills were introduced last year by Democrats and Republicans that would have put crypto under the authority of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission and made other products, including stable coins, more legitimate by standardizing what assets those products could hold.

### TBB honored for connecting skilled refugees to jobs worldwide

## 'Talent Beyond Boundaries' bags Sharjah International Award

SHARJAH, UAE, June 12, (PR Newswire) — The Big Heart Foundation, Sharjah-based global humanitarian organization, has announced the honoring of the nonprofit international organization Talent Beyond Boundaries (TBB) as the winner of the 7th edition of the Sharjah International Award for Refugee Advocacy and Support (SIARA 2023). This recognition comes as a tribute to the organization's innovative efforts aimed at improving the lives of thousands of refugees and individuals in need worldwide. TBB is the world's first and only organization that works on connecting refugees and individuals in need with international job opportunities, enabling them to resume their professional lives, rebuild their future, and achieve self-sufficiency by opening skilled migration pathways.

The seventh edition of the AED 500,000 SIARA award selected TBB from 423 candidates representing 41 countries. This recognition highlights the organization's innovative approach in addressing gaps in global refugee humanitarian efforts. TBB has impacted governments in various countries, inspiring

them to revise and enhance migration programs and visa services. Due to TBB's efforts, hosting countries like Australia, Canada, and the UK launched initiatives such as the 'Hiring Displaced Talents' program, allowing refugees to utilize their abilities, skills, qualifications, and work experiences in official job opportunities.

The organization is renowned for being the first



Photo from Talent Beyond Boundaries beneficiaries. (AP)

nonprofit to initiate an International Job Fair exclusively for skilled refugees and displaced individuals, to connect and pair individuals with prominent international companies and employers who are in need of their skills and expertise.

The organization has provided services to over 6,000 refugees. Upon job acquisition completion, it facilitates immigration and relocation to the new workplace. It ensures basic necessities, legal guarantees, documentation, social integration support, and other services. The organization has increased refugees' annual income by over 750%. It established a digital platform verifying professional qualifications of 65,000 refugees worldwide.

TBB dedicated its efforts to make change and transform the concept of refugee support from waiting for assistance from donors to empowering refugees and enabling them to change their lives with their talents and skills through work. The non-profit's strategy came in response to reports which indicate that 12.7 million of the world's refugees are of working age, and amongst them millions are skilled.

## INVESTMENT STRATEGY &amp; RESEARCH

## KAMCO INVEST

## GCC Corporate Earnings Report: Q1-2023 ..... June 2023

**Profits decline y-o-y led by Energy, Materials and Div. Financials..**

Quarterly profits reported by GCC-listed companies declined y-o-y during Q1-2023 mainly led by a fall in energy and commodity prices. Most commodity prices witnessed a demand-led decline during the quarter that was reflected in the biggest q-o-q drop in the Bloomberg Commodity index since the pandemic during Q1-2023 (-6.5%). A fall in profits for the Diversified Financials sector was also reflected in lower profits during the quarter after the MSCI GCC index declined for four quarters in a row. That said, aggregate GCC profits showed the first q-o-q growth in Q1-2023 after two consecutive quarters of declines during the previous two quarters. Aggregate net profit for GCC-listed companies reached USD 61.5 Bn during Q1-2023 as compared to USD 57.0 Bn during Q4-2022 resulting in a q-o-q growth of 7.9%. The y-o-y performance showed a decline of 9.1% when compared to Q1-2022 profits of USD 67.9 Bn, which was the second-biggest profit on record for the GCC markets. Energy, Materials and Diversified Financials were the top three sectors by absolute y-o-y profit decline vs. Q1-2022 as these sectors accounted for 56% of total profits during Q1-2023 as compared to 70% of profits during Q1-2022. In terms of q-o-q performance, the growth in profit was led by higher profits for Banks and Utilities sectors that was partially offset by a drop in profits mainly for the Energy, Capital Goods and Materials sectors. In terms of regional trend, the q-o-q profit growth was seen across the GCC exchanges during the quarter, barring Saudi Arabia. Aggregated profits for the Kingdom reached USD 38.9 Bn during Q1-2023 as compared to USD 40.6 Bn during Q4-2022, a decline of 4.2% mainly led by fall in profits for Energy, Materials and Utilities sectors. On the other hand, Qatari companies reported the biggest profit growth of 65.9% followed by Omani and Dubai-listed companies with q-o-q profit growth of 49.9% and 43.7%, respectively.

In terms of sectoral performance, profits for the Energy sector declined by 16.9% y-o-y or by USD 6.7 Bn and 4.8% q-o-q or by USD 1.7 Bn during Q1-2023 to reach USD 33.1 Bn. The decline in profits for the Energy sector highlighted a consistent fall in oil prices since last year. Brent crude oil averaged at USD 81.1 per barrel during Q1-2023 which was the lowest in five quarters. The average Brent crude price was USD 100.9 per barrel during Q1-2022, resulting in a y-o-y decline of 19.6% in Q1-2023. Similarly, in terms of q-o-q performance, Brent crude averaged at USD 88.7 per barrel during the last quarter of 2022, resulting in a q-o-q decline of 8.6% during Q1-2023. Nevertheless, the q-o-q decline in profits was seen in 12 out of the 22 constituents in the sector while 9 out of 22 companies reported a y-o-y decline in profits indicating a fall in profits for some key large-cap companies in the sector more than offsetting growth for the rest of the companies. Within the Energy sector, net profits for Saudi Aramco declined by 17.3% y-o-y and by 6.2% q-o-q to reach USD 31.3 Bn. The decline in net profits was led by a 11.0% y-o-y fall in revenues during Q1-2023. In terms of volume, total quarterly production dropped from 13.0 million barrels of oil equivalent per day (mmbob/d) to 12.8 mmbob/d.

On the other hand, the Banking sector continued to record earnings growth during Q1-2023. Aggregate profits for the sector surged by 20.6% y-o-y and 24.9% q-o-q to reach USD 13.3 Bn during Q1-2023. The growth in profits was broad-based and was seen across the board in almost all markets in terms of both y-o-y and q-o-q performance. The growth mainly reflected higher overall interest rates as the effect of the recent rate hikes were partially reflected in the results of the GCC banking sector. Meanwhile, the results of the GCC Insurance sectors were largely unavailable as companies in the sector grapple to implement new IFRS 17 accounting standards that was implemented starting from 1-January-2023. Furthermore, profits for the Utilities sector also witnessed significant gains during the quarter. Total profits for the sector reached USD 3.3 Bn in Q1-2023 more than double when compared to Q1-2022 as well as Q4-2022. The increase was mainly led by higher profits for Abu Dhabi's TAQA that more than offset q-o-q profit decline in 11 out of 18 companies in the sector.

**Kuwait**

Corporate earnings for companies listed on Boursa Kuwait increased by 13.6% y-o-y during Q1-2023 to reach USD 2.3 Bn as compared to USD 2.1 Bn in Q1-2022. The biggest impact on higher aggregate stock exchange profits came from the Banking sector which showed a 39.4% jump in profits that reached USD 1.3 Bn in Q1-2023 from USD 926.8 Mn in Q1-2022. In terms of sequential performance, the aggregate growth in profits stood at 34.3% as compared to Q4-2022. The major sectors i.e. Banks, Telecom, and Insurance contributed to the y-o-y increase of aggregate profitability, whereas q-o-q growth was mainly driven by Telecom and Real Estate sectors partially offset by a steep fall in profits for the Insurance sector.

In the banking sector, NBK reported a net profit of USD 436.5 Mn for Q1-2023 up 13.8% vs. a profit of USD 383.5 Mn in Q1-2022 mainly led by higher net interest income that was partly offset by higher operating expenses and higher impairment charges as compared to Q1-2022. Net profits for KFH more than doubled to USD 527.2 Mn for Q1-2023 up by 130.6% compared to USD 228.7 Mn from the previous year mainly due to the completion of acquisition of AUB during the last quarter of 2022. The contribution of AUB Group to the net profit attributable to the shareholders of the Bank amounted to USD 237.0 Mn, or 45.0%, in addition to the increase in the income generated from KFH Group during Q1-2023. Meanwhile, Burgan Bank reported a net profit decline from USD 39.9 Mn Q1-2022 to USD 24.6 Mn in Q1-2023 on the account of hyperinflation related to the operations in Turkey which was not applied in the comparative period.

Net Profits for the Telecom sector increased by 80.2% y-o-y to reach USD 375.6 Mn for Q1-2023 compared to USD 208.4 Mn for Q1-2022. Zain recorded a net profit of USD 176.3 Mn in Q1-2023 compared to USD 155.4 Mn in Q1-2022 an increase of 13.5%. Revenue for Q1-2023 reached USD 285 Mn, up by 3% y-o-y. EBITDA for the quarter reached USD 105 Mn, up by 2% y-o-y, resulting in an EBITDA margin of 37%. STC Kuwait registered a 6.1% increase in Q1-2023 earnings which reached USD 26.8 Mn up from USD 25.3 Mn in net profits during Q1-2022 led by the 12.7% increase in the revenues to reach USD 281.6 Mn compared to USD 249.7 Mn in the Q1-2022. Ooredoo Kuwait posted multifold increase in net profit to reach USD 172.5 in Q1-2023 against USD 27.7 for Q1-2022. The company posted a revenue growth and EBITDA of 2% and 16% for Q1-2023, respectively while net profit growth came mainly after winning the final court ruling related to recovery of excess regulatory tariff paid that amounted to USD 142.4 Mn in a case against Kuwait's MOC and CITRA.

The Insurance sector recorded a y-o-y profit growth of 22.4% to reach USD 74.2 Mn in Q1-2023 compared to USD 60.6 Mn in Q1-2022. Gulf Insurance Group reported the biggest increase in profits during Q1-2023 to reach USD 30.6 Mn compared to USD 23.1 Mn in Q1-2022 mainly due to the increase in net investment income which reached USD 33.2 Mn in Q1-2023 representing an increase of 77% compared to USD 18.8 Mn in Q1-2022. AlAhleiah Insurance posted a net profit of USD 17.9 Mn in Q1-2023 against USD 14.5 Mn in Q1-2022 supported by an increase in operating revenue and investment income.

In the Health Care Equipment & Services sector, Advanced Technology Co.'s profit more than doubled to USD 19.1 Mn in Q1-2023 as compared to USD 7.0 Mn in Q1-2022. The increase was mainly led by a 65% decline in sales & administrative expenses mainly due to the reversal of expected credit losses of USD 10.40 Mn on account of recovery. Yiacco Medical posted a net profit of USD 1.2 Mn for Q1-23 vs USD 0.1Mn in Q1-2022 supported by other income obtained from a legal case.

In the Retailing sector, net profits reached USD 27.4 Mn in Q1-2023 compared to a profit of USD 20.1 Mn in Q1-2022. Ali Alghanim Sons Automotive Co. recorded a net profit of USD 19.5 Mn vs USD 13.4 Mn up by 45.4% mainly due higher vehicles volumes. Soor Fuel Marketing also recorded a net profit growth of 34.1% to reach USD 4.1 Mn in Q1-2023 led by increase in the fuel sales.

**Saudi Arabia**

Aggregate net profits for Saudi-listed companies witnessed a decline of 22.5% to reach USD 38.9 Bn in Q1-2023 against USD 50.2 Bn in Q1-2022. Among the top three sectors on the exchange, profits for the Banking and Telecom sectors showed an increase during the quarter. The decline in Q1-2023 earnings was mainly driven by a plunge in profits in the Energy Sector which declined by 18.1% to USD 31.2 Bn as compared to USD 38.1 Bn during Q1-2022. Profits for the other key sectors like Materials, Diversified Financials and Utilities also declined during the quarter. On the other hand, Food & Beverages and the Health Care Equipment & Services Sector reported a growth in profits during the quarter that partially offset the overall decline. Most of the companies in the insurance sector had not filed their quarterly results as the period for applying IFRS 17 to insurance contract

was extended.

Banking sector outperformed other sectors as the biggest contributor to net profits during the period by recording a net profit of USD 4.6 Bn in Q1-2023 vs. USD 3.9 Bn in Q1-2022 up by 16.8%. Al Rajhi Bank recorded a marginal net profit growth that reached USD 1.1 Bn in Q1-2023. The bank's total operating income declined by 2.5% due to the decline in net financing and investment income. Meanwhile, Saudi British Bank reported a 75.6% increase in the net profit that reached USD 470.1 Mn in Q1-2023 compared to USD 267.7 Mn in Q1-2022 supported by a 79.3% increase in net special commission income in addition to the increase in foreign exchange gains. On a sequential basis, net earnings grew 27.2% from USD 369.7 Mn in Q4 2022, due to an increase in total operating income and a decline in total operating expenses. Riyadh Bank reported net profits of USD 538.0 Mn in Q1-2023 from a net profit of USD 413.9 Mn a year earlier. The profit growth was attributed to 44.9% increase in net special commission income amid higher net provision for impairment. Compared to Q4-2022 earnings, the bank's net profit fell slightly by 0.3% from USD 539.6 Mn, on higher operating expenses.

Net profit for the Telecom sector grew by 20.7% y-o-y to reach USD 1.1 Bn in Q1-2023 as compared to USD 0.9 Bn during Q1-2022. STC reported a 2.3% y-o-y increase in net profits that reached USD 828.1 Mn due to higher revenues. Mobily registered a net profit of USD 123.9 Mn for Q1-2023 compared to USD 85.1 Mn in Q1-2022. The increase was driven by higher revenues and EBITDA. Zain KSA net profit soared to USD 149.9 Mn in Q1-2023, registering an increase of 598.3%, from a net profit of USD 21.5 Mn in Q1-2022 due to higher revenue partially offset by higher operating expenses and finance costs.

Meanwhile, profits for the F&B sector reached USD 311.1 Mn, up by 52.8% y-o-y during Q1-2023. The increase came mainly on the back of higher profits for Almarai Co. and Savola Group. Q1-2023 net profits for Almarai Co. reached USD 169.2 Mn buoyed by the one-off gains made during the first 10 days of Ramadan and the subsidy related to food security measures taken by Almarai. These one-off benefits amounted to USD 39.7 Mn, representing 35% growth in net profit y-o-y. Savola Group reported a net profit of USD 104.6 Mn for the Q1-2023 on a 4.3% y-o-y rise in revenue and 57.6% y-o-y growth in operating profit. Sequentially, net profit more than quadrupled from USD 25.1 Mn in Q4-2022.

In the Health Care Equipment & Services sector, Dr. Sulaiman Al Habib Medical Services Group posted a 25.2% leap in Q1-2023 net profit that reached USD 130.3 Mn, compared to USD 104.1 Mn in the prior year period. The company's results were driven by a 15.9% y-o-y rise in revenue that reached USD 613.3 Bn led by sales growth in the hospital and pharmacy segments. Similarly, Middle East Healthcare Co.'s net profit doubled to USD 13.4 Mn in the Q1-2023, from USD 5.5 Mn y-o-y in Q1-2022 driven by increased revenues and operational capacity that pushed the number of patients higher. On a sequential basis, net profit rose 51.3% from USD 8.84 Mn in Q4-2022.

On the other hand, the aggregate decline in profits for Saudi-listed companies in Q1-2023 was mainly driven by a drop in profits of the Energy Sector which declined by 18.1% to reach USD 31.2 Bn as compared to USD 38.1 Bn during Q1-2022. Oil giant Aramco reported a net profit decline of 17.3% during Q1-2023 primarily led by lower crude oil prices, which was partially offset by lower income tax and Zakat expenses, along with higher finance and other income. Meanwhile, within the Energy sector, Bahri posted more than seven-fold jump in Q1-2023 net profit that reached USD 131.2 Mn from USD 17.3 Mn in Q1-2022 backed by higher topline growth across business units.

**Dubai**

Net profits for Dubai-listed companies registered a growth of 51.2% y-o-y to USD 4.8 Bn in Q1-2023 against USD 3.2 Bn in Q1-2022. The surge in earnings was primarily driven by earnings growth in the Banking, Real Estate and Capital Goods sectors. The three sectors accounted for the biggest share of corporate profits in Q1-2023 at 85.3%. Only the Food & Staples Retailing and the F&B sectors recorded a y-o-y decline in total net profits during the first quarter of the year.

Total net profits for the Banking Sector soared 84.2% in Q1-2023 to reach UD 2.8 Bn as compared to USD 1.5 Bn in Q1-2022. The sector's rise in total earnings was primarily driven by Emirates NBD for the second consecutive quarter with 114.7% jump in net earnings which reached USD 1.6 Bn against USD 746.2 Mn in Q1-2022. The bank's strong performance was attributed to its record-breaking quarterly performance in retail lending issuing 144 thousand new credit cards and AED 8 Bn (USD 2.18 Bn) in retail loan distributions. Mashreq Bank followed with the second largest Q1-2023 net profit in the sector recording USD 438.4 Mn as compared to USD 165.0 Mn in Q1-2022. The combination of improved efficiency and healthy operating income growth in the UAE and across other countries has helped maximize the bank's earnings during the quarter.

In the Real Estate Sector, aggregate Q1-2023 net earnings jumped 31.4% to USD 1.2 Bn against USD 0.95 Bn in Q1-2022. Emaar Properties' Q1-2023 net profits of USD 872.9 Mn against USD 609.6 Mn helped to lift the total earnings of the sector. Emaar's robust financial performance was attributed to a combination of improved operational excellence and good property sales performance. Emaar Development followed with the second largest Q1-2023 net profits in the sector at USD 288.2 Mn.

In the Utilities sector, total profits registered a marginal dip of 0.5% to reach USD 248.0 Mn as compared to USD 249.3 Mn in Q1-2022. Q1-2023 net profits for Dubai Electricity and Water Company recorded an uptick of 1.3% to reach USD 202.5 Mn whereas net earnings for the Emirates Central Cooling Systems Corp reported a 7.7% drop to reach USD 45.5 Mn. DEWA's marginal profit growth was mainly due to growth in average customer water consumption during the quarter.

Total net profits for the Transport Sector dropped 11.9% to reach USD 178.1 Mn during Q1-2023. The sector's overall decline in net earnings came after Salik reported a 31.7% decline in Q1-2023 net earnings which reached USD 75 Mn despite recording the highest level of quarterly revenues led by higher trips and toll usage. Salik's toll usage revenue represented around 87% of the total revenue of the company during the quarter. The company's overall revenue increased by 7.9% y-o-y during Q1-2023. Aramex, meanwhile, reported USD 6.5 Mn in Q1-2023 net profits, nearly half of its Q1-2022 profits. The company attributed the drop in earnings to a mix of factors such as currency devaluation in certain markets and interest expenses associated with the MyUS acquisition. On the other hand, first quarter net profits for Gulf Navigation Holding Co jumped over 7 times to reach USD 3.7 Mn as compared to USD 0.45 Mn in Q1-2022.

**Abu Dhabi**

Listed companies in Abu Dhabi witnessed a 51.8% y-o-y increase in net profits during Q1-2023 to reach USD 11.1 Bn compared with USD 7.3 Bn during Q1-2022. The Utilities sector with only one comprising company - Abu Dhabi National Energy Co - topped the sector aggregate profits during Q1-2023 after reporting a net profit of USD 3.2 Bn as compared to USD 536.6 Mn in Q1-2022. The Banking sector followed witnessing a smaller y-o-y profit growth of 3.2% in Q1-2023 that reached USD 2.2 Bn up from USD 2.1 Bn in Q1-2022. First Abu Dhabi Bank's decline in net earnings has been the main reason for the sluggish growth in the aggregate net profits of the Banking sector. FAB announced USD 1.1 Bn in net profits during Q1-2023, a 23.3% y-o-y drop during the quarter, mainly led by extraordinary profits in Q1-2022 after the sale of stake in Magnati. The decline in quarterly earnings was also attributed to higher net impairment charges which witnessed 74% y-o-y growth to reach AED 798 Mn (USD 217.3 Mn) during the quarter.

Profits for the Capital Goods sector jumped over 1.85 times to reach USD 1.8 Bn in Q1-2023 as compared to USD 632.1 Mn in Q1-2022 despite the USD 10.0 Mn loss registered by Multiply Group during the quarter. Alpha Dhabi Holding announced USD 1.8 Bn in Q1-2023 net profits as compared to USD 537.1 Mn during Q1-2022 lifting the overall total net earnings of the Capital Goods sector during the quarter. Higher revenues (58% y-o-y) as well as a fair value gain of the derecognition of Pure Health Holdings LLC contributed to the company's quarterly profits growth. Q1-2023 net earnings of Ras Al Khaimah Ceramics co witnessed a 29.7% y-o-y growth to reach USD 20 Mn during the quarter while the net earnings of Abu Dhabi Ship Building Co jumped more than 2.6 times to reach USD 1.4 Mn during the similar period.

Total Q1-2023 earnings for the Energy Sector witnessed a modest 10.3% y-o-y growth to reach USD 1.6 Bn despite a 7.4% drop in quarterly profits for Dana Gas that reached USD 50.0 Mn during the quarter. Net earnings for ADNOC Gas recorded a 9% growth to reach USD 1.3 Bn during the quarter as compared to USD 1.2 Bn in Q1-2022. Lower gas prices and lower volumes were offset by the lower cost of raw gas supply that resulted in the profit growth during the quarter. Similarly, Q1-2023 net earnings for ADNOC Drilling jumped 25.4% to USD 218.7 Mn as compared to USD 174.5

Mn in Q1-2022.

In terms of quarterly profits decline by sector, the Materials sector recorded the biggest absolute decline in net profits. Q1-2023 earnings of the sector dropped 58.4% y-o-y to reach USD 311.4 Mn as compared to USD 749.1 Mn during Q1-2022. Net earnings for Arkan Building Materials increased by 109.7% to USD 41.4 Mn during Q1-2023. On the other hand, four of the nine companies in the sector reported net losses during the similar period: Sharjah Cement & Industrial Development co (USD -2.0 Mn), Ras Al-Khaimah Cement Co (USD -51.8 Mn), Gulf Cement Co (USD -3.8 Mn), and Fujairah Cement Industries (USD -7.2 Mn).

**Qatar**

Total earnings for Qatari-listed companies witnessed a y-o-y decline of 11.5% during Q1-2023 to reach USD 3.4 Bn as compared to USD 3.9 Bn in Q1-2022. The decline in quarterly profits was primarily led by the fall in profits mainly for the Capital Goods, Energy, Materials sectors that was partially offset by growth in profits for the Telecom and Banking sectors during the quarter.

Qatar's Banking sector reported a profit growth of 1.6% in Q1-2023 that reached USD 1.94 Bn accounting for 56.5% of the overall exchange profits during the quarter. QNB reported a net profit increase of 7.1% during the quarter reaching USD 1.06 Bn compared to a net profit of USD 990.4 Mn in Q1-2022. Qatar Islamic Bank reported a net profit of USD 247.4 Mn for Q1-2023 as compared to USD 234.2 Mn for the same period in 2022. Commercial Bank of Qatar reported a net profit of USD 205.3 Mn for Q1-2023 as compared to 192.4 Mn for the same period in 2022, up by 6.7%. Net interest income for the bank increased by 7.5% to USD 271.12 Mn during Q1-2023 as compared with USD 252.11 Mn achieved in the same period in 2022. Meanwhile, quarterly net profit for Doha Bank declined by 48.1% to USD 57.0 Mn in Q1-2023 compared to USD 110.0 Mn in Q1-2022 despite a healthy growth in net interest income which reached USD 135.15 Mn, up by 2% as compared to Q4-2022.

In the Telecom sector, Ooredoo's consolidated net profits increased by 42.9% to USD 262.5 Mn in Q1-2023 compared to USD 183.8 Mn in Q1-2022. The telco's revenue grew 2% y-o-y to USD 1.54 Bn in Q1-2023 compared to USD 1.51 Bn in Q1-2022 driven by mobile data, fixed B2B, wholesale and handsets. Vodafone Qatar maintained its growth trajectory in Q1-2023, reporting a net profit of USD 36.5 Mn for Q1-2023, representing an increase of 23.9% y-o-y. Total revenue for the telco increased by 6.2% y-o-y to reach USD 213.2 Mn driven by continued growth in the company's postpaid revenue and fixed broadband services in addition to higher service revenue. EBITDA for the period increased by 6.4% to reach USD 87.9 Mn led by higher service revenue growth.

Net profits for the Insurance sector declined by 7.2% y-o-y to reach USD 102.2 Mn despite being supported by the profits reported by Qatar Insurance and Doha Insurance. Qatar Insurance registered a multifold increase in its net profit increase that reached USD 47.3 Mn for Q1-2023 vs USD 6.7 Mn for Q1-2022. Profits for Doha Insurance almost doubled to reach USD 17.9 Mn in Q1-2023 vs USD 9.2 Mn in Q1-2022. Meanwhile, Qatar General Insurance & Reinsurance Co. net profit declined by 20.9% to reach USD 12.3 Mn in Q1-2023 compared to USD 15.5 Mn in Q1-2022.

In the Utilities sector, the sole stock Qatar Electricity & Water reported a net profit of USD 109.5 Mn up by 2.9% from its Q1-2022 earnings which stood at USD 106.5 Mn mainly due to higher share of profit from the joint venture of Nebras. QEW reported a revenue of USD 180.7 Mn, an increase of 16% compared to USD 155.2 Mn during the same period in 2022. EBITDA grew by 11% to USD 115.54 Mn from USD 104.1 m during the Q1-2022.

In the Transportation sector, Qatar Navigation Co. posted a net profit of USD 99.3 Mn in Q1-2023 compared to USD 98.7 Mn in Q1-2022. The company reported an operating revenue of USD 210.41 Mn in Q1-2023 vs USD 250.8 Mn in Q1-2022. Meanwhile, Gulf Warehousing Co. reported a net profit of USD 16.8 Mn in Q1-2023 compared to USD 15.8 Mn in Q1-2022 up by 6.1%. The Quarterly net profit of Industries Qatar Co. in the Capital Goods sector almost halved to reach USD 318.6 in Q1-2023 against USD 740.5 in Q1-2022. The company's profit was affected by the product price declines due to slower trends observed across the Group's product basket lead by macroeconomic headwinds.

**Bahrain**

Total net profits for Bahrain-listed companies almost halved in Q1-2023 to reach USD 452.2 Mn from USD 898.9 Mn in Q1-2022. Four out of the five largest sectors by market cap have witnessed y-o-y quarterly decline in their aggregate net profits during the quarter namely Banks, Diversified Financials, Materials, and Telecoms sectors. Moreover, nine out of the thirteen sectors in the Bourse have reported declines in aggregate Q1-2023 net earnings.

The Banking sector saw its total Q1-2023 net profits decline by 44.4% y-o-y to USD 213.0 Mn as compared to USD 383.4 Mn in Q1-2022. The results for the Banking sector excluded net profits for AUB Bahrain post its merger with KFH. Five out of the eight banks in the sector which reported their financials during the quarter posted y-o-y growth in profits in Q1-2023. However, decline in profits for United Gulf Holding Co., Bahrain Islamic Bank and Albaraka Bank resulted in the decline in profits for the sector. Q1-2023 net profits for the Arab Banking Corporation jumped 93.6% to reach USD 60.0 Mn up from USD 31.0 Mn in Q1-2022. Whereas first quarter net profits for the National Bank of Bahrain and BBK witnessed double digit profits growth registering USD 59.4 Mn and USD 53.3 Mn respectively, during the period. In the Materials sector, Q1-2023 net profits for Aluminum Bahrain fell 67.7% y-o-y to reach USD 125.9 Mn as compared to USD 389.3 Mn in Q1-2022. The company attributed the fall in Q1-2023 profits to lower LME prices and lower premiums.

Telecom Sector's Q1-2023 earnings stayed the course witnessing a marginal dip of only 0.2% to reach USD 51.5 Mn. Q1-2023 net profits for Batelco (Beyon) reported a 0.6% growth to reach USD 47.7 Mn led by improved revenues and operating profits during the period. On the other hand, net earnings for Zain Bahrain declined by 8.9% to USD 3.8 Mn from USD 4.2 Mn in Q1-2022. Zain Bahrain's y-o-y profits decline was attributed to a drop in operating profits which witnessed a decrease of 11% from USD 4.6 Mn to USD 4.1 Mn during Q1-2023.

**Oman**

Total net profits for listed companies in Oman increased by 17.4% in Q1-2023 to reach USD 466.4 Mn compared to USD 397.2 Mn in Q1-2022 following higher profits for the Banking, Telecom, and the Diversified Financial sectors during the quarter. The Banking Sector witnessed Q1-2023 net profits growth of 19.4% to reach USD 290.9 Mn up from USD 243.6 Mn in Q1-2022. In the Banking Sector, seven out of the eight constituents reported growth in their net earnings while Ahli Bank reported a 26.2% decline in profits that reached USD 14.4 Mn during Q1-2023. HSBC Oman led the banks in terms of absolute growth in y-o-y profits that reached USD 31.7 Mn against USD 14.0 Mn. Comparatively, NBO reported the largest absolute profits among the banks in the sector at USD 37.3 Mn up from USD 26.6 Mn in Q1-2022. HSBC Oman's quarterly profits growth was primarily driven by a 42.8% growth in net operating income and lower operating expenses. NBO's strong performance was induced by increasing net interest income, and decreasing net impairment.

Total Q1-2023 net profits of the Telecoms Sector increased by 4.4% y-o-y to reach USD 62.3 Mn as compared to USD 59.6 Mn in Q1-2022. OmanTel posted a net profit of USD 55.1 Mn in Q1-2023 recording a 14.6% y-o-y growth from USD 48.0 Mn in Q1-2022. OmanTel's improved quarterly net profit was attributed to an increase in gross margins in the retail and wholesale segment, a decrease in finance costs and an increase in dividend income from Zain group. On the other hand, Q1-2023 net earnings for Ooredoo Oman fell 38.0% y-o-y to USD 7.2 Mn.

In the Food, Beverage & Tobacco aggregate Q1-2023 reached USD 6.8 Mn as compared to USD 0.2 Mn in Q1-2022. The profits jump was mainly due to the return to profitability of Salalah Mills and A'Saffa Food Company. Q1-2023 net profits of Salalah Mills reached USD 1.1 Mn bouncing back from a loss of USD 0.3 Mn whereas A'Saffa Food Company bounced back from a loss of USD 1.2 Mn in Q1-2022 to a net profit of USD 2.0 Mn in Q1-2023.

Oman's Utilities Sector was the only sector with total net losses during Q1-2023 after four out of the eight companies in the sector reported net losses during the period. Phoenix Power recorded the biggest net loss during the quarter at USD 11.5 Mn as compared to USD 11.1 Mn loss in the corresponding quarter of the previous year. ACWA Power Barka was the only one of the four power companies in the sector which recorded a profit during Q1-2023 with USD 0.61 Mn in net profits up from USD 0.4 Mn in Q1-2022.

Waves of a global recession notwithstanding

# Kuwait CEOs buoyant, resilient and confident



Some of the CEOs seen during the launch event.

KUWAIT CITY, June 12: KPMG Kuwait CEO Outlook 2022-23 finds that seven in ten CEOs are shunning the possibility of a globally anticipated recession in the country. The report highlights that CEOs are not only confident in terms of Kuwait's growth prospects but also feel more resilient with regard to the global economy, country, industry and company, compared to 2021.

Kuwait, June 2023: CEOs in Kuwait are looking past recent economic slow-downs and are winding up to catapult organizational growth in the three-year horizon (2022-2025). Keeping in mind the factors that led to and rose from such events, KPMG Kuwait launched its latest report KPMG Kuwait CEO Outlook 2022-23: Turning the tide.

The report draws on the perspectives of 1325 global CEOs, including 25 from Kuwait, to provide a detailed overview of their outlook on Kuwait's economic landscape and insight into their near- and long-term plans. This is the second edition of the KPMG Kuwait CEO Outlook, which was first published in 2021.

Speaking at the launch event, Dr. Rasheed Al-Qenae, Managing Partner, KPMG Kuwait, said, "The past years were turbulent to say the least. To stay afloat after back-to-back catastrophic events and the resulting uncertainty, businesses needed to be resilient to the challenges and confident in their approach. This year's report is more than numbers; it is about CEOs show of heart and strength of character to find opportunity in uncertainties, which is evident in the results."

The KPMG Kuwait CEO Outlook 2022-23 focuses on four primary themes: (i) economic outlook; (ii) technology; (iii) talent; and (iv) ESG (environment, social and governance). The report projects a stark distinction between some of the global trends and those in Kuwait. The findings indicate that more than 70% of the surveyed CEOs think a recession is unlikely to hit Kuwait in the near future. However, they are not undermining the fact that a potential event would in fact affect their earnings and slow down post-pandemic recovery.

In light of more such contrasting perspectives, KPMG Kuwait interviewed five CEOs from the country to understand how relevant some of the survey findings were to Kuwait. These CEOs were Mr. Raed Jawad Bukhameen, Vice Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, KIB, Eng. Maziad Alharbi, Chief Executive Officer, etc, Mr. Ali H. Khalil, Chief Executive Officer, Markaz, Mr. S.N. Ramachandran, Group Chief Financial Officer, Fouad Alghanim Group, and Mr. Ma-

zen Hawwa, Vice Chairman and Group Chief Executive Officer, United Real Estate Co.

According to the report, 100% of the CEOs are confident in terms of Kuwait's growth prospects. Echoing this finding, Mr. Mazen Hawwa said, "Looking ahead, I am optimistic about the Kuwaiti market as it actively seeks to create new business sectors within the economy."

The survey results highlight that CEOs are putting more capital toward acquiring new technology to stay competent. In his interview, Eng. Maziad Alharbi justified the trend and said, "A new era of transformation has begun where corporates and governments are more focused than ever on adopting sophisticated technologies and new business strategies that will maintain their competitive positions."

Mr. Ali H. Khalil addressed the elephant in the room, i.e. the rise of emerging technologies as the biggest risk to growth, and said, "As new disruptive technologies become more frequent, the challenge is constantly reviewing and realigning the strategy with such technologies to capture new and relevant trends." The report points out that despite economic uncertainties, CEOs are still hopeful for M&A driven growth. Talking about the role of M&A in the future, Mr. S.N. Ramachandran said, "I expect 2023 will be an exciting time for M&A, with transformation and transactions at the forefront of value creation strategies."

The CEOs also underlined that when it comes ESG, the biggest downside of failing to meet stakeholder expectations is higher cost of and/or difficulty in raising finance. Although sustainability is yet to pick up speed in Kuwait, the onus is on major industries to drive the change.

In the report, Mr. Raed Jawad Bukhameen spoke about the future of sustainable finance in Kuwait and said, "As sustainability takes on increasing global significance, Kuwait aims to position itself as a financial and trade hub by incorporating sustainable finance principles into its banking industry."

KPMG Kuwait CEO Outlook 2022-23: Turning the tide was initially scheduled for a 2022 launch but was pushed to Q2'FY22 to gain an overarching understanding of Kuwait's economic landscape from the CEOs' view.

Concluding the event, Dr. Rasheed said, "I am sincerely thankful to the dignitaries for taking the time to participate in our publication and everyone else who helped put this report together."

The launch was conducted in the format of a media roundtable at the Four Seasons Hotel, Kuwait, in the presence of members from the press.

## Boursa holds workshop for investor relations' strategic communications

Focus on challenges and opportunities for listed companies

KUWAIT CITY, June 12: As part of its constant efforts to develop the rapidly evolving investor relations (IR) field, Boursa Kuwait collaborated with the Middle East Investor Relations Association (MEIRA) and its Kuwait Chapter to organize an interactive Investor Relations (IR) workshop entitled "Strategic Communications: Challenges and Opportunities for Listed Companies" on Wednesday, June 7, 2023. The event, which was held at AlKharafi Auditorium in the Boursa Kuwait building, aimed to increase transparency – considered the backbone of the IR industry – in communications with current and prospective investors, locally and around the world.

The workshop considered key trends and put these into the context of the local market by inviting the participation of expert guest speakers from Kuwait, the region and the UK, and was made up of a discussion featuring keynote speakers and a workshop providing practical takeaways for IR professionals. The event also gave IR experts and practitioners the opportunity to network and discuss the latest developments and trends in the field.

### Keynote Speakers

The plenary discussion was moderated by Mr. Mohammad A. Abdal, Chief Communications Officer, Zain and MEIRA Kuwait Chapter Head and featured Mr. Andy Parnis, Managing Director, Teneo and Mr. Mohammad Al Abdulkader, Senior Vice President at MENA Equities, Markaz.

During the workshop, Mr. Al Abdulkader shared an overview of the performance and structure of the equity market. He elaborated on the importance of the interaction between investors and companies, and the vital role that the investor relations departments play at listed companies.

The IR workshop was moderated by Mr. John Gollifer, General Manager of the Middle East Investor Relations Association (MEIRA) and included speakers like the aforementioned Mr. Parnis, and Mr. Paolo Casamassima, Head of Global Market Intelligence at Orient Capital, a firm specializing in international capital markets intelligence, who discussed the role of strategic communications as an imperative for managing stakeholder relations in any market conditions. They also considered the local and regional market context before drilling down to the role of IR in addressing the investment community. The supporting IR workshop resulted in practical takeaways for the IR audience.

Speaking at the workshop, Mr. Andy Parnis said, "This was an important discussion at a time of continued market uncertainty and volatility. It is always a pleasure to support market initiatives and it is something that Teneo does throughout the region in partnership with other market experts, including MEIRA. I would like to thank Boursa Kuwait for hosting this event, and look forward to more collaborative market initiatives."



Workshop participants pose for a group photo.

## Kuwait Airways chairs steering board for training and development at AACO

KUWAIT CITY, June 12: Kuwait Airways announced that the Director of Training Department, Captain Ali Al-Marri will head the Training and Development Steering Board of the Arab Air Carriers Organization (AACO) during the meeting organized on 22 May 2023 at Hurghada, in the Arab Republic of Egypt (representing Kuwait Airways).

The Director of Corporate Communication, Public Relations, and Marketing, Mr. Khalid Al-Bustan announced, "Kuwait Airways is pleased to announce that Captain Ali Al-Marri has been selected as Chairman of the Steering Board for Training and Development of the Arab Air Carriers Organization (AACO), (representing Kuwait Airways). Captain Ali Al-Marri is recognized for his professional competence, having extensive experience in training and the air transport sector in general. He plays a major role as the representative of Kuwait Airways to develop and improve the security and safety mechanisms for passengers, the aircraft, and employees in this field."

Al-Bustan added that Kuwait Airways

has secured this position due to the recognition, awards, and certificates that the company has achieved in the aspect of training. The national carrier places immense importance and attention towards maintaining safety and security in general, as well as training and developing employees with the latest technology present in the air transport sector. The safety of the aircraft and passengers is among its foremost priorities and one of the main objectives of the company.

Al-Bustan expressed confidence



Captain Ali Al Marri

Mr. John Gollifer added, "MEIRA only thrives with the support of our active membership and expert partners. It is always thrilling to work with Boursa Kuwait, who continue to set a fine example by leading through example every day in IR across their market."

### Collaboration with Boursa Kuwait

The collaboration between Boursa Kuwait and MEIRA is part of Boursa Kuwait's Corporate Sustainability strategy and is an example of its endeavors to raise financial literacy and capital market awareness among current and prospective investors. The company has launched several initiatives to empower and equip businesses and investors with the ability to capture market opportunities as well as transform the Kuwaiti capital market into a robust capital market ecosystem and Kuwait into an attractive investment destination.

The initiative also forms part of the company's efforts to create a lasting meaningful impact on the communities where it operates and is in line with Goal 4 – Quality Education – and Goal 17 – Partnership for the Goals – of the UN's Sustainable

Development Goals (SDGs).

Mr. Fahad Al-Bisher, Director of Investor Relations at Boursa Kuwait commented on the changing landscape of investor relations in the region, saying, "Over the past 10 years, the Middle East has seen significant movements in capital markets, accompanied by changes in the structure of stakeholder engagements. One of the most important changes is in Investor Relations. It is becoming increasingly crucial to have a clear well planned and effective investor relations program – one that can help deliver and communicate the value of the company and build a strong shareholder base. I would like to thank the Middle East Investor Relations Association for their long-standing partnership with the exchange and look forward to more collaborations in the future."

Boursa Kuwait's Corporate Sustainability strategy stipulates ensuring initiatives apply and fall in line with the company's corporate social responsibility (CSR), industry best practice standards and investor expectations, creating strong and sustainable partnerships that ultimately achieve success and allow Boursa

that Captain Ali Al-Marri would achieve the desired objectives in the interest and benefit of the air transport sector in the region.

On his part, the Director of Training Department, Captain Ali Al-Marri expressed happiness on attaining this position and stated, "I truly value the confidence bestowed by those in charge of the Arab Air Carriers Organization (AACO), through this selection held at its meeting at Hurghada and our representation of Kuwait Airways through this position. I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation for the support by the company's Board of Directors in representing the Blue Bird and towards developing the training sector in general with regard to air transport. Kuwait Airways is keen to organize intensive training courses for the employees of the company to develop their capabilities and expertise. The company is also committed to maintaining and applying the highest standards and regulations set by international safety organizations and their development at all levels in the commercial aviation sector."

Kuwait to leverage the capabilities and strengths of other companies or organizations that have experience in different fields, and integrating sustainability efforts with the company culture, in order to achieve longevity and an ongoing impact that is carried on and instilled in the day-to-day operations of the stock exchange.

Boursa Kuwait has launched many initiatives in partnership with local and international organizations, focusing on support for nongovernmental organizations and charity programs, financial literacy and capital market awareness, the empowerment of women, and environmental protection.

Since its inception, Boursa Kuwait has implemented many steps in accordance with international practices and standards to enhance the position of the exchange locally, regionally and internationally as well as transform Kuwait into a regional and global investment destination, focusing on creating an attractive issuer base and broadening its investor base, increasing the depth and breadth of its products, as well as upgrading its infrastructure and business environment to international standards.

### 'The Impact of AI on Banking'

## ABK a gold sponsor of KIBS' panel discussion

KUWAIT CITY, June 12: Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) recently announced its gold sponsorship of Kuwait Institute of Banking Studies' (KIBS) panel discussion on 12 June 2023, titled 'The Impact of Artificial Intelligence on Banking.' The event featured a lecture by renowned global speaker Ikhlaz Sidhu, the Dean of the School of Science and Technology at IE University in Spain.

ABK's sponsorship of the event is part of its ongoing commitment to keeping abreast of the latest technological developments in the banking sector. Furthermore, it aligns with the Bank's goals of enhancing its digital capabilities and promoting its competitive position in Kuwait's banking industry.

The event drew the attendance of bank and company executives, as well as other technology enthusiasts keen on gaining insights into the impact of artificial intelligence and techniques on banking operations. The panel discussion covered several essential topics, including an overview of artificial intelligence and its potential effect on the banking industry, its historical context, and a quick review of key technologies and advancements in the field.

The event also explored automating banking operations using artificial intelligence technologies and provided case studies to examine the advantages, challenges, and opportunities for its application in banks. Moreover, it discussed the critical role that artificial intelligence plays in detecting fraud, managing financial risks, and promoting compliance with regulatory guidelines.

On this occasion, Loai Muqames, CEO-Kuwait at ABK, stressed the Bank's continued commitment to keeping up with global banking trends and operations. He also noted the Bank's constant collaboration with the banking studies institute in diverse seminars and discussions touching on multiple relevant themes across the banking industry.

Muqames stated, "The importance of the panel discussion lies in the topic of artificial intelligence, which is the most commonly discussed topic in the current period, especially considering its contribution to enhancing and developing the operations of various sectors around the world, including various banking operations."

He continued, "We at ABK aim to keep pace with technological advancements, within the scope of our ongoing transformation plan. Our aim is to digitize our operations and provide the latest and safest services and products in the banking sector. We are working to benefit from vari-



Loai Muqames, CEO-Kuwait at ABK.

ous technologies that have a positive impact and contribute to our continued success in serving all categories of customers."

The CEO stressed the importance of innovating products and services and learning about the latest studies on the role of artificial intelligence in banking operations, noting that it contributes to enhancing productivity, facilitating customer service, and answering inquiries 24/7.

Muqames further added, "ABK is keen to participate in multiple seminars and events, in collaboration with specialized entities and institutions in various sectors, to inform its employees about the latest global developments and their significant impact on banking operations. This will contribute to enhancing their productivity and innovating services and products that enhance customer satisfaction when conducting their banking transactions using various cards."

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

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

**KIB concludes bronze sponsorship of Sukuk ME 2023**

Kuwait International Bank (KIB) concluded its bronze sponsorship of this year's edition of the Bonds, Loans and Sukuk Middle East 2023 conference, the largest corporate and investment banking event in the Middle East, which was held on the 6th and 7th of June at Madinat Jumeirah Conference Centre, Dubai.

The sponsorship of the conference has reaffirmed the Bank's commitment to its leading role among progressive banking institutions to actively develop the financial sector in the local and regional markets. On this occasion, Hesham Al-Mubarak, General Manager of Wholesale Banking, Acting General Manager of the International Banking and Large Corporate Department, said: "This participation marked a unique

opportunity to highlight KIB's ongoing and active role in discussing developments regarding the global banking industry, in general, and the syndicated financing and sukuk markets, in particular. The conference also served as a unique platform that gathered financial and banking industry leaders to focus on ESG and sustainable finance solutions for the Mid-

dle East's markets." As part of its participation, KIB showcased its strategic plans that aim to diversify its financing portfolio and broaden its scope of Sharia-compliant activities. The Bank also dedicated its booth at the conference to informing visitors about its various innovative products and solutions that serve all customer segments.



Kuwait International Bank officials.

**Promote environmental preservation and agriculture**

**Warba partners with 'Plant It For Free' Moringa tree initiative**

KUWAIT CITY, June 12: Warba Bank has announced the signing of a collaboration agreement with the "Plant It For Free" initiative for the Moringa tree, which will be in effect until December 31 of the following year. This agreement is part of Warba Bank's social responsibility strategy and reflects its commitment to spreading awareness about the importance of environmental preservation and agriculture.

Ayman Salem Al-Mutairi, Director of Marketing and Corporate Communications at Warba Bank, emphasized that this agreement embodies the spirit of the initiative and the bank's dedication to supporting community engagement and encouraging volunteer work. Warba Bank stands out among banks for its commitment to excellence and leadership in the technical field and for sponsoring impactful projects and initiatives led by youth.

He continued, saying, "There was a desire to collaborate with Al-Ghanim Moringa Farm, as it is the first organic farm specializing in Moringa tree cultivation in Kuwait since 2013. The farm also manufactures health products and provides free distribution of Moringa seedlings as part of its 'Plant



A photo from the event.

it for Free' campaign. This aligned and resonated with the values and strategic objectives of Warba Bank, which supports community service. Therefore, both parties expressed their willingness to organize external

and internal events and activities for employees."

Al-Mutairi emphasized that the strategic agreements and partnerships established by Warba Bank are a testament to its crucial role in serving the entire community and its deep commitment to environmental issues. The bank recognizes the importance of collaborating with relevant official entities to preserve the environment. In the past, Warba Bank has actively supported and participated in a wide range of environmental activities in collaboration with various organizations. These efforts aim to encourage community members to actively engage in greening initiatives and protect the environment from pollution.

He highlighted that "Warba" is widely regarded as one of the foremost and innovative institutions in fostering partnerships, initiatives, and high-quality professional programs that benefit all segments of society and contribute to sustainable development. Moreover, "Warba" aspires to serve as an exemplary model by enhancing its contributions to the environment and adopting environmentally friendly operational methods and practices. These efforts

are aimed at achieving a sustainable developmental impact and ensuring a greener future.

**Concept**

Al-Mutairi affirmed "Warba's" support for project owners and youth initiatives, reflecting its pioneering role in supporting entrepreneurship and encouraging Kuwaiti youth, as well as promoting the concept of entrepreneurship and youth initiatives.

In response, Fatima Yousuf Al-Ghaith, the General Manager of Al-Ghanim Moringa Farm, expressed her sincere appreciation for the active role played by "Warba" Bank through the signing of this agreement. She commended the bank's initiative to provide comprehensive support, utilizing its capabilities as a reputable private institution.

Al-Ghaith provided further details regarding the agreement, stating that educational lectures on the Moringa tree, its benefits, and practical applications will be delivered to "Warba" Bank's customers. Additionally, campaigns will be conducted to distribute Moringa seedlings to both the bank's customers and employees.

Furthermore, "Warba" Bank, in collaboration with Al-Ghanim Moringa Farm, will organize various activities in commercial complexes, where the seedlings will be distributed free of charge to the general public. This initiative aims to raise awareness about the Moringa tree and encourage individuals to benefit from its potential advantages.

Al-Ghaith highlighted that Warba Bank holds a prominent position among leading institutions in the realm of digital and technological services and products. The bank's recent progress and advancements have garnered significant attention from institutions across the public and private sectors.

Notably, Warba Bank has achieved significant success in a short period, establishing a leading position in the field of Islamic digital banking services for individuals. It is also one of the largest local banks in terms of the number of shareholders, which allows the bank to have close proximity to all members of society. Additionally, Warba Bank is ranked among the top 50 banks in the Middle East in terms of market value for the year 2023, according to Forbes Middle East.



Photos from the event.

**Kuwait and Pakistan sign Defence Cooperation Agreement**

Kuwait and Pakistan signed Defence Cooperation Agreement between the two countries on June 11, 2023 in Kuwait Ministry of Defence. Ambassador Malik Muhammad Farooq signed the agreement on behalf of Pakistan, while Brigadier General Fawaz Khudair Muhammad Al-Harbi, the Joint Planning Director, Ministry of Defence signed from Kuwait side. Representatives from the Kuwait Ministry of Defence and the visiting Pa-

kistani military delegation led by Major General Waseem Iftikhar Cheema and Brigadier Muhammad Asim, Pakistan Defence Attache were present. Brigadier General Fahad Al-Otaibi from Ministry of Defence, Kuwait and senior officials from Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Kuwait also attended the signing ceremony. Both the dignitaries welcomed the signing of the agreement and expressed the hope that the agreement will help expand the

defence cooperation between the two countries.

Ambassador Malik Muhammad Farooq thanked the Kuwaiti authorities for the excellent arrangements for the visiting Pakistani delegation. Major General Waseem Iftikhar Cheema and Brigadier General Fawaz Khudair Muhammad Al-Harbi exhibited resolve to strengthen the bilateral cooperation through strong defence ties.



Australian University (AU) football team.

**Outstanding performance**

**AU's football team crowned UAAK Futsal Tournament champions for second time**

KUWAIT CITY, June 12: For the second year in a row, the Australian University (AU) futsal team has won the University Athletic Association of Kuwait (UAAK) Futsal Tournament. The Tournament brought together 10 teams from various universities in Kuwait to compete against each other. Over the course of the tournament the AU team participated in a total of 12 games.

During the tournament, AU team won seven of the nine regular tournament games, following their outstanding performance, the AU team beat the KCST team 8-0 in the quarterfinal game and then beat the AUK team 3-3 with 5-4 penalty shots in the semifinal game, after which they qualified for the final match. The final match was held between AU and AUM at the AUM Sports Hall Center. The game went into overtime with a score of 1-1, and then AU team managed to score two goals during the second extra time period for a final score of 3-1 to become the back-to-back champions of the UAAK Futsal Tournament.

Saleh Al Kanderi as the Man of the Match for scoring two critical goals in the final match, and they also chose student Abdulwahab Hassan as the Player of the Season for scoring 9 goals and 10 assists during the tournament.

Commenting on the achievement, Mr. Hussain Al Haddad, Manager of Student Affairs at AU, said: "We would like to start by congratulating the Champions of the UAAK 2023 Tournament.

**KFH signs strategic partnership with the Scientific Center**

KUWAIT CITY, June 12: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) has announced the signing of strategic partnership with the Scientific Center, one of the centers of the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS), with the aim of collaborating in the field of environmental preservation and sustainability.

KFH's interest in such partnerships and initiatives comes within the framework of its strategy, social responsibility, and leadership in the field of sustainability, as well as the Keep it Green initiative, which is an

umbrella for the implementation of many environmental and sustainable initiatives and projects.

This partnership will feature many initiatives, events, and activities that



will preserve the environment by various means, starting this month, on the occasion of World Environment Day, which is recognized this year under the title "Let's Overcome Plastic Pollution".

Signing the strategic partnership with the Scientific Center, KFH Manager PR and Events Management, Fahad AlSaad, said that KFH is keen to support partnerships and initiatives that enhance sustainability standards in alignment with KFH's sustainability strategy.

AlSaad added that KFH remains

committed to backing environmental preservation and sustainable initiatives as part of the Keep it Green initiative.

This initiative encompasses multiple events, activities, and programs dedicated to fostering sustainability and a healthy environment across various fields throughout the year.

As part of the partnership, there is a commitment to support the initiatives of the Scientific Center, which has planned an array of courses, workshops, and events throughout June. Over twenty events are sched-

uled for this year, including the release of rehabilitated sea turtles into the Arabian Gulf, an underwater cleaning campaign, and the restoration of coral reefs that were initially cultured in the Scientific Center to their natural habitat, in cooperation with the Environment Public Authority and KFH public relations team. In addition to a series of workshops on ways to protect the environment and legalize the use of plastic, along with a sequence of workshops that focus on protecting the environment and minimizing plastic usage.

**Over 160 donate blood in Al Ahmadi campaign**

**Burgan Bank ends sponsorship of 'Every Drop ... Saves a Life' drive**

KUWAIT CITY, June 12: Burgan Bank announced that it has concluded its sponsorship of and participation in Al Ahmadi Governorate's fourth Blood Donation Campaign, titled "Every Drop ... Saves a Life", which took place at Al-Kout Mall. The campaign, organized under the auspice of His Excellency Sheikh Fawaz Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Al Ahmadi Governor, comes as part of the Bank's social responsibility program and its joint efforts with Kuwait's national arms to elevate the community's shared welfare.

The campaign successfully received a total of 161 blood donations, including rare blood types, which ensures the Blood Bank is able to continue supplying patients in need with proper, uncompromised medical care. Besides the amassed blood donations, the campaign was also successful in raising awareness of the importance of blood donation for saving lives.



Representatives of Burgan Bank and Al Ahmadi Governorate.

The Bank's support of this campaign is a further testament to our active role in giving back to the community and our commitment to enhancing Kuwait's public health system to ensure an adequate and sustainable supply of blood and its products. By organizing this annual campaign, we emphasize the need to instill the culture of blood donation among members of society in various

factions and raise awareness about its importance throughout the year. On behalf of Burgan Bank, I would like to thank all the donors who performed a humanitarian and patriotic duty toward all patients and those in need of blood. I also commend Al Ahmadi Governorate for its efforts to ensure the absolute success of the humanitarian awareness campaign."

**Aegis wins grant to develop DNA-encoded antibodies**

Aegis Life, Inc. (Aegis) and its parent company Entos Pharmaceuticals (Entos), a clinical-stage biotechnology company developing genetic medicines with its Fusogenix PLV delivery platform, has announced entering into a grant agreement with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. As part of the agreement, the Foundation will provide funding support to develop the Fusogenix PLV platform for the delivery

of DNA-encoded monoclonal antibodies for the treatment of infectious diseases such as HIV, influenza, and malaria. Aegis is licensed to use Entos' technology to develop therapeutics and vaccines for infectious diseases. Recently used as an effective treatment against COVID-19, monoclonal antibody therapies are lab-made proteins that can identify and attack infectious agents similar to how the body's natural im-

mune response reacts. Although they are safe and effective, monoclonal antibodies are expensive to produce and administer, making these life-saving drugs inaccessible to many people in low-and middle-income countries. By utilizing the Fusogenix PLV platform to deliver DNA encoding the therapeutic antibody directly inside the patient's cells, the antibodies are made in the patient's body instead of the lab.

**Translumina acquires Lamed GmbH**

Translumina, a global leader in interventional cardiovascular medical devices with manufacturing presence in Germany and India, today announced the acquisition of Munich-based Lamed GmbH. With this acquisition, Translumina has taken a step further towards its stated goal of providing a comprehensive cardiovascular portfolio at scale across key markets globally.

Established in 1989, Lamed is a leading market access platform of vascular and cardiovascular products. It covers 1,000+ hospitals through its GPO network in Germany, which is the largest interventional cardiology market in Europe; the company exclusively distributes a portfolio of differentiated products for a marquee international supplier base. Lamed's seasoned senior management team brings 30+

years of experience and deeply entrenched ecosystem relationships. Translumina intends to leverage the platform to introduce a basket of owned and partnered products in the German market. Lazaros Ayvatoglou, the founder of Lamed, is convinced to have chosen the right partner in Translumina for further development of its well-established platform.

**The Conversation**

**'From magic mushrooms to big pharma'**

**College course explores nature's medicine cabinet and healing**

By Heather McIlvaine-Newsad  
Western Illinois University

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

Uncommon Courses is an occasional series from The Conversation US highlighting unconventional approaches to teaching.

Title of course: "From Magic Mushrooms to Big Pharma"  
What prompted the idea for the course?

I'm from the foothills of the Appalachians in southern Ohio, where my Grandma Mildred would go out into the woods, which she called her medicine cabinet, to find herbs to use as medicine. I grew up to be an anthropologist, interested in how people around the world heal themselves. In the 1990s, I did my dissertation research in Ecuador and learned how Indigenous people in the Choco region used ayahuasca and other medicines from the forest to assist in the grieving process.

With the legalization of cannabis in many states and increased research on how "nontraditional" drugs can assist people with post-traumatic stress disorder, depression and addiction issues, it seemed like an opportune time to create this course. It's part of a new interdisciplinary minor at Western Illinois University called "Cannabis & Culture" that offers students a foundation for understanding the social and cultural context, history and politics of nature-based medicine use in the United States and around the globe.

**What does the course explore?**  
The course looks at how different peoples and cultures use nature-based medicines to heal themselves. First we establish that there are many ways of knowing the world around us, just as there are many ways to heal ourselves. Some of us rely on Western medicine, others pray, yet others turn to Indigenous or traditional ways of healing that are rooted in nature.

We talk about the ways Western medicine now seeks to validate substances that have been used for healing for centuries, like research into how ginger and turmeric can alleviate inflammation, or the ways cannabis can reduce or even eliminate some epileptic seizures.

We also examine how the pharmaceutical industry has exploited Indigenous peoples' ethnobotanical knowledge and landscapes for monetary gain.

Using the Amazonian giant leaf frog, or kambô (Phyllomedusa bi-

color), as a case study, students learn that at least 15 Indigenous groups have long histories of using the frog's secretion for its analgesic, antibiotic and wound-healing properties. Eleven patents related to P. bicolor have been granted - all of them in rich countries. Indigenous people have not been compensated for their knowledge.

**Why is this course relevant now?**

The current generation of young people are open about mental health issues, and many people are looking for new ways to deal with anxiety, grief, PTSD and depression. My students can discuss their health concerns and learn about alternatives to what they may be accustomed to.

At this politically and racially polarized moment in the US, the course also provides the opportunity to discuss how racism, misogyny and discrimination against people of color have influenced scientific research.

**What's a critical lesson from the course?**

Over the course of the semester, students begin to recognize that there is no one right way of healing. More importantly, there is no one right way of being human. It is my hope that students leave seeing that everything is connected, integrally linked to humanity's relationship to nature.

**What materials does the course feature?**

- Scientific materials provided by the Multidisciplinary Association for Psychedelic Studies, a nonprofit that provides some of the only scientific research on psychedelics in the US and promotes awareness of these drugs

- "How to Change your Mind," by Michael Pollan and the accompanying Netflix series

- Work of ethnobotanist Mark Plotkin, including his Ted Talk "What the people of the Amazon know that you don't"

**What will the course prepare students to do?**

Studying how different cultures approach problems that plague all humans, like being sick and healing our ill, demonstrates to students that there are many ways the world over to solve problems. This course views different approaches not as a problem to be overcome but as a resource that can yield new ways of thinking and new opportunities - a definite advantage in the professional world. I hope students also learn to become advocates for their own health and well-being. (AP)

**'EndeavorOTCTM easily accessible treatment'**

**Akili releases new video game treatment to improve attention in adults with ADHD**

BOSTON, June 12: Akili, Inc. (Nasdaq: AKLI), a leading digital medicine company, has released EndeavorOTCTM, a new immersive mobile video game treatment that is clinically proven to improve attention and focus, specifically in adults with ADHD. EndeavorOTC is built on the same technology as Akili's EndeavorRx, the world's first and only FDA-authorized video game treatment now being prescribed for children 8-12 years old with ADHD. EndeavorOTC is now available without a prescription for adults 18 years and older nationwide.

This announcement comes on the heels of recently announced clinical trial data showing that EndeavorOTC (AKL-T01) significantly improved focus, attention, and overall quality of life in adults struggling with ADHD symptoms:

- 83% of participants reported clinical improvements in their focus
- On average, participants' ability to focus improved by 85%

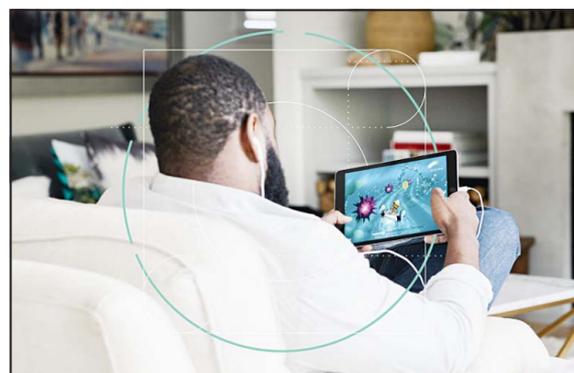
- Over one-third of participants no longer exhibited an attention deficit following treatment

- 73% of participants reported quality of life improvements, including completing tasks on time, managing multiple tasks at once, and keeping track of important items like wallets or keys

Amid a persistent mental health crisis, an increasing number of adults are seeking help for ADHD symptoms including inattention and lack of focus while facing an ongoing nationwide shortage of ADHD medication. As the gap between demand for care and availability of effective treatments widens, Akili released EndeavorOTC under FDA's enforcement policy established shortly after the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic to facilitate rapid access to certain low-risk, mental health-related digital health devices.

**Overlooked**

"Compared with children, adults with ADHD are generally overlooked and under-treated. Current treatments are not sufficient, and adults need more effective options, including non-pharmacological solutions. Untreated ADHD can affect an adult in many adverse ways, from their personal to their professional lives, causing undue stress and other significant mental health challenges," said Dr. Stephen Faraone, Distinguished Professor and Vice Chair for Research, Department of Psychiatry, SUNY Upstate Medical University and President of the World Federation for ADHD.



Adult playing EndeavorOTC to improve attention and focus.

"New, easily accessible treatments are needed to effectively support adults with ADHD," said Duane Gordon, President, Attention Deficit Disorder Association (ADDA). "I'm delighted to see new technology used to develop a unique approach to treatment, and a video game treatment is a fun and engaging way to empower adults with ADHD."

The release of EndeavorOTC provides immediate access to this clinically-proven non-drug option for those seeking new safe and effective solutions to their treatment needs. The first generation of EndeavorOTC is available now in the Apple App Store® for adults 18 and older with ADHD. Akili will actively involve adults using EndeavorOTC in the ongoing development of the product, gathering feedback that will help shape future generations of the game. By working closely with the community and embracing their perspective, Akili will continue to enhance EndeavorOTC to make the experience even more engaging, enjoyable and impactful.

"Without reliable access to ADHD medication or sufficient mental health-care professionals to meet demand, millions of Americans are in urgent need of new validated and accessible treatment options. Patients want better, and they want non-drug treatment options," said Eddie Martucci, chief executive officer of Akili. "The core technology inside EndeavorOTC has helped thousands of children with ADHD, and recently has shown it dramatically helped adults in our clinical trial improve their focus, time management and organizational skills, and their ability to keep track of important items. We're thrilled to make

EndeavorOTC available to adults who can benefit."

Akili's Endeavor suite of products, EndeavorOTC and EndeavorRx, combine the best of medicine and mobile gaming and were developed through the collaboration of world-renowned cognitive neuroscientists and acclaimed entertainment and technology designers.

**Treatments**

The digital treatments run on Akili's patented Selective Stimulus Management Engine (SSME™) core technology. SSME has been validated in more than a dozen clinical trials across a variety of diseases that impact cognition, including ADHD, depression, multiple sclerosis, and autism spectrum disorder. By completing tasks while simultaneously filtering out distractions, the treatments target areas of the brain responsible for cognitive functions including focus, which helps improve attention and day-to-day functioning. Algorithms adapt to each user in real time, delivering a personalized experience and challenging the user at an optimized level to improve the targeted cognitive function.

Akili's suite of cognitive treatment products for ADHD includes EndeavorOTC and EndeavorRx.

EndeavorOTC is a digital therapeutic indicated to improve attention function, ADHD symptoms and quality of life in adults 18 years of age and older with primarily inattentive or combined-type ADHD. EndeavorOTC utilizes the same proprietary technology underlying EndeavorRx, a prescription digital therapeutic indicated to improve attention function in children ages 8-12.

EndeavorOTC is available under the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's current Enforcement Policy for Digital Health Devices for Treating Psychiatric Disorders During the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Public Health Emergency. EndeavorOTC has not been cleared or authorized by the US Food and Drug Administration for its indications. It is recommended that patients speak to their health care provider before starting EndeavorOTC treatment. No serious adverse events have been reported in any of our clinical studies.

EndeavorRx is indicated to improve attention function as measured by computer-based testing in children ages 8 to 12 years old with primarily inattentive or combined-type ADHD, who have a demonstrated attention issue. Patients who engage with EndeavorRx demonstrate improvements in a digitally assessed measure Test of Variables of Attention (TOVA®) of sustained and selective attention and may not display benefits in typical behavioral symptoms, such as hyperactivity. EndeavorRx should be considered for use as part of a therapeutic program that may include clinician-directed therapy, medication and/or educational programs, which further address symptoms of the disorder. EndeavorRx is available by prescription only. It is not intended to be used as a stand-alone therapeutic and is not a substitution for a child's medication. The most common side effect observed in children in EndeavorRx's clinical trials was a feeling of frustration, as the game can be quite challenging at times. No serious adverse events were associated with its use. EndeavorRx is recommended to be used for approximately 25 minutes a day, 5 days a week, over initially at least 4 consecutive weeks, or as recommended by your child's health care provider.

Akili is pioneering the development of cognitive treatments through game-changing technologies. Akili's approach of leveraging technologies designed to directly target the brain establishes a new category of medicine - medicine that is validated through clinical trials like a drug or medical device, but experienced like entertainment. Akili's platform is powered by proprietary therapeutic engines designed to target cognitive impairment at its source in the brain, informed by decades of research and validated through rigorous clinical programs. Driven by Akili's belief that effective medicine can also be fun and engaging, Akili's products are delivered through captivating action video game experiences.

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# Seoul landmarks to be lit up in purple to celebrate BTS's 10 years

SEOUL, South Korea, June 12. (AP) Skyscrapers, bridges and other landmarks in South Korea's capital will be lit up in purple on Monday as the country begins celebrating the 10th anniversary of K-pop band BTS, whose global popularity is a source of national pride.

The lights will provide the backdrop for various social media-driven events marking the 2013 debut of the seven-member group, which is now taking a hiatus as its singers begin to serve their mandatory military duties.

From Monday evening, numerous Seoul structures, including City Hall, the 123-story Lotte World Tower, several Han River bridges, and the futuristic DDP - a Zaha Hadid-designed aluminum and concrete dome that's often used for visual art - will be bathed in purple, a color associated with BTS, according to city officials and the group's management company, Hybe.

Messages congratulating BTS were displayed on digital screens in buildings across Seoul, while postal authorities issued stamps marking the group's anniversary, which will be available at post offices starting Tuesday.

Seoul officials hope that the celebrations, which will continue for around two weeks, will boost tourism. The city has designated more than a dozen sites associated with BTS, including places where the group held major performances or shot some of their famous videos.

Fireworks are planned at a park near the Han River on Saturday night, hours after one of the BTS singers, RM, holds a live talk with fans that will be broadcast online.

Quickly garnering huge followings in Asia following their debut, BTS'

popularity expanded across the globe with their 2020 megahit "Dynamite," the band's first all-English song that made it the first K-pop act to top Billboard's Hot 100. BTS has since performed in sold-out arenas around the world and was invited to speak at United Nations meetings, supported by a legion of global followers who call themselves the "Army."

BTS' activities as a full group are currently on hold as the artists begin to serve in the military. Two BTS singers - Jin and J-Hope - have already started their compulsory 18-month service and other members are to follow in coming months, which likely means the group will reconvene around 2025.

In South Korea, all able-bodied men are required to serve in uniform 18-21 months under a system meant to deter aggression from rival North Korea.



The Ukrainian Freedom Orchestra will tour for the second straight summer, appearing in eight cities in Europe and Britain in support of the nation's war effort against Russia.

**Keri-Lynn Wilson**, the Canadian-Ukrainian wife of Metropolitan Opera general manager **Peter Gelb**, will conduct the tour, which runs from Aug. 20 to Sept. 3 and is being produced by the Met and the Teatr Wielki-Polish National Opera. The Aug. 24 concert at Berlin's Schönhofen Palace coincides with Ukrainian Independence Day and will be a free outdoor performance.

"Putin and the Russian propaganda machine have kind of weap-

onized culture and it's very important for Ukraine to mount its own cultural defense," Gelb said Friday, referring to the Russian president. "Ukrainian people need to be bolstered. They've been battered and their morale needs to be lifted."

Musicians include members of the Kyiv National Opera, National Symphony Orchestra of Ukraine, Lviv Philharmonic Orchestra and Kharkiv Opera. Wilson said all but a dozen of the 74 musicians are holdovers from last summer.

"One of the members is pregnant; she can't join the tour. Others have taken on different jobs that conflict," Wilson said, the orchestra's music director and founder. "Some that we approached last year that were unavailable because they were drafted for the war, we wanted to bring them in this year."

The core of the orchestra lives in Ukraine. Four or five musicians have found positions with orchestras elsewhere in Europe. The principal second violin lost a brother in the war, Wilson said.

The tour opens Aug. 20 in Warsaw and includes stops in Gdansk, Poland (Aug. 22), Lucerne, Switzerland (Aug. 27), Amsterdam (Aug. 28), Hamburg, Germany (Aug. 30), Snape, England (Sept. 2) and London (Sept. 3). It is slightly shorter than last year's tour, which began in Europe and ended in New York and Washington, D.C.

The Warsaw concert features Beethoven's Ninth Symphony. Other programs include Verdi's overture to "La Forza del Destino," **Yevhen Stankovych's** Violin Concerto No 2 with soloist **Valeriy Sokolov**, **Myroslav Skoryk's** "Melody" and **Beethoven's** Third Symphony.

Music

## Variety

# Features

ARABO TIMES

TUESDAY, JUNE 13, 2023



Victoria Clark, (left), and Justin Cooley, members of the cast of 'Kimberly Akimbo', perform at the 76th annual Tony Awards on Sunday, June 11, at the United Palace theater in New York. (AP)

## Stage

Tony Awards telecast makes inclusive history

# 'Kimberly Akimbo' wins musical crown

**LOS ANGELES:** It was **Miles Morales** and the Spider-Verse versus the "Transformers" at the box office this weekend and the bots came out on top.

"Transformers: Rise of the Beasts," the seventh entry in the series, took the No. 1 spot in its first weekend in North American theaters with \$60.5 million according to studio estimates Sunday. "Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse" wasn't too far behind, however, with an estimated \$55.4 million in its second weekend.

Paramount Pictures released "Rise of the Beasts" in 3,678 locations starting with Thursday previews. Set in 1994, it's technically a sequel to the 1980s-set "Bumblebee" and a prequel to the other films. With a new cast led by **Anthony Ramos** and **Dominique Fishback** and a new director in **Steven Caple Jr.**, it's also an attempt to reset and breathe fresh life into the \$4.8 billion franchise.

"Rise of the Beasts" also earned \$110 million from 68 international markets, giving it a \$170.5 million global debut.

Critics didn't love the movie, but that's also par for the course for this franchise. Overall, Rotten Tomatoes aggregated a less-than-fresh 52% rating.

"The problem with 'Transformers: Rise of the Beasts' is the same problem faced by all of the installments - balancing the humanity with the metal," wrote AP's **Mark Kennedy** in his review.

In fact, the only movie that did get a fresh rating was "Bumblebee," which also made the least money of all of them. Audiences (62% male) were more positive, giving "Rise of the Beasts" an A-CinemaScore. According to Post-Trak surveys, general audiences gave it 4.5 stars out of 5.

While a \$60.5 million opening might not seem like enough to support a \$200 million production budget, "Rise of the Beasts" is a movie that will make most of its money abroad. Since 2011's "Transformers: Dark of the Moon," international ticket sales have accounted for at least 70% of the global box office total. Two of the seven movies, "Dark of the Moon" and "Age of Extinction," from 2014, made over \$1 billion each.

"To have a No. 1 debut is impressive given the formidable competi-

**NEW YORK, June 12, (AP):** The intimate, funny-sad musical "Kimberly Akimbo" nudged aside splashier rivals on Sunday to win the musical crown at the Tony Awards on a night when Broadway flexed its creative muscle amid the Hollywood writers' strike and made history with laurels for nonbinary actors **J. Harrison Ghee** and **Alex Newell**.

"Kimberly Akimbo," with songs by **Jeanine Tesori** and a book by **David Lindsay-Abaire**, follows a teen with a rare genetic disorder that gives her a life expectancy of 16 navigating a dysfunctional family and a high school romance. **Victoria Clark**, as the lead in the show, added a second Tony to her trophy case, having previously won one in 2005 for "The Light in the Piazza."

Producer **David Stone** credited the musical's writers for penning a magic trick, calling "Kimberly Akimbo" a "musical comedy about the fragility of life, so healing and so profound and joyous that is almost impossible." The musical took home a leading five awards, including best book and score.

Earlier, Tony Awards history was made when **Newell** and **Ghee** became the first nonbinary people to win Tonys for acting. Last year, composer and writer **Toby Marlow** of "Six" became the first nonbinary Tony winner.

"Thank you for the humanity. Thank you for my incredible company who raised me up every single day," said leading actor in a musical winner **Ghee**, who stars in "Some Like It Hot," the adaptation of the classic cross-dressing comedy film. The soulful **Ghee** stunned audiences with their voice and dance skills, playing a musician - on the run from gangsters - who tries on a dress and is transformed.

**Newell**, who plays **Lulu** - an independent, don't-need-no-man whiskey distiller in "Shucked" - has been blowing audiences away with their signature number, "Independently Owned." They won for best featured actor in a musical.

**Tom Stoppard's** "Leopoldstadt," won best play, also earning wins for director **Patrick Marber**, featured actor **Brandon Uranowitz** and **Brigitte Reiffenstuel's** costumes.

The British-Czech playwright, who now has five best

play Tony Awards, joked he won his first in 1968 and noted that playwrights were "getting progressively devalued in the food chain" despite being "the sharp ends of the inverted pyramid."

Second-time Tony Awards host **Ariana DeBose** opened a blank script backstage before dancing and leaping her way to open the main show with a hectic opening number that gave a jolt of electricity to what is usually an upbeat, safe and chummy night. The writers' strike left the storied awards show honoring the best of musical theater and plays without a script.

Before the pre-show began, **DeBose** revealed to the audience the only words that would be seen on the teleprompter: "Please wrap up." Later in the evening, virtually out of breath after her wordless opening performance, she thanked the labor organizers for allowing a compromise.

"I'm live and unscripted. You're welcome," she said. "So to anyone who may have thought that last year was a bit unhinged, to them, I say, 'Darlings, buckle up.'"

### Support

Winners demonstrated their support for the striking writers either at the podium or on the red carpet with pins. **Miriam Silverman**, who won the Tony for best featured actress in a play for "The Sign in Sidney Brustein's Window," ended her speech with: "My parents raised me to believe in the power of labor and workers being compensated and treated fairly. We stand with the WGA in solidarity!"

**Jodie Comer**, the three-time Emmy nominated star of "Killing Eve" won leading actress in a play for her Broadway debut, the one-woman play "Prima Facie," which illustrates how current laws fail terribly when it comes to sexual assault cases.

**Sean Hayes** won lead actor in a play for "Good Night, Oscar," which dramatizes a long night's journey into the scarred psyche of pianist **Oscar Levant**, now obscure but once a TV star.

"This has got to be the first time an Oscar won a Tony," **Hayes** cracked.

**Suzan-Lori Parks'** "Topdog/Underdog," a Pulitzer Prize-winning play about sibling rivalry, inequality and

society's false promises, won the Tony for best play revival. She thanked director **Kenny Leon** and stars **Corey Hawkins** and **Yahya Abdul-Mateen II**: "They showed up to be large in a world that often does not much want the likes of us living at all."

**Bonnie Milligan**, who won for best featured actress in a musical for "Kimberly Akimbo," also had a message to the audience: "I want to tell everybody that doesn't maybe look like what the world is telling you what you should look like - whether you're not pretty enough, you're not fit enough, your identity is not right, who you love isn't right - that doesn't matter."

"Cause just guess what?" she continued, brandishing her award. "It's right, and you belong."

Many of the technical awards - for things like costumes, sound, lighting and scenic design - were handed out at a breakneck pace during a pre-show hosted by **Skyler Astin** and **Julianne Hough**, allowing winners plenty of airtime for acceptance speeches but little humor.

The pre-show telecast on **Pluto** featured some awkwardly composed shots and some presenters slipped up on certain words. The tempo was so rapid, it ended more than 10 minutes before the main CBS broadcast was slated to start.

**John Kander**, the 96-year-old composer behind such landmark shows as "Chicago," "Cabaret" and "The Scottsboro Boys," was honored with a special lifetime award. He thanked his parents; his husband, **Albert Stephenson**; and music, which "has stayed my friend through my entire life and has promised to stick with me until the end."

**Jennifer Grey** handed her father, "Cabaret" star **Joel Grey**, the other lifetime achievement Tony. "Being recognized by the theater community is such a gift because it's always been, next to my children, my greatest, most enduring love," the actor said.

Echoing the theme of antisemitism, "Parade" - a doomed musical love story set against the real backdrop of a murder and lynching in pre-World War I Georgia that won Tonys as a new musical in 1999 - won for best musical revival, with **Michael Arden** winning for best musical director.

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tion from 'Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse,' which had a much stronger opening than anyone anticipated and in its second weekend is a really powerful player," said **Paul Dergarabedian**, the senior media analyst for **Comscore**.

Sony's "Spider-Verse" sequel fell about 54%. In just two weeks, it's already surpassed the total



Ramos



Fishback

domestic box office of the first film with \$225.4 million in ticket sales and become the highest grossing Sony Pictures Animation release.

With terrific reviews in its arsenal, "Spider-Verse" is likely destined for a longer life at the box office, too.

Third place went to Disney's "The Little Mermaid," which earned \$23 million in its third weekend,

where it's playing in 4,320 locations in the **US** and **Canada**. The live-action movie has made \$414.2 million globally to date.

Two other **Walt Disney Co.** releases rounded out the top five, with "Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 3" in fourth with \$7 million in its sixth weekend and "The Boogeyman," in weekend two, in

fifth place with \$6.9 million.

While many of the films in the top 10 are known brands or IP, one original property, **A24's** "Past Lives," is making waves in the specialty space. Playing on just 26 screens in its second weekend, **Celine Song's** romance made \$520,772 for a stunning \$20,030 per screen average. (AP)

People & Places

Music

Janet, YOLA perform

Lyricist Weil honored at the Calif memorial

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif., June 12, (AP): As guests filed into Sunday's music-filled memorial for **Cynthia Weil**, they smiled in recognition and sang along to a string of hit songs she co-wrote that were played on speakers in a lush courtyard of the Beverly Hills Hotel.

Weil, the Grammy-winning lyricist who enjoyed a decades-long partnership with husband Barry Mann and helped compose "You've Lost That Lovin' Feeling," "On Broadway," "Walking in the Rain" and dozens of other timeless tunes, died last week at age 82.

Singer Tony Orlando, who hosted the private event from a small stage with a grand piano, admonished attendees that despite the cloudy skies the day was not to be mournful, but a sunny celebration.



Weil

"I want the applause to be loud!" he said. Orlando performed "Bless You," the 1961 ballad that gave Weil and Mann their first top 20 hit. They were married within months of the song's release.

White-coated waiters distributed trays of bright green apple drink, Weil's favorite cocktail, to her friends, family members and show business contemporaries. Among those raising their glasses were Mann, record producer Lou Adler, singer Carol Bayer Sager and songwriters Carole King, Jeff Barry, Mike Stoller and Diane Warren.

Weil and Mann were one of popular music's most successful teams, part of a crew of young songwriters based in Manhattan's Brill Building neighborhood, near Times Square. With such hit-making duos as King and Gerry Goffin and Barry and Ellie Greenwich, the Brill Building hit factory turned out many of the biggest singles of the '60s and beyond.

The couple was collaborators with producer Phil Spector on songs for the Ronettes ("Walking in the Rain"), the Crystals ("He's Sure the Boy I Love") and other singers, and also provided hits for everyone from Lionel Richie to Leo Sayer.

Collaboration

Their most famous collaboration, a song that would become historic, was "You've Lost That Lovin' Feeling," a soulful anthem produced by Spector with epic strings and sung with desperate intensity by the Righteous Brothers, Bill Medley and Bobby Hatfield. "You've Lost That Lovin' Feeling" topped the charts in 1965 and was covered by numerous other artists.

Appearing at the memorial via a recorded video, Bill Medley said Weil and Mann didn't just write the Righteous Brothers a hit, "They wrote us a career!" According to Broadcast Music Inc. (BMI), no other song was played more on radio and television in the 20th century.

Dolly Parton, who also appeared on video, recalled her career being sent "out into space" when the country star scored a crossover pop hit in 1977 with "Here You Come Again," written by Weil and Mann.

"She left a great body of work," Parton said. Weil and Mann were inducted into the Songwriters Hall of Fame in 1987 and the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame in 2010. They were supporting characters in the hit Broadway musical about King, "Beautiful," which opened in 2013 and documented the intense friendship and rivalry between the two married couples. Mann and Weil's musical "They Wrote That?" had a brief run in 2004.

On Sunday, with Paul Shaffer on piano, King performed "Somewhere Out There," a song Weil wrote with James Horner for the soundtrack of "An American Tail." It won Grammys in 1987 for best song and best song for a movie or television, and was nominated for an Academy Award and Golden Globe.

Weil's daughter, Dr. Jenn Mann, said the songwriter died last Thursday at her home in Beverly Hills, California. She remembered her mother Sunday as a loving wife to Mann, a devoted grandmother to her two girls, a lover of animals, and a soft-hearted romantic who could surprise people with her no-nonsense business sense.

While many of Weil's peers struggled once the Beatles caught on in the mid-1960s, she continued to make hits, sometimes with Mann, or with other partners. Weil helped write the Peabo Bryson ballad "If Ever You're In My Arms Again"; James Ingram's "Just Once"; and the Pointer Sisters' "He's So Shy." In 1997, she was in the top 10 again with Hanson's "I Will Come to You."

**Janet Jackson** inserted some youthful spirit into her normally mature concert during a Saturday night tour stop in Los Angeles.

In a show filled with nostalgic hits, Jackson took a moment to perform her 1993 ballad "Again" alongside the LA Phil's Youth Orchestra Los Angeles at the Hollywood Bowl. Before the 16-member ensemble's performance with the pop icon, the five-time Grammy winner had a brief conversation with an 11-year-old percussionist who has only been a part of the orchestra for a year.

"Tonight is very special to me because we're here to support LA Phil," said Jackson in front of a sold-out crowd, which collectively rose to its feet to applaud the singer. She paid homage to the Los Angeles Philharmonic for the YOLA program that serves around 1,700 young musicians across five sites with free instruments, intensive music instruction, academic support and leadership training.

Orchestra

Last year, YOLA accompanied gospel duo **Mary Mary** to perform "Lift Every Voice and Sing" at the Super Bowl.

Jackson hugged the young percussionist then asked how she became aware of the program.

"My mom probably found YOLA on Instagram or social media, and she asked me if I was interested in a music program and I said 'Sure, I'll try it,'" the percussionist said. After their chat in front of thousands of concertgoers, Jackson told her "Let's do something a little special."

It was indeed.

Many in the audience pulled out their phones as Jackson sang alongside the orchestra - conducted by **Thomas Wilkins** - played the melody of "Again" from her fifth studio album "Janet." The ballad also earned an Oscar nomination through the 1993 film "Poetic Justice."

After Jackson's performance with YOLA, the singer turned back to her more mature content with "Any Time, Any Place" before she segued into "I Get Lonely." During her hour-plus long set, she put on an impressive show performing a plethora of her other hits including "That's the Way Love Goes," "Nasty," "Control" and "Scream," a song she recorded with her late brother, **Michael Jackson**.



The cast of 'Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street' performs at the 76th annual Tony Awards on Sunday, June 11, at the United Palace theater in New York. (AP)



The cast of 'Shucked' performs at the 76th annual Tony Awards. (AP)



Lea Michele, a member of the cast of 'Funny Girl,' performs. (AP)



Victoria Clark accepts the award for best performance by an actress in a leading role in a musical. (AP)



Micaela Diamond, (left), and Ben Platt, members of 'Parade,' perform at the Tony Awards on Sunday, June 11, at the United Palace theater in New York. 'Parade' won the award for best revival of a musical (AP)



Sean Hayes accepts the award for best performance by an actor in a leading role in a play. (AP)



Jodie Comer accepts the award for best performance by an actress in a leading role in a play. (AP)



David Stone, (center), and members of the company of 'Kimberly Akimbo' accept the award for best musical at the 76th annual Tony Awards on Sunday, June 11, at the United Palace theater in New York. (AP)



J. Harrison Ghee accepts the award for best performance by an actor in a leading role in a musical. (AP)



Alex Newell accepts the award for best performance by an actor in a featured role in a musical for 'Shucked.' (AP)

Select list of Tony Award winners

NEW YORK, June 12, (AP): Select winners so far at the 2023 Tony Awards:

- Best play: 'Leopoldstadt'
- Best revival of a musical: 'Parade'
- Best revival of a play: 'Suzanne-Lori Parks' Topdog/Underdog'
- Best performance by an actress in a leading role in a play: Jodie Comer, 'Prima Facie'
- Best book of a musical: 'Kimberly Akimbo,' David Lindsay-Abaire
- Best performance by an actor in a leading role in a musical: J. Harrison Ghee, 'Some Like It Hot'
- Best performance by an actor in a featured role in a musical: Alex Newell, 'Shucked.'
- Best performance by an actress in a featured role in a play: Miriam Silverman, 'The Sign in Sidney Brustein's Window'

- Best performance by an actress in a featured role in a musical: Bonnie Milligan, 'Kimberly Akimbo'
- Best performance by an actor in a featured role in a play: Brandon Uranowitz, 'Leopoldstadt'
- Best direction of a play: Patrick Marber, 'Leopoldstadt'
- Best direction of a musical: Michael Arden, 'Parade'
- Best choreography: Casey Nicholaw, 'Some Like It Hot'
- Best original score: 'Kimberly Akimbo,' Music: Jeanine Tesori, Lyrics: David Lindsay-Abaire
- Best orchestrations: Charlie Rosen and Bryan Carter, 'Some Like It Hot'
- Costume of a musical: Gregg Barnes, 'Some Like It Hot'
- Costume of a play: Brigitte Reiffenstuel, 'Leopoldstadt'



Miriam Silverman accepts the award for best actress in a featured role in a play for 'The Sign in Sidney Brustein's Window.' (AP)

Variety

**ANNAPOLIS, Md:** The family of the murder victim whose case is chronicled by the hit podcast "Serial" asked **Maryland's** highest court to give crime victims a right to be heard and challenge evidence at hearings.

**Young Lee**, whose sister **Hae Min Lee** was killed in 1999, says the family didn't get sufficient notice to attend a hearing last fall where the man convicted of her murder, **Adnan Syed**, had his sentence overturned. An intermediate appellate court agreed with the family and reinstated Syed's sentence, although he remains free while the case works its way through the courts.

Attorneys for Young Lee filed a petition asking the state Supreme Court to review legal issues raised by the family. The petition says the intermediate appellate court ruling falls short because it "leaves no one to speak on the Lee family's behalf."

While Syed's release last year was a high-profile example of a growing movement within the criminal justice system to acknowledge and correct past mistakes, the ongoing case in Maryland appellate courts has highlighted questions about the rights of crime victims. (AP)

**HONG KONG:** One of the two giant inflatable ducks floating in Hong Kong's Victoria Harbor deflated on Saturday, just a day after they were unveiled to revelers.



Hofman



Syed

Crowds of residents and tourists flocked in the scorching heat to the promenade near the government headquarters in Admiralty to snap photos of the ducks by Dutch artist **Florentijn Hofman**. But many who arrived in the afternoon only found one duck intact, with the other reduced to a puddle of yellow plastic.

Organizers said their staff found one of the ducks was overstretched due to the hot weather and rising air pressure.

"It was decided that the air needed to be immediately released by loosening the seams to avoid any potential risk," they wrote in a post on social media. (AP)

## Health

## Abstinence not required

## Baltimore drug center prioritizes saving lives

BALTIMORE, June 12, (AP) — Anthony Kelly trudged through southwest Baltimore, each labored footstep a reminder of the roofing accident that left him with chronic pain and a raging opioid addiction several years after he returned home from serving in the Marines.

Doctors used metal plates to reconstruct his lower legs and Kelly spent months learning to walk again. So began his plodding journey into the depths of substance use disorder, a downward spiral that would gradually weaken his body and consume his mind.

After his prescribed painkillers ran out, Kelly turned to a combination of heroin and cocaine that sometimes cost \$500 per day.

More than a decade later, his substance use is more manageable and less expensive, though it remains a controlling force in his life. He takes buprenorphine, a prescription medication that's considered the gold standard for treating opioid addiction by reducing cravings and easing withdrawal symptoms.

He gets the medication through a mobile health clinic housed in a retrofitted van, which parks in some of Baltimore's most drug-ravaged communities, including Kelly's neighborhood. Doctors and nurses meet with patients, write prescriptions and provide basic wound care, hepatitis C treatment, packages of the overdose reversal agent naloxone and more, all free of charge.

The clinic exemplifies an ongoing shift in the nation's approach to stemming overdose deaths, which surged during the pandemic to unprecedented heights as the potent synthetic opioid fentanyl replaced heroin in drug markets across the country. The so-called harm reduction model, which has received endorsement and funding from the Biden administration, offers potentially life-saving services to opioid users, without requiring abstinence in return.

Advocates say it acknowledges the importance of keeping people alive, first and foremost, while they confront the sometimes insurmountable challenges associated with recovery. Critics argue it enables illegal activity.

In Baltimore's "Healthcare on the Spot" program, most patients continue using street drugs, but the vast majority report using less, according to clinic staff.

**Overdose**

"Being an addict, it's more complicated than people think," said Kelly, 49. "We built this web we're entangled in. We didn't get here overnight and we're not gonna get better overnight. You can't just snap out of it."

Baltimore's overdose death rate is significantly higher than the statewide and nationwide averages, with more than 1,000 lives lost in 2020, the most recent data available. The city makes up about 10% of Maryland's population but logs more than 35% of its overdose deaths.

"We should be thinking about harm reduction on a spectrum. Some people want to stop using, others want to use safer. This is about truly meeting people where they are," said Dr. Letitia Dzirasa, who served as the city's health commissioner until recently being appointed deputy mayor. "It's also about reducing the stigma. Because this is a disease, not a moral failing."

Buprenorphine, which received federal approval for treatment of opioid use disorder in 2002, binds to opioid receptors in the brain without producing a euphoric high. Often prescribed under the brand name Suboxone, the drug typically comes in orange strips that dissolve under your tongue.

Research shows it significantly reduces a person's risk of overdose and death. Despite its effectiveness, a relatively small percentage of people experiencing opioid addiction are prescribed the medication. In contrast to methadone treatment, which is highly regulated and often requires patients to visit a clinic every day, buprenorphine prescriptions can last weeks or months.

In December 2022, federal lawmakers passed legislation that made it easier for doctors to prescribe buprenorphine, recognizing its life-saving potential. Drug overdoses nationwide have claimed more than 100,000 lives annually since 2020, with about two-thirds of them related to fentanyl.

Every Monday morning, the Spot van parks in west Baltimore's Upton community, a historic Black cultural hub once known for its renowned jazz clubs, upscale shops and vibrant nightlife.

Now a shadow of its former self, the neighborhood is filled with visible impacts of the local drug trade: dealers doing business outside vacant buildings, their customers nodding drowsily on public benches, stumbling through alleys and trying to scrounge up enough money to make it through another day. Baltimore police cruisers routinely patrol the area, part of the city's crime-fighting strategy to increase law enforcement presence in communities plagued by gun violence.

Less than a block from the van's parking spot, a tangle of deflated balloons commemorates a January shootout that wounded three people and killed two, including a young mother who was waiting to pick up a takeout order when she and her children got caught in the gunfire.

The Spot program, which launched in 2018, operates under a partnership between the Baltimore City Health Department and the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. It typically serves about 900 patients a year. An estimated 40% of them have a recent history of intravenous drug use, almost 75% are Black and more than half are experiencing homelessness or housing instability.

Darryl Jackson Sr., who enrolled last year along with his adult son, said sometimes the clinic feels like the only source of stability in his life. He recently had to leave the apartment where he had been staying and was researching rental assistance programs, which are often mired in bureaucracy and hobbled by impossibly long waitlists.

Jackson, 58, said he can't tolerate shelter environments because he's a stickler for cleanliness. He takes pride in maintaining a neat appearance. After a career in construction, he still dresses almost exclusively in canvas work pants and sneakers.

But on the inside, he struggles to keep his addiction in check and stave off a growing feeling of hopelessness. He recently returned to the Spot van after some missed appointments.

"They care," he said. "So I keep coming back."

## Also:

**LONDON:** The publicly funded health service in England has decided it will not routinely offer puberty-blocking drugs to children at gender identity clinics, saying more evidence is needed about the potential benefits and harms.

The National Health Service said Friday that "outside of a research setting, puberty-suppressing hormones should not be routinely commissioned for children and adolescents."

People under 18 can still be given puberty blockers in exceptional circumstances, the NHS said, and a clinical study on their impact on kids is due to start by next year.

Four new regional clinics are due to open later this year. They replace London's Gender Identity Development Service, previously the only facility of its kind in England. It is scheduled to shut down after a review said it was overburdened by increasing demand and there was not enough evidence about the outcomes of its treatment.

Hormone blockers can pause the development of puberty, and are sometimes prescribed to children with gender dysphoria. Transgender medical care for minors has been available in the United States for more than a decade and is endorsed by major medical associations.

The issue of gender-affirming care for children is not as heated in Britain as in the U.S., where several Republican-led states have banned puberty blockers and other treatment for transgender minors. But it has been the subject of both political and legal battles.



A syringe is seen on the ground as Lisa McFadden waits to be treated near a Baltimore City Health Department RV, Monday, March 20, 2023, in Baltimore. The Baltimore City Health Department's harm reduction program uses the RV to address the opioid crisis, which includes expanding access to medication assisted treatment by deploying a team of medical staff to neighborhoods with high rates of substance abuse and offering buprenorphine prescriptions. (AP)



A spiraling torque from the second century A.D., is displayed as part of the exhibit called The Crimea – Gold and Secrets of the Black Sea, at Allard Pierson historical museum in Amsterdam, on April 4, 2014. The Supreme Court of the Netherlands on Friday June 9, 2023, ordered a trove of historical treasures from Crimea, stored for years at a Dutch museum, to be sent to Ukraine, upholding a lower court ruling that the 300 artifacts were part of Ukraine's cultural heritage. (AP)



Zelenskyy

Bacolcol

## Discovery

**Philippines' Mayon spews lava:** The Philippines' most active volcano was spewing lava down its slopes on Monday, prompting officials to warn tens of thousands of villagers to be prepared to flee from their homes if the gentle eruption turns into a violent and life-threatening explosion, officials said Monday.

More than 13,000 people have left the mostly poor farming communities within a 6-kilometer (3.7-mile) radius of Mayon Volcano's crater in mandatory evacuations since volcanic activity increased last week. But an unspecified number of residents remain within the permanent danger zone below Mayon, an area long declared off-limits to people but where generations have lived and farmed because they have nowhere else to go.

With the volcano beginning to expel lava Sunday night, the high-risk zone around Mayon may be expanded should the eruption turn violent, said **Teresito Bacolcol**, director of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology. Bacolcol said if that happens, people in any expanded danger zone should be prepared to evacuate to emergency shelters.

"What we are seeing now is an effusive eruption," Bacolcol told The Associated Press. "We are looking at this on a day-to-day basis."

From a distance, Associated Press journalists watched lava flow down the volcano's southeastern gullies for hours Sunday night. People hurriedly stepped out of restaurants and bars in a seaside promenade of Legazpi, the capital of northeastern Albay province about 14 kilometers (8.5 miles) from Mayon, many of them snapping pictures of the volcano that's a popular tourist draw known for its picturesque conical shape.

Mayon's renewed restiveness has also struck fear and brought new suffering.

Marilyn Miranda said she, her daughter and 75-year-old mother, who recently suffered a stroke, fled their home in a village within the danger zone in Guinobatan town on Thursday and sought shelter at a sweltering high school turned into an evacuation center. Her nephew returns to their home each day, as do other men in their impoverished rural neighborhood to guard their houses and farm animals, she said.

From the overcrowded evacuation center, they were terrified to see the bright red-orange lava streaks gushing down Mayon's slope on Sunday night. "We had this feeling that our end is near," Miranda told the AP, breaking into tears.

Mayon's new eruption was one of back-to-back tragedies that struck Amelia Morales and her family in recent days. Her husband died of an aneurysm and other illnesses on Friday and she had to hold his funeral wake in a crowded emergency shelter in Guinobatan because she and her neighbors

## The Conversation

## Brain cancer hijacks neural circuits

## Brain tumors are cognitive parasites

By Saritha Krishna and Shawn Hervey-Jumper  
University of California, San Francisco

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

Researchers have long known that brain tumors, specifically a type of tumor called a glioma, can affect a person's cognitive and physical function. Patients with glioblastoma, the most fatal type of brain tumor in adults, experience an especially drastic decline in quality of life. Glioblastomas are thought to impair normal brain functions by compressing and causing healthy tissue to swell, or competing with them for blood supply.

What exactly causes cognitive decline in brain tumor patients is still unknown. In our recently published research, we found that tumors can not only remodel neural circuits, but that brain activity itself can fuel tumor growth.

We are a neuroscientist and neurosurgeon team at the University of California, San Francisco. Our work focuses on understanding how brain tumors remodel neuronal circuits and how these changes affect language, motor and cognitive function. We discovered a previously unknown mechanism brain tumors use to hijack and modify brain circuitry that causes cognitive decline in patients with glioma.

When we started this study, scientists had recently found that a self-perpetuating positive feedback loop powers brain tumors. The cycle begins when cancer cells produce substances that can act as neurotransmitters, proteins that help neurons communicate with each other. This surplus of neurotransmitters triggers neurons to become hyperactive and secrete chemicals that stimulate and accelerate the proliferation and growth of the cancer cells.

## Cancer

We wondered how this feedback loop affects the behavior and cognition of people with brain cancer. To study how glioblastomas engage with neuronal circuits in the human brain, we recorded the real-time brain activity of patients with gliomas as they were shown pictures of common objects or animals and asked to name what they depicted while they were undergoing brain surgery to remove the tumor.

While the patients engaged in these tasks, the language networks in their

## Arsenic contamination of food, water a global public health concern: study

By Cristina Andrade-Feraud and Diana Azzam  
Florida International University

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

Arsenic is a naturally occurring element found in the Earth's crust. Exposure to arsenic, often through contaminated food and water, is associated with various negative health effects, including cancer.

Arsenic exposure is a global public health issue. A 2020 study estimated that up to 200 million people worldwide are exposed to arsenic-contaminated drinking water at levels above the legal limit of 10 parts per billion set by the US Environmental Protection Agency and World Health Organization. More than 70 countries are affected, including the United States, Spain, Mexico, Japan, India, China, Canada, Chile, Bangladesh, Bolivia and Argentina.

Since many countries are still affected by high levels of arsenic, we believe arsenic exposure is a global public health issue that requires urgent action. We study how exposure to toxic metals like arsenic can lead to cancer through the formation of cancer stem cells.

Your body can absorb arsenic through several routes, such as inhalation and skin contact. However, the most common source of arsenic exposure is through contaminated drinking water or food.

People who live in areas with naturally high levels of arsenic in the soil and water are at particular risk. In the U.S., for example, that

includes regions in the Southwest such as Arizona, Nevada and New Mexico. Additionally, human activities such as mining and agriculture can also increase arsenic in food and water sources.

High levels of arsenic can also be found in food and drink products, particularly rice and rice-based products like rice cereals and crackers. A 2019 Consumer Reports investigation even found that some brands of bottled water sold in the US contained levels of arsenic that exceeded the legal limit. Alarmingly, multiple studies have also found that several popular baby food brands contained arsenic at concentrations much higher than the legal limit.

Chronic exposure to arsenic increases the risk of developing multiple types of cancer.

The mechanisms by which arsenic causes cancer are complex and not yet fully understood. However, research suggests that arsenic can damage DNA, disrupt cell signaling pathways and impair the immune system, all of which can contribute to cancer development.

Scientists have also linked chronic arsenic exposure to the development of cancer stem cells. These are cells within tumors thought to be responsible for cancer growth and spread. Like normal stem cells in the body, cancer stem cells can develop into many different types of cells. At what stage of cellular development a stem cell acquires the genetic mutation that turns it into a cancer stem cell remains unknown. (AP)

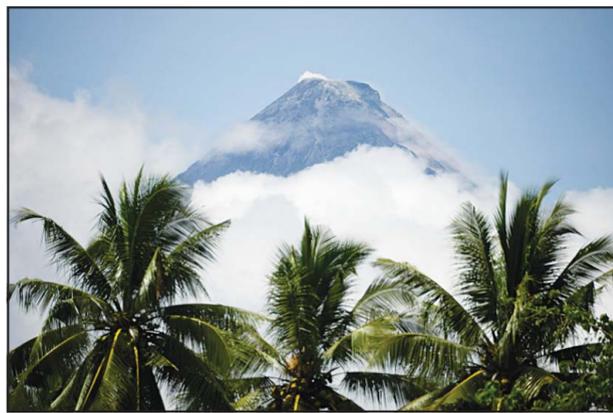
brains were activated as expected. However, we found that the brain regions the tumors had infiltrated quite remote from known language zones of the brain were also activated during these tasks. This unexpected finding shows that tumors can hijack and restructure connections in the brain tissue surrounding them and increase their activity.

This may account for the cognitive decline frequently associated with the progression of gliomas. However, by directly recording the electrical activ-

ity of the brain using electrocorticography, we showed that despite being hyperactive, these remote brain regions had significantly reduced computational power. This was especially the case for processing more complex, less commonly used words, such as "rooster," in comparison with simple, more commonly used words, such as "car." This meant that brain cells entangled in the tumor are so compromised that they need to recruit additional cells to carry out tasks previously controlled by a smaller defined area. (AP)

had been ordered to stay away from their community near Mayon. (AP)

**'Return museum artifacts':** The Supreme Court of the Netherlands ordered that a Dutch museum's trove of historical treasures from Crimea be sent to Ukraine, upholding a lower court ruling that the 300 artifacts are part of Ukraine's cultural heritage. (AP)



Mayon Volcano is seen from Guinobatan, Albay province, northeastern Philippines, Monday, June 12, 2023. (AP)

age. The collection of archaeological objects, some more than 2,000 years old, was on display at the Allard Pierson Museum in Amsterdam when Russia annexed the Crimean Peninsula from Ukraine in 2014, sparking a dispute over the repatriation of the borrowed pieces.

Both the Ukrainian government in Kyiv and the four Crimean museums that had loaned bronze swords, golden helmets, precious gems and other artifacts to the Allard Pierson demanded the objects back. The Amsterdam museum instead opted to store the items until a court could decide their fate.

The legal tug-of-war has now ended with the Hague-based Supreme Court ordering the collection to be returned to Ukraine. Judges cited the lack of national recognition for the Russia-annexed Autonomous Republic of Crimea. Ukraine's President is **Volodymyr Zelenskyy**.

"Although the museum pieces originate from Crimea and can therefore also be regarded as Crimean heritage, they are part of the cultural heritage of Ukraine," the ruling said.

Mediation in 2014 between all the museums involved and Ukrainian authorities failed, and the Allard Pierson Museum took the matter to court. (AP)

# MLB-leading Rays take 2 of 3 from Rangers

Red Sox take series; Ohtani remains hot as Angels defeat Mariners

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla., June 12, (AP): Shane McClellan became the first 10-game winner in the major leagues and the Tampa Bay Rays beat the Texas Rangers 7-3 on Sunday, taking two of three games in a match up of the teams with best records in baseball.

McClellan (10-1) allowed three runs, all in the third inning, and four hits over seven innings. The 26-year-old left-hander retired his final 15 batters.

Wander Franco homered off Martín Pérez (6-2) in the fourth inning for MLB-leading Tampa Bay (48-20), which improved to 31-7 at home. Randy Arozarena, Isaac Paredes, Taylor Walls, and Harold Ramírez added run-scoring hits for the Rays.

Robbie Grossman homered for the AL West-leading Rangers (41-23), who have lost three of four.

Pérez lasted a season-low 3 1/3 innings, allowing a season-high-tying seven runs and 10 hits. The lefty's ERA jumped from 3.97 to 4.67.

## Red Sox 3, Yankees 2

In New York, Kiké Hernández hit a tiebreaking single in the 10th inning and Boston beat New York with the help of a late error by second baseman Gleyber Torres.



Boston Red Sox's Masataka Yoshida lines out during the first inning of a baseball game against the New York Yankees in New York. (AP)

## MLB Results/Standings

WASHINGTON, June 12, (AP): Results and standings from the MLB games on Sunday

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Arizona	7	1	.875	0
Cleveland	5	1	.833	0
Tampa Bay	7	2	.778	0
Baltimore	11	3	.786	0
Toronto	7	3	.700	0
Miami	6	3	.667	0
Oakland	8	4	.667	0
LA Angels	9	4	.688	0
Boston	3	1	.750	10 inn
Pittsburgh	2	1	.667	1
Washington	6	1	.857	1
Philadelphia	7	1	.875	2
Cincinnati	4	1	.800	3
Colorado	5	1	.833	4
San Francisco	13	1	.923	3

## American League

East Division				
Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Tampa Bay	48	20	.706	—
Baltimore	41	24	.631	5-1/2
New York	38	29	.567	9-1/2
Toronto	37	30	.552	10-1/2
Boston	33	33	.500	14

Central Division				
Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Minnesota	33	33	.500	—
Cleveland	31	34	.477	1-1/2
Chicago	29	38	.433	4-1/2
Detroit	26	37	.413	5-1/2
Kansas City	18	47	.277	14-1/2

West Division				
Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Texas	41	23	.641	—
Houston	37	29	.561	5
Los Angeles	36	31	.537	6-1/2
Seattle	31	33	.484	10
Oakland	17	50	.254	25-1/2

National League				
East Division				
Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	40	25	.615	—
Miami	37	29	.561	3-1/2
Philadelphia	32	33	.492	6
New York	31	35	.470	9-1/2
Washington	26	38	.406	13-1/2

Central Division				
Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Pittsburgh	34	30	.531	—
Milwaukee	34	32	.515	1
Cincinnati	31	35	.470	4
Chicago	28	37	.431	6-1/2
St. Louis	27	39	.409	8

West Division				
Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Arizona	40	25	.615	—
Los Angeles	37	29	.561	3-1/2
San Francisco	33	32	.508	7
San Diego	31	34	.477	9
Colorado	27	40	.403	14

## BASEBALL

Justin Turner homered and Brayan Bello allowed three hits in seven efficient innings for the Red Sox, matching his career high. Last-place Boston (33-33) took two of three at Yankee Stadium in the first series this season between the rivals.

Kenley Jansen (2-3) worked a 1-2-3 ninth for the win. Chris Martin worked a hitless inning for his 10th career save and first for the Red Sox.

Jose Trevino's early two-run single that took a lucky bounce off second base was one of only three hits for the Yankees - and all the offense they could muster. Ron Marinaccio (2-3) took the loss.

## Pirates 2, Mets 1

In Pittsburgh, Andrew McCutchen got his 2,000th hit, Jack Suwinski hit his 12th home run and Pittsburgh sent New York to its eighth loss in nine games.

McCutchen became the 291st player and fifth active player to reach 2,000 hits when he laced a slider from Carlos Carrasco (2-3) to left field leading off the first.

Mitch Keller (8-2) allowed two hits in seven innings for the Pirates, who went 6-3 during a season-high nine-game homestand to move into first place in the NL Central (34-30). David Bednar earned his 14th save in 15 chances.

Jeff McNeil hit his third home run of the season for New York, which finished a 1-5 trip through Atlanta and Pittsburgh.

## Athletics 8, Brewers 6

In Milwaukee, Seth Brown and Brent Rooker hit back-to-back homers in the fourth inning and Oakland completed its first series sweep of the season.

Kevin Smith also homered as the A's erased an early 2-0 deficit and won their fifth straight. This marks the first time they've had five consecutive victories within the same season since September 2021.

Since falling 5-4 at Pittsburgh on Monday for their 15th straight road loss, the Athletics have gone 5-0 on the road. Athletics starter JP Sears (1-3) struck out five and allowed six hits and two runs in five innings.

Christian Yelich homered for the Brewers. Freddy Peralta (5-6) took the loss.

## Rockies 5, Padres 4

In Denver, Ryan McMahon hit a tying homer in heavy rain just before a 1-hour, 25-minute delay in the ninth inning and Nolan Jones hit a game-ending 472-foot drive just after the resumption in Colorado's win over San Diego.

Colorado's Coco Montes homered in his major league debut to spoil a strong start by Blake Snell, who struck out a season-high 12 in seven innings. Ezequiel Tovar also went deep for the Rockies. Justin Lawrence's (3-3) pitched an inning of relief and earned the win.

Jake Cronenworth homered and Fernando Tatis Jr. had two hits for the Padres, who were trying to sweep a series in Denver for the first time since Sept. 19-21, 2011. Brent Honeywell (2-4) took the loss.

## Nationals 6, Braves 2

In Atlanta, Dominic Smith and Jaimer Candelario hit two-run homers in the sixth inning as Washington stopped a six-game skid and Atlanta's seven-game winning streak.

Trevor Williams (3-4) allowed two runs, seven hits and one walk in five innings with six strikeouts. Carl Edwards Jr., Kyle Finnegan and Hunter Harvey combined for two-hit relief.

Bryce Elder (4-1) allowed a season-high five runs and eight hits in 5 1/3 innings. Elder struck out a season-low one.

Keibert Ruiz had two hits and an



San Francisco Giants position player Brandon Crawford pitches during the ninth inning of a baseball game against the Chicago Cubs in San Francisco. (AP)

RBI for the Nationals, and Luis García also had two hits. Matt Olson hit his 18th home run, a two-run shot, for the Braves.

In Anaheim, Rookie Zach Neto had his first two-homer game, Shohei Ohtani kept up a hot June with three hits and Los Angeles beat Seattle.

Matt Thaiss drove in three runs and Taylor Ward also went deep for the Angels, who have won six of seven. Griffin Canning (5-2) won for the third time in four starts, striking out seven in five-plus innings.

Seattle's Teoscar Hernández had three hits, including a two-run homer in the fourth. Ty France also had three hits and Mike Ford had a solo shot in the fifth for the Mariners, who finished a 2-6 trip. Logan Gilbert (4-4) allowed eight hits, two walks and two homers and seven runs (six earned) in three innings for the loss.

## Orioles 11, Royals 3

In Baltimore, Gunnar Henderson homered for the second consecutive game, and Baltimore completed a series sweep and dealt Kansas City its sixth straight loss.

Starter Kyle Gibson earned his fourth consecutive victory for Baltimore. Ramón Urías had four hits and Ryan O'Hearn homered as part of a three-hit day as the Orioles completed their fourth series sweep.

Salvador Perez homered for Kansas City, which has dropped nine of 10. The Royals (18-47) have the second-worst record in the majors, ahead of only Oakland, and have scored eight runs in their last five games.

Gibson (8-3) allowed three runs and seven hits in 6 1/3 innings. Mike Mayers (1-2) took the loss.

## Phillies 7, Dodgers 3

In Philadelphia, Nick Castellanos homered, Trea Turner had three hits and Philadelphia beat Los Angeles for its seventh win in eight games.

Bryce Harper had two hits, an RBI and reached base all four times as the Phillies took two of three from the Dodgers.

Freddie Freeman and Jason Heyward homered for the Dodgers, who have lost six of eight and dropped 3 1/2 games behind first-place Arizona in the NL West.

Taijuan Walker (6-3) pitched five scoreless innings, allowing two hits with five strikeouts and two walks. Caleb Ferguson (3-3) was the opener for LA and gave up a run and three hits in one inning.

## Blue Jays 7, Twins 6

In Toronto, Cavan Biggio hit a go-ahead, three-run homer in the eighth inning and Toronto overcame a five-run deficit to beat Minnesota and avoid a three-game sweep.

Biggio's fifth homer of the season came off Emilio Pagan (3-1), who began the eighth by giving up sin-

## Wilson has 21, Gray adds 19 as Aces top Sky

# Lynx erase 11-point 4th-quarter deficit to beat Sparks after honoring Sylvia Fowles

MINNEAPOLIS, June 12, (AP): Napheesa Collier had 24 points, nine rebounds and six assists, and Minnesota rallied from a late 11-point deficit to defeat the Los Angeles Sparks 91-86 on Sunday, the day the Lynx honored Sylvia Fowles by retiring her No. 34 jersey.

A deep 3-pointer by Lexie Brown gave the Sparks an 83-72 lead with 3 1/2 minutes left before a 3-pointer by Minnesota's Rachel Banham started the game-winning rally.

A 3-pointer by Bridget Carleton gave the Lynx an 84-83 lead with about a minute remaining. After a missed 3-pointer and a turnover by the Sparks, Carleton added another 3-pointer for a four-point Lynx lead.

Jordin Canada missed a 3-pointer with 23 seconds left and the Sparks were forced to foul. Tiffany Mitchell made two free throws, Nneka Ogwumike hit a 3-pointer for the Sparks' only points of the final three minutes, and Mitchell hit two more free throws to wrap up the scoring.

Mitchell scored 17 points, Kayla McBride 13 and Nikolina Milic 10 for the Lynx. Jessica Shepard had 13 rebounds.

Nneka Ogwumike scored 27 points,

Brown 21 and Canada 18 for Los Angeles.

Minnesota led by six late in the second quarter, but the Sparks scored 10 points in the final two minutes before halftime to tie the score at 43.

After a back-and-forth start to the third quarter, Los Angeles went ahead by five when Canada hit a layup and a 3-pointer on back-to-back possessions. Minnesota did not fade and when McBride hit the last basket of the quarter, the Lynx trailed 64-62 heading to the fourth.

The game was part of the Commis-

sioner's Cup series.

## BASKETBALL

Aces 93, Sky 80

In Las Vegas, A'ja Wilson had 21 points and 10 rebounds, Chelsea Gray added 19 points on 8-of-9 shooting and the Las Vegas Aces beat the Chicago Sky 93-80.

Kelsey Plum had 16 points and Jackie Young scored 14 for Las Vegas (8-1). Candace Parker made 5 of 6 from the field and finished with 10 points and six rebounds. The 2016 Finals

MVP, who helped the Chicago Sky win the 2021 WNBA title and signed a free-agent contract with the Aces in February, added season highs of seven assists and five steals.

Marina Mabrey led Chicago (5-5) with 20 points. Kahleah Copper scored 18 points and Dana Evans added 10 points and eight assists.

## Sun 89, Dream 77

In College Park, Brianna Jones scored 18 points, Alyssa Thomas had 17 points, 12 rebounds and eight assists, and Connecticut defeated Atlanta.

The Sun scored the last five points of the third quarter to lead 65-60 entering the fourth. Jones and Tyasha Harris then scored the first eight points of the period and Connecticut led by at least nine points the rest of the way.

## Liberty 102, Wings 93

In New York, Breanna Stewart scored 32 points and Sabrina Ionescu added 22 to help New York beat Dallas.

Stewart, who made 15 of her 20 field-goal attempts, had six points and two assists during the burst.

Arike Ogunbowale finished with 25 points to lead Dallas. Satou Sabally added 17 points and 11 rebounds.

## Mystics 71, Storm 65

In Seattle, Natasha Cloud scored 19 points, Ariel Atkins added 12, including five key points late in the fourth quarter, and Washington nearly blew a 28-point lead before holding on to beat Seattle.

Washington used a big first half to take control, before Seattle nearly rallied on the day the Storm retired Sue Bird's No. 10 jersey.

## Mercury 85, Fever 82

In Indianapolis, Brittney Griner scored 29 points, Sophie Cunningham scored 11 of her 13 points in the fourth quarter, and Phoenix defeated Indiana.

The score was tied at 80 before Griner scored and Cunningham hit a 3-pointer for an 85-80 lead with 50 seconds remaining. NaLyssa Smith then hit a short jumper with 29 seconds to go, Diana Taurasi missed an 18-footer for Phoenix, and Erica Wheeler missed a 3-pointer at the buzzer for Indiana.

the first-base line and in the dirt. The ball bounced off Contreras' mitt and De La Cruz scored.

## Giants 13, Cubs 3

In San Francisco, Joc Pederson and Thairo Estrada each hit two-run homers and drove in four runs as San Francisco built a six-run lead through five innings and rolled past Chicago.

Blake Sabol added two hits and two RBIs for a Giants offense that banged out 15 hits less than 24 hours after being no-hit for 7 2/3 innings by Chicago's Kyle Hendricks in a 4-0 loss.

Gold Glove shortstop Brandon Crawford came off the bench to get the final three outs. Tristan Beck (1-0) pitched two innings to win.

## Angels 9, Mariners 4

In Anaheim, rookie Zach Neto had his first two-homer game, Shohei Ohtani kept up a hot June with three hits and Los Angeles beat Seattle.

Matt Thaiss drove in three runs and Taylor Ward also went deep for the Angels, who have won six of seven. Griffin Canning (5-2) won for the third time in four starts, striking out seven in five-plus innings.

Seattle's Teoscar Hernández had three hits, including a two-run homer in the fourth. Ty France also had three hits and Mike Ford had a solo shot in the fifth for the Mariners, who finished a 2-6 trip. Logan Gilbert (4-4) allowed eight hits, two walks and two homers and seven runs (six earned) in three innings for the loss.



Fans hold 'Thank You Sue Bird' cutout signs during the first half of a WNBA basketball game between the Seattle Storm and the Washington Mystics in Seattle. Bird's jersey number was retired in a postgame ceremony. (AP)

gles to Alejandro Kirk and Santiago Espinal.

Matt Chapman added a two-run homer and had three RBIs for the Blue Jays, who are 8-3 in June. Nate Pearson (4-0) allowed one hit in two scoreless innings. Jordan Romano picked up his 18th save in 21 chances.

Donovan Solano homered for the AL Central-leading Twins, who failed to hold a 6-1, fifth-inning lead. Minnesota's Royce Lewis had three hits.

## Diamondbacks 7, Tigers 5

In Detroit, Christian Walker hit a go-ahead double off Jason Foley (2-2) with two outs in a four-run ninth inning as NL West-leading Arizona won its fifth straight, completing a three-game sweep that extended the Tigers' losing streak to nine games.

Corbin Carroll closed Arizona to 5-4, and Walker hit an RBI double as left fielder Kerry Carpenter's error allowed the go-ahead run. Geraldo Perdomo followed with a run-scoring single.

Kevin Ginkel (3-0) pitched two hitless innings, and Scott McGough got two outs for his second save.

## Guardians 5, Astros 0

In Cleveland, Shane Bieber (5-3) gave up three hits over seven innings, nine strikeouts. Trevor Stephan and closer Emmanuel Clase pitched an inning apiece to finish the four-hitter.

Andrés Giménez hit a two-run homer in the second inning off Brandon Bielak (3-3) and Josh Bell

## Galaxy draw

# Timbers pip Dallas, snap winless streak

PORTLAND, Ore., (AP): Franck Boli scored the game's only goal in the 35th minute, leading the Portland Timbers to a 1-0 victory over FC Dallas on Sunday night.

Boli's fourth goal of the season helped the Timbers (5-7-5) snap a four-game winless streak. David Bingham needed to make only two saves in the victory.

Martin Paes stopped seven shots, but FC Dallas (7-6-5) lost consecutive road games for the first time this season.

Portland scored when Evander took a pass at midfield and sent a crossing pass near the penalty spot to Boli, who put a header past Paes.

Daniel Aguirre scored late in the second half to rally the Los Angeles Galaxy to a 1-1 draw with St. Louis City.

Aguirre took a pass from Douglas Costa in the 83rd minute and scored for the first time this season to help the Galaxy (3-9-4) earn a point on the road. LA closed out May with a 3-2 road win over Real Salt Lake, snapping an eight-match winless streak away from home. The Galaxy totaled one goal and two points through their first seven matches on the road.

## SOCCER

Nicholas Gioacchini gave St. Louis City (9-5-2) the lead in the 68th minute, using an assist from Indiana Vassilev to score his sixth goal of the season. Gioacchini and Eduard Löwen have both scored five times at home this season to lead five players with multiple home goals.

St. Louis City has posted a 6-2-1 record at home in its first season, scoring three or more goals in all six wins. That has helped the club total 29 points and reach the top of the Western Conference standings, one point in front of the Seattle Sounders. The Galaxy and Colorado Rapids are tied with a league-low 13 points.

Roman Bürki finished with four saves for St. Louis City. Jonathan Bond saved five shots for the Galaxy.



Seattle Sounders midfielder Albert Rusnák (11) battles for a jump ball with Charlotte FC defender Nathan Byrne (14) during an MLS soccer match in Charlotte, N.C. (AP)

## Ranieri's Cagliari promoted

## Verona edge Spezia in Serie A relegation playoff

MILAN, June 12, (AP): Hellas Verona will continue to play in the Italian top flight next season after it beat Spezia 3-1 in a relegation playoff, sending its opponent down to Serie B.

Cyril Ngonge scored twice to help Verona secure its Serie A status. Spezia had a chance to get back into the match midway through the second period after Verona defender Marco Davide Faraoni was sent off but M'Bala Nzola saw his penalty saved.

Claudio Ranieri's Cagliari will be one of the teams that replaces Spezia in Serie A after it beat Bari in a promotion playoff.

Both Verona and Spezia finished the regular season level on points, on either side of the relegation zone. Under new rules there was a playoff to decide who would join last-place Sampdoria and Cremonese in being relegated.

If the rules hadn't been changed, Spezia would have stayed up as it had the better head-to-head record. It was the first relegation playoff since 2005, when Parma beat Bologna over two legs.

This was a one-off match in Reggio Emilia. Verona got off to the per-

fect start with less than five minutes on the clock when Darko Lazović whipped in a cross from the left for an unmarked Faraoni to fire in, with the aid of a deflection from Spezia defender Ethan Ampadu.

Ampadu went from villain to hero just 10 minutes later with a powerful 20-yard strike that took a double deflection before going into the top left corner.

It was the on-loan Chelsea player's first senior goal.

## SOCCER

Verona restored its advantage in the 26th minute when Ngonge played a one-two with Milan Đurić before slotting into the back of the net.

Ngonge had only scored three goals all season but he doubled his tally 12 minutes later when he ran from inside his own half, took on Ampadu, and then fired into the bottom near corner.

Spezia should have got back into the match in the 68th. Faraoni was shown a straight red card for clearing a shot off the line with his hand, preventing a certain goal. But it proved

to be worth the punishment as Lorenzo Montipò saved Nzola's weak penalty.

Ampadu also hit the crossbar late on.

Ranieri was seen crying on the field as he celebrated with his players after Cagliari snatched a late 1-0 win against Bari to earn promotion back to Serie A with a 2-1 aggregate score.

Ranieri had only joined Cagliari at the end of December, with the Sardinian team 14th in Serie B.

It is Ranieri's second spell at Cagliari -- more than 30 years after his first, when he led it to back-to-back promotions from the third division to Serie A.

Substitute Leonardo Pavoletti came off the bench in the 89th minute and volleyed in the winner in stoppage time to wreck Bari's hopes.

Bari had been on the verge of ending a 12-year absence from Serie A as a late goal of its own had seen it snatch a 1-1 draw in the first leg and, as it finished the season higher up the table, it would have been promoted if the score was tied on aggregate.

Serie B champion Frosinone and runner-up Genoa were the other teams that were promoted.



Al Ahly's Yasser Ibrahim, (left), challenges for the ball with Wydad's Jalal Daoudi during the CAF Champions League final soccer match between Morocco's Wydad Athletic Club and Egypt's Al Ahly SC, at the Mohammed V stadium, in Casablanca. (AP) — See Page 16

## Taylor wins Canadian Open



Nick Taylor (center), of Canada, holds the trophy after winning the Canadian Open golf tournament on the fourth playoff hole against Tommy Fleetwood, of the United Kingdom in Toronto. (AP)

## Stricker claims 4th title this year

TORONTO, June 12, (AP): Nick Taylor became the first Canadian in 69 years to win his national open, holing a 72-foot eagle putt on the fourth playoff hole to beat Tommy Fleetwood in the RBC Canadian Open on Sunday.

Taylor tossed his putter into the air and jumped into the arms of his caddie after making the longest putt of his PGA Tour career, and fellow Canadian players Mike Weir, Corey Connors and Adam Hadwin were among those who ran out to the green to congratulate him. Hadwin was tackled by a security guard while spraying champagne from a bottle.

The last player from Canada to win the Canadian Open was Pat Fletcher in 1954 at Point Grey in Vancouver. Fletcher was born in England; Carl Keffer had been the only Canadian-born champion, winning in 1909 and 1914.

Taylor curled in an 11-foot birdie putt on the 18th hole to finish at 17-under 271 at Oakdale for a 6-under 66. Fleetwood needed a birdie on the reachable par 5 to win in regulation, but he missed his tee shot right, laid up into an awkward lie in the right rough and two-putted for par to force the playoff in rainy conditions.

## GOLF

The players traded birdies on their first time playing No. 18 in the playoff. They both parred 18 and the par-3 ninth before heading back to 18.

Rory McIlroy shot 72 and tied for ninth.

Steve Stricker's latest win on the PGA Tour Champions felt as big as any in his career, closing with a 3-under 69 on Sunday to win his American Family Insurance Championship in his native Wisconsin for his fourth title this year.

Stricker already has six senior majors, including the two played this year. This tournament was one his foundation began before he turned 50, and he finally got it.

Tied with Paul Broadhurst to start

## Jets' Zach Wilson putting struggles behind

FLORHAM PARK, N.J., June 12, (AP): Zach Wilson never expected to be here at this point in his NFL career. The No. 2 overall pick in the 2021 draft is the New York Jets' backup quarterback behind Aaron Rodgers. It has been a two-year stretch that has seen Wilson go from the future of the franchise to a reclamation project.

And learning from the player he has always wanted to be like.

"It's interesting, right?" Wilson said Friday, the first time he spoke with reporters since the end of last season. "Of course I wish things had gone differently the past two years and I would've played amazing. But I truly believe things happen for a reason."

Trying to discern what that reason is has been part of what has been a tumultuous journey for Wilson, who has shown brief flashes of why he was so highly coveted. But overwhelming struggles have marked his short time in the NFL.

In 22 starts, Wilson has 15 touchdowns and 18 interceptions with a lowly 55.2 completion percentage and an unsightly 70.9 quarterback rating. As his production dipped, so did his confidence - to the point he was

benched twice last season and coach Robert Saleh insisted Wilson needed a mental reset.

Meanwhile, the Jets knew they needed to address the quarterback position in the offseason. They were open with Wilson, telling him they'd bring in a veteran who presumably would take over as the starter.

"I can't be bitter at the situation," Wilson acknowledged. "I didn't perform well."

## FOOTBALL

General manager Joe Douglas pulled off the trade that shook up the NFL in April, when he acquired Rodgers from Green Bay after months of speculation.

Wilson, who in January declared he would make an incoming veteran's life "hell" at practice, was suddenly going to be teammates with his idol.

"How old is he 40?" a smiling Wilson said. "He's double my age. I'm like, 'You're like my big brother I never had.' Sometimes your little brother has to make your life hell."

the final round, Stricker seized control with two straight birdies to close out the front nine at University Ridge Golf Club. He won by five shots over Broadhurst (74) and Steven Alker (70).

His other big win in Wisconsin was as Ryder Cup captain two years ago at Whistling Straits, when the Americans beat Europe by a record margin.



Ashleigh Buhai, of South Africa, hits on the 11th hole during the final round of the ShopRite LPGA Classic golf tournament in Galloway, N.J. (AP)

Stricker now has 15 wins on the PGA Tour Champions, and he gets another crack before the home crowd in the U.S. Senior Open at SentryWorld in Stevens Point.

Ashleigh Buhai seized the lead early with four birdies in her first five holes, closed with a short birdie for a 6-under 65 and held off Hyo Joo Kim for a one-

shot victory in the ShopRite LPGA Classic on Sunday.

It was the fourth win worldwide over the past 10 months for Buhai, who finished at 14-under 199 in the 54-hole event on the Bay Course at Seaview.

Buhai won the Women's British Open last August for her first major and first LPGA Tour win, and since has added titles in Australia and her native South Africa. At 34 years, 11 months, Buhai is the oldest winner this year on the youth-dominated LPGA Tour.

Buhai began the day three shots behind leader Dani Holmquist (72). By the time she rolled in a long birdie on the par-4 fifth hole, she led by one over Kim.

Kim, in the final pairing, birdied the par-3 17th to give herself a chance, but she needed to eagle the par-5 18th to match Buhai and could only manage birdie. She shot 68.

Dale Whitnell held his nerve to win the Scandinavian Mixed event on Sunday for his first career win on the European tour.

The 34-year-old English player, whose sole appearance at a major was 11 years ago, closed with a 2-under 70 to finish at 21-under 267, three shots clear of American Sean Crocker.

## Busch settles for second

## Martin surges to 4th career victory at Sonoma Raceway

SONOMA, Calif., June 12, (AP): Martin Truex Jr. shows up at Sonoma Raceway each year brimming with the confidence only acquired by repeated success on a track.

Last summer, team owner Joe Gibbs admits he didn't give Truex a car capable of demonstrating his driver's mastery of this hilly road course.

One year and innumerable Toyota improvements later, Truex roared right back to Victory Lane in wine country.

Truex won at Sonoma for the fourth time in his NASCAR Cup Series career Sunday, passing Chase Elliott for the lead after a final-stage restart and holding off Kyle Busch.

The 42-year-old Truex confidently drove his Joe Gibbs Racing Toyota to another victory at the track where he also won in 2013, 2018 and 2019. Only Jeff Gordon has more victories (five) at Sonoma than Truex, who earned the 33rd win of his Cup career and his second in the last six races after winning at Dover.

## CAR RACING

Truex went winless in 2022, and the subpar Toyota cars and setups took most of the blame. Gibbs particularly remembers last year's trip to Sonoma as "one of the worst races we've had in our race team" in terms of setup and performance.

Truex finished 26th in Northern California last year, but the experience didn't budge his confidence.

"I knew I can navigate around this track," Truex said. "Maybe I'm not the best driver at this track. I don't know. Maybe somebody else could go a tenth of a second faster in my car than I do. I doubt they could, but it's possible. But they're not going to be a second off like we were last year. When you're that far off, it's like, 'Yeah, that was dumb. What were we even thinking (with that setup)?' ... But I never thought we couldn't win again."

Elliott finished fifth in his return from a one-race suspension for delib-

erately wrecking Hamlin at Charlotte. Elliott, who has missed seven races this season, twice held the lead in the final stage before Truex blew past him on fresher tires.

Truex has seven top-10 finishes in his last nine races, reflecting Toyota's improvement for 2023.

"You come to Sonoma with Martin Truex, and you expect to win," crew chief James Small said. "Thankfully, today we gave him a car, and he was able to do that. ... We have a better understanding of the car on road courses now. Everything just makes more sense. We don't seem so stupid anymore. It's nice from our end that we can start using logic."

Joey Logano was third behind Busch, with Chris Buescher in fourth. Elliott had his third top-five finish of the year, but is still winless.

Truex and Busch, who was 2.979 seconds behind in his Richard Childress Racing Chevrolet, had the 11th 1-2 finish of their long Cup careers. They spent the previous four seasons as teammates at JGR, and Truex also held off Busch to win at Sonoma in 2019.

"Not too bad," said Busch, who won last week's Cup race outside St. Louis. "Just wish we had a little bit more. I was just trying to keep him honest there at the end. ... It's good for us, because (Toyota is) so good on road courses. They've done the work. We did a good job keeping it competitive."

Truex appeared to be cruising toward victory before pole-sitter Denny Hamlin spun after he made contact with the wall with 19 laps to go. Hamlin's car slid sideways across the start-finish line.

Elliott led coming out of the caution with 15 laps left, but Truex surged up on fresher tires and reclaimed the lead for good.

"I really think he's confident when he comes here," Gibbs said. "It really feels like he's got a real feel with Sonoma. From time to time, drivers have a real confidence about some tracks, and he's like that here."



Martin Truex Jr. (19) burns his tires after winning a NASCAR Cup Series auto race at Sonoma Raceway in Sonoma, Calif. (AP)

## Toney describes FA as 'spiteful'

LONDON, June 12, (AP): England striker Ivan Toney has described the Football Association as "spiteful" for its handling of his ban for breaking betting rules.

Toney was handed an eight-month suspension last month after admitting to 232 counts of breaching English soccer's betting rules.

The FA announced Toney had been charged with 262 breaches in November, effectively ruling him out of contention for the World Cup in Qatar, but had to wait until May before receiving his ban and a fine of 50,000 pounds (\$62,000).

"It came out just before the England camp," the Brentford striker said in an interview on Kick Game's YouTube channel that was released Monday. "Obviously I missed that and the World Cup. Honestly, that would have been my biggest dream."

"It was like, get it out now so he doesn't go with England, and then all of a sudden they want to wait until the end of the season. It is what it is, if they want to do it that way. I call it a bit

spiteful, but it is what it is."

Toney said missing the World Cup was a "bigger punishment" than his actual ban.

An independent commission said in its report that Toney's punishment could have been worse if not for the diagnosis of a gambling addiction.

Among the charges, 29 bets or instructions to bet related to clubs Toney was registered with or on loan with at the time.

Toney did not play in any of the seven different games in which 13 bets were placed on his own team to lose. There were 15 bets on him to score in matches in which he did play.

"None of it was match-fixing," Toney said. "None of what I did or was accused of doing, none of it was match-fixing. If it was I understand that, ban me for eight months or if not longer."

England coach Gareth Southgate has been critical of the wide-reaching nature of Toney's ban, which prohibits him from training until Sept. 17 and from playing again until Jan. 17.



Italy's goalkeeper Sebastiano Desplanches (left), clears the ball against Uruguay's Alan Matturo (13) and Sebastian Boselli during the FIFA U-20 World Cup final soccer match at the Diego Maradona stadium in La Plata, Argentina. (AP)

# Sports

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## Uruguay win maiden U-20 World Cup title



Rodríguez stars

**LA PLATA, Argentina, June 12, (AP):** Uruguay beat Italy 1-0 on Sunday to win its first Under-20 World Cup title. The Celeste's victory ends a streak of four consecutive wins of European teams in the tournament.

Luciano Rodríguez scored the winning goal in the 86th minute in a header from close range, giving Uruguay a much deserved victory after an entire match of dominance against Italy.

More than 40,000 people, mostly cheering for Uruguay, attended the match at the Diego Maradona Stadium. FIFA President Gianni Infantino was also present.

Uruguay barely needed to count on its steady defense, which conceded only three goals in the tournament, all against England in the group stage.

The South American team had clear chances to open the scoring much earlier in a free kick taken by Rodríguez, two long distance shots by captain Fabricio Díaz and a header by Anderson Duarte that forced goalkeeper Sebastiano Desplanches to make one of the best saves of the tournament.

### SOCCER

"This is crazy, crazy, crazy and we deserve it," a tearful Rodríguez said after the match. "We are living a dream."

Uruguay was so involved with the match in La Plata that the country's soccer association suspended Sunday's round of the national championship so fans could watch the final against Italy.

Italy's Cesare Casadei, the top tournament's top scorer with seven goals, had a disappointing performance in the final.

Italy coach Carmine Nunziata recognized Uruguay played better, but said the poor pitch affected his players.

"The pitch has penalized any player who has more skills," Nunziata said. "We had an incredible run. This match doesn't cancel what we have done, playing all these matches is not easy. They were better than us today."

Neither Uruguay nor Italy was among the favorites when the U20 World Cup kicked off on May 20, but unlike Brazil, Argentina and England they faced less resistance from clubs about releasing players for the tournament.

It is not mandatory for clubs to allow their players to take part in international youth competitions. Uruguay lost the final of the tournament in 1997 and 2013. Brazil was the last winner from South America in 2011.

The title for the Celeste comes in the wake of Argentina's World Cup title in December, which also ended a sequence of wins of European teams.

Earlier, debutant Israel beat South Korea 3-1 to secure third place in the same stadium in La Plata.

Indonesia was initially scheduled to host the tournament, but the Muslim-majority country did not accept Israel's participation. FIFA decided to hand the organization over to Argentina one month before kickoff.

Al Ahly players celebrate with the trophy after winning the CAF Champions League final soccer match between Morocco's Wydad Athletic Club and Egypt's Al Ahly SC, at the Mohammed V stadium, in Casablanca, Morocco. (AP)

Abdelmonem ends defending champs Wydad hopes

## Egypt's Al Ahly win African Champions League

Gundogan and Silva possible departure

## Pep looks to build on City success in CL after finally 'conquering' Europe

MANCHESTER, England, June 12, (AP) — Almost immediately after leading Manchester City to its first Champions League title on Saturday, Pep Guardiola spoke of the need to build on that success.

Real Madrid's record haul of 14 European Cups is safe for some time yet - but there is every reason to believe City will go on to win the competition again and again.

This was, after all, its second final in three seasons.

The 1-0 win against Inter Milan in Istanbul's Ataturk Olimpiyat Stadium had been coming. And the wealth of Abu Dhabi's ruling family, combined with Guardiola's apparent insatiable drive for perfection, means City has the potential to become even stronger in the coming years.

Guardiola is a huge fan of Michael Jordan. And just as one title wasn't enough for the Chicago Bulls icon, who went on to win six NBA championships, Guardiola knows City's legacy in Europe depends on repeated success.

Madrid is a serial winner, having lifted four Champions League titles between 2014 and 2018, and winning again in 2022. That is the benchmark for City.



Inter Milan's Denzel Dumfries (left), and Manchester City's Jack Grealish duel for the ball during the Champions League final soccer match between Manchester City and Inter Milan at the Ataturk Olimpiyat Stadium in Istanbul, Turkey. (AP)

to Bayern Munich midway through the campaign and could leave permanently in the summer.

Guardiola was a big admirer of England international Jude Bellingham, but Real Madrid has won the race for the highly rated midfielder.

An alternative may be sought, particularly if Gundogan or Silva go. In Phil Foden, City has a high-class option ready for more involvement than he managed during this season.

Guardiola is not the type of coach to stand still and City's Abu Dhabi backers have consistently provided with the funds to improve his team with the world's best players.

Jack Grealish became English soccer's first 100 million pound (\$139 million) signing after City was beaten by Chelsea in the Champions League final of 2021.

Last year, Haaland, who was coveted by almost every top club in Europe, was added to a team that had just won back-to-back league titles.

Having finally made the breakthrough in the Champions League, Guardiola will not want to risk taking a backward step. That is likely what

he will tell Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, who was in attendance to watch City's crowning glory.

There was a 12-year gap between Guardiola's last European Cup win with Barcelona in 2011 and his latest. He has triumphed in this competition on three occasions and knows how difficult it is to win.

Only Madrid has successfully defended the trophy since it was rebranded as the Champions League in 1992, winning it in three successive seasons from 2016-18.

That is a measure of the standard required to dominate the European game. And while City may have bold ambitions, the competition could hardly be more intense.

Here's a look at which country's clubs could get in the way of repeat success for Guardiola's Man City next season:

Madrid has already moved to sign Bellingham in a deal that could reach \$139 million. Karim Benzema's decision to head to Al-Ittihad in Saudi Arabia means a world class striker is needed and Tottenham's Harry Kane has already been linked.

Vinicius Junior is establishing himself as one of soccer's global stars and, along with Eduardo Camavinga and Aurélien Tchouaméni, is part of the Spanish giant's next generation of potential "Galacticos."

Barcelona is back on top in Spain after winning the league title this season and will look to build on that. While it missed out on the re-signing of Lionel Messi, it has been linked with moves for City pair Gundogan and Silva.

Arsenal pushed City hard for the Premier League title and after qualifying for the Champions League will reportedly try to strengthen with the signing of West Ham midfielder Declan Rice.

Manchester United has made forward steps under manager Erik ten Hag, winning the League Cup and qualifying for the Champions League. If a buyout of the club can be completed soon, it could go big in the transfer market this summer, with a top striker the priority.

CASABLANCA, Morocco, June 12, (AP) — Egypt's Al Ahly won the African Champions League on Sunday for a record-extending 11th continental club title as a late header by defender Mohamed Abdelmonem wrestled the crown away from defending champion Wydad at its home stadium in Morocco.

### SOCCER

Abdelmonem's 78th-minute goal saw the second leg of the final end 1-1 in Casablanca and gave Al Ahly a 3-2 aggregate win.

It is the Egyptian giant's third title in four years and was revenge for a loss to Wydad at the same Stade Mohammed V in the one-off final a year ago.

Yahia Attiyat Allah put Wydad ahead in the 27th minute when his left-footed free kick from out on the right side drifted past everyone and into the far corner of the net.

At 1-0 on the night, Wydad was winning on away goals and the home fans let off fireworks from that point on, causing referee Bamlak Tessema Weyesa to stop

the game for a few minutes in the second half for the clouds of thick white smoke to clear.

Abdelmonem ended the celebrations for the Wydad supporters about 10 minutes after the short delay when he met Ali Maaloul's corner with a glancing header to take Al Ahly back to the top of African club soccer.

As the Al Ahly players celebrated the goal near a tiny pocket of their supporters, plastic bottles rained down on them from the Wydad fans.

There was a heavy security presence for the North African showdown, with lines of police emerging to surround the field in the final minutes of the game.

Ahead of kickoff, there were scuffles between Wydad supporters and Moroccan police near the stadium, with some fans bundled into police vans.

The 45,000-seat Stade Mohammed V was full two hours before kickoff.

Wydad, buoyed by a late goal of its own in the first leg to come away from Cairo with a narrow 2-1 loss, was in charge for most of the game in Casablanca.



Uruguay's players celebrate with the trophy after winning the FIFA U-20 World Cup final soccer match against Italy at the Diego Maradona stadium in La Plata, Argentina. (AP)