



baseball

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soccer

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Tehran in broad diplomatic outreach



KUNA photo
Kuwait's Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah receives his Iranian counterpart Hossein Amir-Abdollahian and his entourage at the General Diwan of the Foreign Ministry on Wednesday evening.

Heat could cool ambitions

Climate may impact Hajj plans

MAKKAH, Saudi Arabia, June 22, (AP): Saudi Arabia has ambitious plans to welcome millions more pilgrims to Islam's holiest sites. But as climate change heats up an already scorching region, the annual Hajj pilgrimage - much of which takes place outdoors in the desert - could prove even more daunting.

The increased number of pilgrims, with the associated surge in international air travel and infrastructure expansion, also raises sustainability concerns, even as the oil giant pursues the goal of getting half its energy from renewable resources by 2030.

Next week, Saudi Arabia hosts the first Hajj pilgrimage without the restrictions imposed during the coronavirus pandemic. Some 2.5 million people took part in

the pilgrimage in 2019, and around 2 million are expected this year.

Under Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's wide-ranging plan to overhaul the kingdom's economy, known as Vision 2030, 30 million pilgrims would take part in the Hajj and Umrah - a smaller, year-round pilgrimage. That would be an increase of more than 10 million from pre-pandemic levels.

It will require a vast expansion of hotels and other infrastructure in Makkah and Madinah, ancient cities already largely obliterated by high-rises and shopping malls. The additional pilgrims will require more long-distance flights,

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Kuwait, Iran FM's discuss ties

KUWAIT CITY, June 22, (Agencies): Kuwait's Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received his Iranian counterpart Hossein Amir-Abdollahian and his entourage at the General Diwan of the Foreign Ministry on Wednesday evening.

Sheikh Salem conveyed the regards of His Highness the Amir

Newswatch

KUWAIT CITY: Weather in Kuwait is forecast to be quite hot in the coming days but temperature will drop by some degrees at night, the meteorology department reported on Thursday.

Abdulaziz Al-Qarawi, the weather monitor, told KUNA that Kuwait would be affected by the seasonal Indian low wave, along with dust-triggering northwesterly winds that lower visibility.

Temperature tonight is forecast to drop to a maximum 31-33 degrees, but will soar tomorrow Friday to 47-49 degrees in daytime and will get stronger on Saturday, hitting 48-50 degrees. (KUNA)

JERUSALEM: Israeli police on Wednesday fired tear gas, sponge-tipped bullets and a water cannon during mass demonstrations by Druze Arabs in the Golan Heights - a rare burst of violence in the normally quiet area. At least 20 people were reported injured.

Thousands of Druze residents of the Golan took part in the demonstrations against the construction of massive wind turbines. The windswept area is an ideal spot for the turbines, but residents fear damage to their properties and landowners have said they did not understand the agreements they signed with a local power company, according to Israeli media.

Israeli police said a large crowd attempted to storm a police position in the town of Masade, throwing stones, fireworks, setting tires on fire, vandalizing police cars, blocking roads and even shooting live fire into the air. (AP)

IRBIL: Assistant Secretary-General and Director of the Regional Bureau for Arab States of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Abdullah Al Dardari discussed with Iraqi governments' officials and Kurdistan Regions' officials the importance of diversifying sources of income.

In a statement, Kurdistan Region government said that this came during a meeting between UN delegation headed by Al-Dardari and President of Kurdistan Region Nechervan Barzani, where the UN delegation affirmed that they aim to help Kurdistan Region to diversify sources of income rather than just relying on oil.

Barzani affirmed that the future of Iraq and Kurdistan Region depends on diversifying sources of income and economy, as the two sides discussed the climate change and its serious effect on Iraq, while the UN delegation affirmed support for Iraq and Kurdistan to face it. (KUNA)

MADRID: The bodies of a man and a child were retrieved from waters off the western coast of Morocco and 24 people were rescued after a rubber dinghy carrying migrants sank, Spain's Maritime Rescue service said Wednesday.

A Spanish NGO, Caminando Fronteras (Walking Borders), says more than 60 people were aboard and that more than 30 were reported missing. It accused Spanish authorities of failing to assist the migrants in time.

The NGO monitors migrant boats in the area to try to help them and receives calls from people on the boats or their relatives. (AP)

STOCKHOLM: The shipwreck last week off Greece that is feared to have killed hundreds of people may be the "worst ever tragedy" of its kind in the Mediterranean Sea, the European Union's migration chief said Wednesday.

The tragedy comes as migrant crossings from eastern Libya to Europe have surged, said Ylva Johansson, the EU's migration and home affairs commissioner. (AP)

Day by Day

Without a doubt, the recent rulings on discrimination are important in stopping the course of financial corruption, which has spread in our time in a way that seems to have become normal. It is often called 'Lebanon without shame'.

Therefore, the State must declare that its eyes are open, its funds are protected, and severe punishment has justifications and principles.

...Yet, tomorrow is another day.

Zahed Matar

Both sides discussed the deep-rooted bilateral ties and explored ways to promote cooperation in various vital areas, particularly economy and investment.

They voiced hope that the coming meeting of the Kuwait-Iran joint high commission would be able to open new horizons for development and prosperity and realize the aspirations of both nations.

They exchanged views on a range of regional and international issues, with emphasis on the latest developments of the situation in the occupied Palestinian territories and recurrent Israeli attacks on the Palestinian people.

Sheikh Salem and Amir-Abdollahian also discussed the situations in Yemen, Iraq, Syria and Afghanistan, as well as the nuclear dossier of Iran and war in Ukraine.

They stated a shared desire to enhance cooperation and back the international efforts to preserve regional and international peace, security and stability.

In latest development, the president of the United Arab Emirates met with Iran's visiting foreign minister on Thursday in the latest sign of improving relations between Arab Gulf countries and the Islamic Republic.

The UAE, Saudi Arabia and other Gulf countries have long harbored suspicions about Iran because of its nuclear program and support for militant groups across the region, and have cultivated close defense ties with the U.S. But in recent months they have charted a more independent path, reaching out to U.S. adversaries as Washington increasingly focuses on Russia and China.

Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan and Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian "discussed the importance of building on positive developments to benefit the people of the region and enhance regional stability and prosperity," the UAE's state-run WAM news agency reported.

Iranian state TV said the two met for 90 minutes and discussed further cooperation in different fields. It said the Iranian foreign minister invited Sheikh Mohammed to visit Iran and that the UAE president invited Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi to visit the Emirates.

The meeting follows similar recent outreach by Saudi Arabia, which agreed to normalize relations with Iran for the first time in seven years in a deal brokered by China in March. The two countries have since reopened embassies and held high-level official visits.

The UAE, home to the futuristic cities of Dubai and Abu Dhabi, is a close U.S. military ally that hosts some 2,000 American troops at the Al-Dhafra Air Base. U.S. forces based there and in other Arab Gulf countries have long been seen as a deterrent to Iran.

The UAE was also the driving force behind the so-called Abraham Accords, in which it and three other Arab countries forged ties with Israel. Israel views Iran as its greatest threat and hopes to further isolate it by pursuing closer ties with Arab states.

Israel and the U.S. are keen to reach a normalization agreement with Saudi Arabia. Saudi officials say any such agreement would have to be linked to resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Meanwhile, the European Union and Iran held talks in Doha on Wednesday on a number of regional and international issues, according to Enrique Mora Deputy Secretary General, and the Political Director at the European External Action Service of the EU's diplomatic service.

"Intense talks yesterday and today with Vice Minister Bagheri Kani in Doha on a range of difficult bilateral, regional and international issues, including the way forward on the JCPOA," said Mora, who is also EU's negotiator on Iran nuclear deal, on his twitter message.

He said they had a "good exchange" on the Gulf, including the new EU strategy for the Gulf, the appointment of the new EU Special Representative for the

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Opinion

To Kuwaitis ... How would the country be without the ruling family?

By Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

LET us talk about the ruling house and the path that the people are aspiring for. This is essential especially after the speech delivered by His Highness the Deputy Amir and the Crown Prince with his optimistic words and the directives issued to the two authorities, as well as the election of the National Assembly Speaker by acclamation, and the speech of His Highness the Prime Minister in which he extended his hand of cooperation to the National Assembly.

Undoubtedly, the participation of Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad and Sheikh Firas Al-Malik in the new Council of Ministers is the beginning of the disruption of the mines that were planted in the process of government work years ago. Their participation increases the prestige and strength of the ruling house in its presence at the public level, as it is known that these houses are coherent and in harmony between its members and the people.

Indeed, Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad has disputes, but in return he has his supporters, and he has his presence in public affairs. When a page is turned over, it means the start of stable work in the ruling house. However, the question remains - Why did these disputes occur? Why are there accusations against sheikhs regarding bribery and corruption?

It must firstly be emphasized that royal families or rather monarchs are far from the commercial front or other public works. This is due to the fact that the goal is to keep them away from direct negative contact with people. That is why they have their own schools, which are interested in educating their members until the seventh generation of potential kings. This is the case in Norway, Sweden, Belgium, the Emirates, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the Sultanate of Oman and Bahrain, and many others that I am unable to recall at the moment. For this reason, sufficient funds are allocated for them so that none of them need to crowd out people in their business, which is an indicator that Kuwait is not accustomed to.

This happens mainly because there is a failure in fulfilling their rights, given that the budget of the Amiri Diwan - which takes care of members of the ruling family - is KD 50 million. This is not enough to quell the urge of the sheikhs to earn more through work. Realistically, in the eyes of the people, the members of the ruling family are the elite, and they have prestige that cannot be deviated from.

It is natural that these houses have their secrets and rituals that cannot be deviated from also. Therefore, preserving their prestige is a task that cannot be taken lightly. This is what the Emirates, as well as other monarchical states, are accustomed to in their ruling houses.

On the other hand, the first thing that threatens any state is harm towards the ruling family. In Saudi Arabia, for example, the state was on the brink of bankruptcy. There was a time when there were vigorous attempts to spread corruption in the country through princes who did not realize the dangers of their interference in people's private and public affairs.

Rather, external conspiracies were plotted to divide the kingdom. This is no longer a secret. However, all of them were thwarted by the reformist steps pioneered by King Salman and his directives to Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, who was distinguished by firmness and rigor in implementation. The "Ritz Riyadh" operation was a blow not only to the corrupt among the public, but also for the princes who thought they were outside the circle of accountability.

The reform also was a remarkable sign to the outside that this vast kingdom is able to maintain its stability and prevent any threat to it from inside or outside.

Likewise, we no longer hear of any encroachment in the United Arab Emirates

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Adalah, the mother of Palestinian prisoner Kamal Jouri, inspects the ruins of the house belonging to the family which was demolished by Israeli troops in the West Bank city of Nablus, Thursday, June 22, 2023. Jouri is accused of shooting and killing an IDF soldier last year near Nablus. (AP)

US reiterates call for de-escalation

Israelis demolish attacker's home

JERUSALEM, June 22, (Agencies): Israeli troops on Thursday demolished the home of a Palestinian who is suspected of killing an Israeli soldier last year, in the latest military operation in the increasingly volatile occupied West Bank, which has been gripped by surging violence.

The demolition came during a week of rising tensions and unrelenting violence in the West Bank and just hours after Israel carried out a rare airstrike that killed three Palestinian militants near the city of Jenin and Israeli settlers attacked Palestinian villages in retaliation for the killing of four Israelis a day earlier.

A daylong Israeli military raid on Monday killed seven Palestinians, including two teens, near Jenin, a militant stronghold in the West Bank. A day later, a mass shooting by Palestinian gunmen killed four Israelis, including a 17-year-old boy. On Wednesday, hundreds of Israeli settlers stormed into a Palestinian village adjacent to the scene of the shooting and torched homes and cars.

The army said late Wednesday it had "identified a terrorist cell inside a suspicious vehicle" that was allegedly responsible for recent shooting attacks on Jewish settlements. The Palestinian Islamic Jihad militant group on Thursday claimed the three men killed in the drone strike were its members and vowed to carry out more attacks in revenge.

Meanwhile, the US Department of State reaffirmed resolve to continue to work with the Israelis and Palestinians to promote steps towards de-escalation of the conflict.

Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Barbara A. Leaf is in the region now continuing to be "directly engaged with the parties on efforts to restore calm," said Vedant Patel - the Principal Deputy Spokesperson of the State Dept, in a press briefing on Wednesday.

"This is, of course, something the Secretary (Antony J. Blinken) and others across the Department are deeply engaged with as well," Patel noted.

"And we remain steadfast in our work to promote de-es-

calation and even beyond this environment, which you've heard me say before, and where Israelis and Palestinians are afforded equal measures of security, peace, and prosperity.

"We take steps through dialog, through our engagement in the region, through raising this directly with Israeli officials as well as officials in the Palestinian Authority.

"We've been very clear that any kind of activity or actions that will incite tensions will take us away from our ultimate goal of a negotiated two state solution," he added.

It was the first Israeli airstrike in the West Bank in nearly two decades and marked a significant escalation of Israel's more than year-long crackdown on Palestinian militants in the occupied territory.

Early Thursday, the Israeli army released a video showing troops carrying out the controlled demolition of the suspected gunman's apartment. The military reported that troops came under attack during the operation in the city of Nablus, but no injuries were reported.

The house belonged to Kamal Jouri, one of two Palestinians suspected of killing Staff Sgt. Ido Baruch in a drive-by shooting in the northern West Bank in October. He and a second suspect were arrested by the military in February, and the army demolished the second suspect's home earlier this month. A Palestinian militant group called the Den of Lions claimed the attack.

Israel says that demolishing the homes of Palestinian attackers serves as a deterrent, while critics say the tactic amounts to collective punishment.

Mayor Lafi Adeb said some 30 houses and 60 cars were partly or totally burned. At least eight Palestinians were hurt during clashes, which the army tried to disperse by firing rubber bullets and tear gas.

Palestinian medical officials said one man - identified as 27-year-old Omar Qatin - was killed by army fire. Residents said Qatin was a father of two small children and worked as an electrician for the local municipality.



Members of the Saudi special forces for Hajj and Umrah (SFHU), perform a military parade in preparation for the annual Hajj pilgrimage, in the Muslim holy city of Makkah, Saudi Arabia, Wednesday, June 21, 2023. Muslim pilgrims are converging on Saudi Arabia's holy city of Makkah for the largest Hajj since the coronavirus pandemic severely curtailed access to one of Islam's five pillars. (AP)

SECURITY

Business Plus



Cooperation or competition?

China industry sees US, not AI, as bigger threat



Chinese tech company ZTE shows its latest technologies during Security China 2023 in Beijing, on June 9, 2023. After years of breakneck growth, China's security and surveillance industry is now focused on shoring up its vulnerabilities to the United States and other outside actors, worried about risks posed by hackers, advances in artificial intelligence and pressure from rival governments. The renewed emphasis on self-reliance, combating fraud and hardening systems against hacking was on display at the recent Security China exhibition in Beijing. (AP)

Tech innovation has become the main battlefield of international geopolitics.

After years of breakneck growth, China's security and surveillance industry is now focused on shoring up its vulnerabilities to the United States and other outside actors, worried about risks posed by hackers, advances in artificial intelligence and pressure from rival governments.

The renewed emphasis on self-reliance, combating fraud and hardening systems against hacking was on display at the recent Security China exhibition in Beijing, illustrating just how difficult it will be to get Beijing and Washington to cooperate even as researchers warn that humankind faces common risks from AI. The show took place just days after China's ruling Communist Party warned officials of the risks posed by artificial intelligence.

Looming over the four-day meet: China's biggest geopolitical rival, the United States. American-developed AI chatbot ChatGPT was a frequent topic of conversation, as were U.S. efforts to choke off China's access to cutting-edge technology.

"This new technology contains a great potential danger," said Fan Weicheng, Director of Tsinghua University's Center for Public Safety Research. He clicked through a presentation featuring an AI-generated figure of Barack Obama speaking, illustrating the risks of

deceptive images and video that can now be digitally created.

"The United States has a 21st century national security strategy. Russia has a national security strategy. Germany has a strategy. So does Japan," Fan said. "We in China are also working on this."

Chinese academics, Fan says, are working on an "early warning system" to identify and manage potentially disruptive technology, creating indexes and formulas to measure the impact emerging technology could have on China's national security.

In the past decade, China's AI technology has made rapid advances, fueled in part through cooperation with American research institutes and tech firms. As in the U.S., Chinese leaders are worried about advances in artificial intelligence.

But there's an additional challenge. As geopolitical tensions have reached a fever pitch in recent years, Washington has moved to cut China's access to American technology - pushing Chinese tech firms towards self-reliance.

Remarks from a meeting chaired by Chinese leader Xi Jinping last month urged a renewed focus on potential risks from new technologies.

"The complexity and severity of national security problems faced by

our country have increased dramatically," said a readout of the meeting by the official Xinhua news agency. "We must be prepared for worst-case and extreme scenarios."

China needs to develop locally-made products and become self-reliant, while keeping an eye on new developments coming out of the West, exhibition-goers said.

"It's the AI era. The future has arrived," said Liu Caixia, a director at a Chinese policing research institute. "Those in the academic community are feeling fear."

"We've seen in some sci-fi blockbusters, there's only intelligent machines left in the world, and human beings are kept like pets," said Liu. "What kind of attitude should we adopt to deal with it?"

Liu's answer was clear and in line with China's determination to lead in cutting edge technologies: Push forward, and deploy AI in new fields.

But it also reflects a contradiction between China's technology ambitions and deepening concerns about the possible social and political risks of such technologies. China's tech firms have approached chatbots like ChatGPT with caution, for example, because of heavy censorship, having AI generate politically sensitive content is a no-go.

But ChatGPT begs the question:

Should China rush to embrace AI and possibly fall prey to its pitfalls, or tiptoe cautiously and risk falling behind the United States?

Across the Pacific, American tech executives and policymakers are grappling with the same questions. Waves of U.S. sanctions have targeted Chinese chipmakers and AI companies to restrict Beijing's access to cutting-edge technology. Politicians worry about China's growing prominence in the field.

With Sino-U.S. frictions at a boiling point, Secretary of State Antony Blinken visited Beijing this week to stabilize ties, seeking to assure Chinese counterparts that Washington was not looking to decouple from China - only "de-risk and diversify."

Though both sides declared the trip a success, Beijing expressed frustration with U.S. sanctions, with China's top foreign affairs official Wang Yi demanding the U.S. "abandon suppression of China's technological development."

Some experts believe cooperation, not conflict, is necessary to confront what they see as a threat to all humanity. Earlier this month, OpenAI CEO Sam Altman dialed into a conference hosted by the Beijing Academy of Artificial Intelligence to encourage collaboration between Chinese and American researchers to mitigate the risks of

AI. "The stakes for international cooperation have never been higher," Altman said, noting that China was home to some of the world's top AI researchers. "We must manage the risk together."

Such concerns were mirrored at the conference in China, where executives expressed concern about the potential for AI-generated voice and imagery to be used in fraud, hacking, and disinformation campaigns.

"The potential for fraud is very high," said Li Congting, chief AI scientist at video surveillance manufacturer Uniview. "Many people have already played around with ChatGPT. Everyone thinks its ability to interact is really good, like there's a real person behind it."

Scientists and tech industry leaders in the U.S., including high-level executives at Microsoft and Google, recently warned about the potential perils of artificial intelligence.

Many Chinese researchers echoed those concerns. But at the Beijing expo, there was little talk of cooperation with the United States.

"Tech innovation has become the main battlefield of international geopolitics," said Gao Lei, a top official at a state-run enterprise managed by China's Ministry of Public Security. The US has "escalated its suppression" of China's tech industry, Gao said, saying it was "imperative" to replace American technology with local computer chips.

Though both countries grapple with concerns about AI, stark differences in their approaches to the technology make cooperation difficult.

China has built one of the most intrusive digital surveillance systems in the world, blanketing city streets and rural villages with cameras and tracking citizens through chat apps and mobile phones.

The U.S. government has sanctioned many Chinese tech companies for their role in Beijing's high-tech crackdown in China's far west Xinjiang region, where digital technology was used to flag ethnic minorities for arrest on often spurious grounds.

Many of the companies at the expo had been sanctioned, including telecoms giant Huawei, camera-maker Hikvision and surveillance specialist Meiya Pico. A representative for Meiya Pico declined an interview with The AP, citing a blanket ban on speaking with foreign media.

Use of policing technology in the U.S. is constrained by civil society and legal challenges. But that has not prevented many from deploying questionable privacy-infringing tech including facial recognition and predictive policing, feeding charges of hypocrisy and fueling suspicions in China that U.S. sanctions are politically motivated.

Meanwhile, Chinese companies are continuing to deploy technology in ways that Western lawmakers find concerning.

At the conference, one China Mobile researcher discussed drones his company was providing to the Hong Kong police. They were used to monitor protesters during 2019

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Confidence plunges, says business group

Foreign companies shifting investment out of China

There's no expectation that the regulatory environment is really going to improve over the next five years.

Foreign companies are shifting investments and their Asian headquarters out of China as confidence plunges following the expansion of an anti-spying law and other challenges, a business group said Wednesday.

The report by the European Union Chamber of Commerce in China adds is one of many signs of growing pessimism despite the ruling Communist Party's efforts to revive interest in the world's No. 2 economy following the end of anti-virus controls.

Companies are uneasy about security controls, government protection of their Chinese rivals and a lack of action on reform promises, according to the European Cham-

ber. They also are being squeezed by slowing Chinese economic growth and rising costs.

"Business confidence in China is 'pretty much the lowest we have on record,' the European Chamber president, Jens Eskelund, told reporters ahead of the report's release.

"There's no expectation that the regulatory environment is really going to improve over the next five years," Eskelund said.

President Xi Jinping's government, trying to shore up economic growth that sank to 3% last year, is trying to encourage foreign companies to invest and bring in technology. But they are uneasy about security rules and plans to create competitors to global suppli-

ers of computer chips, commercial jetliners and other technology. That often involves subsidies and market barriers that Washington and the European Union say violate Beijing's free-trade commitments.

Two-thirds of the 570 companies that responded to the European Chamber's survey said doing business in China has become more difficult, up from less than half before the pandemic. Three out of five said the business environment is "more political," up from half the previous year.

Companies are on edge after police raided offices of two consultancies, Bain & Co. and Capvision, and a due diligence firm, Mintz Group, without public explanation. Authori-

ties say companies are obliged to obey the law but have given no indication of possible violations.

Companies also are uneasy about Beijing's promotion of national self-reliance. Xi's government is pressing manufacturers, hospitals and others to use Chinese suppliers even if that raises their costs. Foreign companies worry they might be shut out of their markets.

Last month, the government banned using products from the biggest U.S. maker of memory chips, Micron Technology Inc., in computers that handle sensitive information. It said Micron had unspecified security flaws but gave no explanation.

One in 10 companies in the

European Chamber survey said they have shifted investments out of China. Another 1 in 5 are delaying or considering shifting investments. In aviation and aerospace, 1 in 5 companies plan no future investment in China.

China has long been a top investment destination due to its huge and growing consumer market, but companies complain about market access restrictions, pressure to hand over technology and other irritants. The ruling party has tightened control since Xi took power in 2012, pressing foreign companies to give the party board seats and a direct say in hiring and other decisions.

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editor's choice



Prayer Timings

Fajr	03:14	Asr	15:24
Sunrise ..	04:49	Maghrib ..	18:51
Zohr	11:50	Isha	20:23

Local

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

Expected weather for next 24 hrs:
By Day: Very hot with light to moderate freshening at times northwesterly wind with speeds of 15-45 km/h causing rising dust over open areas.

Weather			
By Night: Hot to rather hot with light to moderate northwesterly wind with speeds of 12-32 km/h.		Abdaly	44
		Jahra	46
		Salmiyah	41
		Ahmadi	42
		Nuwaisib	44
		Wafra	45
			25
			31
			31
			32
			30
			28

China industry

Continued from Page 2

anti-government protests, the researcher said. Advances in 5G telecommunications technology mean officers no longer need to pilot the drones in the field, but can do so from the comfort of their offices.

"With the click of a mouse, they can get drone footage from the field sent to their computer," said the researcher, Su Yu. "This improves efficiency."

With tensions at an all-time high, experts say, it's an open question whether the two countries can find a way to work together.

"How do the U.S. and China coexist with such fundamentally different norms around the use of technology and society?" said Samm Sacks, a senior fellow at Yale Law School studying Chinese tech policy. "We have to find a way forward. Politically, it is not going to be easy to do."

Also:

SAN JOSE: Trellix, the cybersecurity company delivering the future of extended detection and response (XDR), today released the June 2023 edition of The CyberThreat Report from the Trellix Advanced Research Center which analyzes cybersecurity trends from the last quarter. Insights were gleaned from a global network of expert researchers who analyze over 30 million detections of malicious samples daily. Combined telemetry is collected from one billion sensors, and data from open and closed-source intelligence.

"A year into the Russia-Ukraine conflict, offensive cyber capabilities are being leveraged strategically by nation-states for espionage and disruption," said John Fokker, Head of Threat Intelligence, Trellix Advanced Research Center. "For both leading and developing countries, we see risks to critical infrastructures like telecommunications, energy, and manufacturing by notable APT groups - a warning to public and private organizations to deploy modern protections to stay ahead of rapidly evolving threats."

The latest Trellix Advanced Research Center report covers the first quarter of 2023 and is comprised of evidence of activity linked to ransomware and nation-state-backed APT actors, threats to email, malicious use of legitimate security tools, and more. Key findings include:

"Security Operations teams are in a race to enhance defense capabilities to protect organizations from growing attack surfaces," said Joseph "Yossi" Tal, SVP, Trellix Advanced Research Center. "Already understaffed, teams are in a daily catch-up to process millions of data points across complicated networks. Trellix's goal is to provide research to strengthen security postures through insights gleaned from our massive reservoir of intelligence."

The CyberThreat Report includes proprietary data from Trellix's sensor network, investigations into nation-state and cybercriminal activity by the Trellix Advanced Research Center, open and closed-source intelligence, and threat actor leak sites. The report is based on telemetry related to detection of threats, when a file, URL, IP-address, suspicious email, network behavior, or other indicator is detected and reported by the Trellix XDR platform.

The Trellix Advanced Research Center brings together an elite team of security professionals and researchers to produce insightful and actionable real-time intelligence to propel customer outcomes and the industry at large. Driven by the industry's most comprehensive charter, our skilled researchers detect trends ahead of the market to empower our customers and partners to solve for emerging threats. (AP)

Foreign companies

Continued from Page 2

The European Chamber noted it wasn't just foreign companies that are moving: 2 out of 5 in its survey reported Chinese customers or suppliers are shifting investments out of the country.

A separate group, the British Chamber of Commerce in China, said last month its members were waiting for "greater clarity" about anti-spying, data security and other rules before making new investments.

The biggest concern is the ruling party's sweeping expansion of its definition of national security to include the economy, food, energy and politics, Eskelund said.

"What does qualify as a state secret? Where does politics begin and the commercial world stop?" Eskelund said. That "creates uncertainty" about "where we can operate as normal businesses."

In the European Chamber survey, the top destination for companies moving their Asian headquarters out of China was Singapore, with 43% of companies that moved, followed by Malaysia. Only 9% went or plan to go to Hong Kong.

Leaders including Premier Li Qiang, China's top economic official, have promised to improve operating conditions, but businesses say they see few concrete changes.

"Our members are not really convinced that we are going to see tangible results," Eskelund said. (AP)

Neutral labs to monitor asphalt factories

Road maintenance projects to begin in August: MPW

KUWAIT CITY, June 22: In preparation for the launching of road repair projects and contracting with international companies, the Ministry of Public Works has approved the new mechanism for neutral laboratories to monitor asphalt factories as the road maintenance contracts with international companies will start in early August, reports Al-Qabas daily quoting sources.

Sources disclosed the mechanism includes checking the quality and validity of tests without the intervention of a consultant or contractor. It also prevents conflicts of interest, because the results of the contractor's laboratory tests are for his use only in order to control the quality of his work; such that the ministry and the consultant cannot rely on the results of such tests.

Sources affirmed that the on-site laboratories will be neutral and they have ISO certificates. These laboratories will play the role of conformity assessment bodies as a third party to monitor the results of on-site tests on mixtures, asphalt layers and components of the mulching process during the implementation of the projects, sources explained.

Sources said the new mechanism is one of the recommendations of the previous technical committees, including the need to follow up projects without the interference of contractors or consultants. Sources added the neutral laboratories are obliged to upload the results of tests on the ministry's website upon completion to serve as a guide in the implementation of projects. Once the results are uploaded on the website, the information will be available to project officials, supervisors, contractors, consultants, quality controllers and experts, sources said.

Inspection visits Sources revealed there will be regular inspection visits to ensure strict compliance with the regulations. In case a laboratory violates

the regulations; its accreditation will be suspended, it will be excluded from the list of authorized laboratories and legal measures will be taken against it, sources warned.

Sources added the Government Center for Testing and Quality Control has so far approved two laboratories, and the accreditation of the third laboratory is underway.

Bid extension Sources informed the daily that the deadline for international companies to submit their offers has been extended from June 15 to July 3. Sources clarified this is in response to the request of bidding companies during the preliminary meeting on June 1. They said some companies requested for extension of up to two months for further technical study; so they can submit the best offers, while some have already submitted their bids and the ministry is currently studying them.

In addition, the number of international companies that purchased bidding documents has reached 11.

Advantages of the new mechanism: • It is considered the pillar of quality management system, • Availability of a reference database for decision makers, • Adopts international standards to ensure the quality of project implementation, • Prevent contractors from contracting with laboratories outside the approved list, • Open the way for the private sector to work in the field of laboratory testing, • Reduce the cost of projects by providing the required equipment, • Activate the role of the government laboratory as a reference.

Three measures for the radical improvement of roads: 1. Development of roads according to international standards, 2. Accreditation of neutral laboratories for testing the asphalt mixture, 3. An integrated plan to prevent the recurrence of gravel blowing.



KUNA photo
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Ahmad Fahad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah handing a graduate his certificate.

Defense Minister patronizes event

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Ahmad Fahad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah patronized and attended the graduation ceremony of the 27th joint staff training course on Thursday.

In a press release by Kuwait Army Chief of the General Staff, the Defense Minister affirmed that having a developed, strong army depends on being well armed and having a good training to face different challenges.

He conveyed to the graduates the greetings of His Highness the Amir and the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh

Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. On his part, acting Commander of Mubarak Al-Abdullah Joint Command and Staff College Brigadier General Staff Pilot Faisal Al-Shammari said that knowledge and science is key to developing the military sector.

He added that the college focuses on developing military skills through different operational training methods.

The ceremony was attended by Undersecretary of the Ministry of Defense Sheikh Dr. Abdullah Mishal Al-Sabah, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Interior Lieutenant General Anwar Al-Barjas and senior military officials. (KUNA)

'Strategic alternative to pay is top gov't priority'

Equality eyed in public sector

Panel holds talks on legislative priorities

By Saeed Mahmoud Saleh

Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, June 22: The Parliament-Government Coordinating Committee held its first meeting at the National Assembly building on Thursday.

Present at the meeting were MPs Hassan Johhar, Abdullah Fahad, Adel Al-Damkhi, Fahd Falah Bin Jame'e, Fahd Al-Masoud, Meteb Al-Ra'athan, Abdullah Al-Anbaie, Soud Al-Asfour and Osama Al-Shaheen; while the government side consisted of Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of State for National Assembly and Cabinet Affairs Essa Al-Kandari; Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Oil and Minister of State for Financial Affairs and Investment Saad Al-Barrak; Minister of Justice and State Minister for Housing Affairs Faleh Al-Raqaba; and Minister of Social Affairs and State Minister for Family and Children Affairs Sheikh Feras Al-Sabah.

They discussed the legislative priorities for the first year of the 17th parliamentary term, which include four bills.

Earlier, during its inaugural session, the Assembly approved the proposal to extend the first parliamentary round until the ratification of priority bills; that is, before the parliamentary summer break.

Meanwhile, MP Jenan Bu Shehri called on HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah to instruct the concerned minister to speed up the issuance of the executive regulations for the Conflict of Interests Law. She pointed out that the nullified Parliament ratified the law, which was published in Kuwait Gazette in January 2023. She cited Article 20 of the law, stating the executive regulations must be issued within three months of publication. She highlighted the fact that the government, represented by HH the Prime Minister, sent a letter to the nullified Parliament to expedite the ratification of the law. Thus, she finds it strange that the government delayed the issuance of the executive regulations for six months and it could be delayed further. She then stressed the need to implement the law in order to expand the authority of Kuwait Anti-Corruption Authority (Nazaha) to cover the categories stipulated therein, such as the ministers and lawmakers.

MP Fayez Al-Jomhour submitted a bill on amending the first clause of Article One of Pre-marital Medical Checkup Law number 31/2008. The bill obliges couples planning to get married to obtain a medical certificate, proving they are free of infectious and genetic diseases, as well as drugs and intoxicants.

MPs Osama Al-Zaid, Ahmed Lari and Hamad Al-Medlej have proposed amending Article Two of Retirees Health Insurance Law number 114/2014. The bill is aimed at adding beneficiaries of the insurance like the Kuwaiti widows, divorcees and housewives.

Kuwait FM receives congratulatory cables

KUWAIT CITY, June 22, (Agencies): Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah has received a telephone call from his Lebanese counterpart Dr. Abdullah Bouhabib.

The Lebanese minister congratulated Sheikh Salem Abdullah on his re-appointment as minister of external affairs, wishing him success and hoping to see the close bilateral relations growing stronger.

The two sides discussed international and regional topics, including developments on the Lebanese arena.

Sheikh Salem also recently received a telephone call from his Omani counterpart - Badr bin Hamad Al-Busaidi - who congratulated him on his re-appointment; while wishing him success in his work and

KUWAIT CITY, June 22: Few days after the government took the oath before His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad, the concerned state authorities identified the most important priorities on the "research and approval agenda", including the strategic alternative to salaries, reports Al-Qabas daily.

In confirmation of the article titled "The Strategic Alternative to Salaries in the Final Touches" published by the daily on April 20, a government source revealed that the Civil Service Council had completed a study on the strategic alternative to salaries and submitted it to the Economic Committee of the Council of Ministers.

The source explained that the cost of the strategic alternative is close to one billion dinars annually, representing about 15 percent of the total allocations for the first chapter of the state budget.

The strategic alternative to salaries aims at achieving justice among all job specializations in all government agencies, as well as equality between those with the same specialty in each agency.

Regarding the salary increase mechanism and its rate, the source explained that an initial vision was set for the increase in the basic salary to be between 50 percent and 70 percent, according to unified standards for all Kuwaiti employees in the state agencies.

The strategic alternative will be applied to current and new employees. More than 320,000 employees will benefit from it. Its implementation mechanism will include supporting employment at the same level.

The strategic alternative will include employees of a general cadre according to the basic salary, and will not include those of special cadres.

The source indicated that this matter will be a top priority for the new government.

He affirmed that the study carried out by the Civil Service Council showed that the strategic alternative would transform the public service system from the traditional system of seniority into a merit-based system linked to years of professional experience, functional competence and ability to achieve.

The source noted that the strategic alternative to salaries will restore job groups and gradation with every job title in all jobs in the country, adding that a mechanism will be determined to amend or approve it as it is.

He stressed that the most prominent aspect of the strategic alternative is that the potential increase will be unified for all workers in the state agencies.

The source explained that this mechanism is not just a financial increase in the salaries of employees, but rather an entry point for restoring job groups and gradation with each job title in all jobs in the country.

The strategic alternative aims at the salary due in exchange for all the tasks and responsibilities associated with a specific job title and to transfer the general position system and the salary system from the traditional seniority system to the merit-based system in order to develop the performance of workers in the state agencies, achieve a boom in productivity, motivate national cadres to exert more efforts and acquire the necessary skills to raise the level of government agencies.

for stronger relations between the two countries, reports Al-Anba daily.

They also discussed the recent developments in the regional and international arenas, frameworks for joint coordination and a number of issues in the region.

He also received a congratulatory telephone call from Jose Alvarez - Minister of Foreign Affairs, European Union Affairs and Cooperation in Spain.

Sheikh Salem Al-Abdullah then conveyed the congratulatory message of Kuwait for Spain on assuming the presidency of the European Union Council starting from July 1, 2023. He expressed appreciation for the endeavors that Spain is making towards the exemption of Kuwaitis from the Schengen visa.

Other Voices

Curse of the land of pure

By Ahmad alsarraf

In 1947, Britain decided to end its occupation of India. Britain approved the request of Muslim leaders, headed by Muhammad Ali Jinnah, to have their own State, so Pakistan or the land of pure was established in August 1947.

The insistence of founders to establish their own country on ideological foundations cost the people billions; in addition to the loss of properties, lives and memories as a result of the biggest and unprecedented displacement in modern age against millions of individuals from India to Pakistan and vice versa. The process was aimed at fulfilling the dream of Muslims to live in peace.

Nevertheless, this aim was proved false later as the western part of Pakistan persecuted the eastern part to end with separation, creating a new State - Bangladesh. Both parties sharing one religion did not prevent one of them to exploit and massacre the weaker one.

Pakistan was established in a chaotic situation, which continues till date. Relations between Pakistan and its giant neighbor - India - have not been settled. This prompted Pakistan to exhaust its limited resources to procure armament and nuclear bomb. Thus, Pakistan was involved in several wars, which have had miserable consequences. Kashmir is still bleeding. Perhaps, it will do so forever.

Pakistan has not enjoyed peace and stability since its independence 75 years ago. A total of 28 leaders ruled Pakistan. Only a few of them have not been subjected to humiliation, accusation, imprisonment, exile and even murder. These situations reflected on the economic conditions, making Pakistan totally dependent on foreign aid.

Moreover, Pakistan has become a source of religious extremism, a refuge for Taliban gangs and a safe haven for whoever escapes from international justice.

My colleague, Muhammad Al-Rumaihi, inquired about the reasons behind the survival of India; enjoying political stabil-

ity in spite of the similarity of its social fabric with that of Pakistan. Then, he said India enjoys multiple religions, ethnicity, languages, social sects and classes. He pointed out that such a case required India to have a modern social declaration through the Constitution, which organized relations and saved India from civil wars despite the deep differences among components of the Indian society. He added that the role of the Army was under control from the beginning, unlike the case of Pakistan where the military figures interfered in politics under the pretext of protecting it from the enemies. This led to rejecting democracy and adopting successive dictatorial military regimes.

The worst crisis happened in 1977 when Muhammad Zia-ul-Haq came to power and imposed Islamization to step over democracy. He supported Afghanistan in its war against the then Soviet Union for some aid provided by the USA. He died in a plane crash later.

Then, the era of former cricket player Imran Khan came marked by extremist Islamic symptoms, starting from his home and spreading all over Pakistan. He did not study the lesson from his predecessors.

According to Al-Rumaihi, these factors rendered Pakistan incapable of living away from problems. The disputes among extremist religious parties, tribes and the Army and the dispute with India over Kashmir, prevented stability and encouraged corrupt governments to take advantage of the national wealth at the expense of citizens.

Apparently, the backbreaking battle will continue for long. Moreover, states established based on certain ideologies often fail. Pakistan needs to be a normal State like many other countries.

To some extent, Bangladesh did so, as it has become more stable and richer than Pakistan, which comes second after Afghanistan in terms of illiteracy among South Asian countries. Pakistani exports are almost zero, compared to those of India. Pakistan is not a touristic destination for any country. Perhaps, the independence from India was a great affliction for Pakistan. To prove this point, compare the average standard of living of Indian Muslims with that of the Pakistanis.

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Kuwaiti official stresses media role in 'combating' extremism

Arab information ministers gather in Morocco to discuss cooperation

RABAT, June 22, (KUNA): Undersecretary of Kuwait's Ministry of Information Dr. Nasser Al-Mheisen said Wednesday his country was keen on promoting the media role in preserving the national identity and combating the trans-border extremist ideology.

"Media plays a key role in protecting the young generation against extremism, and promoting the values of tolerance and coexistence among members of the community," he said in a speech to the 53rd ordinary session of the Arab Information Ministers' Council being hosted by Morocco.

He called the Arab media organizations to keep abreast with the latest developments of information technology.

Growing impact

Noting that social media networks have a growing impact on the various segments of the community, Dr. Al-Mheisen urged rational manipulation of these networks so as to serve the interests of individuals and communities.

He added that sound use of artificial intelligence could also serve the noble objectives of media amid accelerated changes and transformations worldwide.

"The State of Kuwait back every effort to modernize the Arab media," Al-Mheisen said, noting that Kuwait sponsored the seventh session of the Arab award for excellence in environment media themed "climate change and the future."



KUNA photo
Dr. Nasser Al-Mheisen, Undersecretary of Kuwait's Ministry of Information.

Reiterating the call for a fair, durable settlement to the Palestinian question based on the relevant UN resolutions, he said Kuwait maintained firm support to the struggle of Palestinian people for regaining their legitimate rights at international forums.

Dr. Al-Mheisen is attending the current session of the Arab Information Ministers' Council, which opened earlier today, as representative of Kuwait's Minister of Information.

Information ministers from across the wider Arab region assembled in Morocco on Wednesday to discuss recent initiatives taken with the aim of bolstering cooperation in the media industry.

These initiatives, which include a

"joint platform" linking information ministries across the region, form a "comprehensive strategy" that seeks to usher in greater cooperation in field of media, said the Cairo-based Arab League's media department chief Ahmed Khatabi.

Unified strategy

Arab information ministers had recently given the thumbs up to a "unified strategy" to regulate social media outlets and media platforms across the region, according to Karam Jabar, who serves as Egypt's chief media organizer.

The ministers are meeting in the Moroccan capital to discuss how far progress has come on a plan to build a media "roadmap" towards sustainable development goals.

The Arab Information Ministers' Council adopted a number of resolutions, including one to continue support for Palestine question, at the core of which is the status of the occupied city of Jerusalem.

Concluding its 53rd ordinary session in Marrakesh, Morocco, on Wednesday, the Council endorsed all draft resolutions relating to media support to the Palestinian people and to the efforts meant to preserve the legal, historical and spiritual status of the holy city of Jerusalem.

The Council mandated its Secretariat to follow up the implementation of the integrated observatory and portal project as a means of Arab media leverage overseas.

The Secretariat is also tasked with overseeing the launching of the single website of the Arab electronic media, proposed by Watani Al-Emarat Foundation, of the UAE.

The Council approved a resolution on the Arab media roadmap for sustainable development 2030, including the executive procedures and single strategy for dealing with international media corporations.

It also approved a recommendation to name Kuwait City as Arab Media Capital 2025 and appreciate Kuwait patronage of Arab media award.

The Council session elected the members of the Council's Executive Bureau for the coming two years with Saudi Arabia being the presidency, Egypt - the vice presidency, and Kuwait, Morocco, Bahrain, Libya, Palestine and Algeria serving as members of the Bureau.

Undersecretary of Kuwait's Ministry of Information Dr. Nasser Al-Mheisen attended the session as representative of the Minister of Information.

'Kuwait's 1st Impella 5.5 artificial heart pump implant successful'

KUWAIT CITY, June 22, (KUNA): The Ministry of Health announced the success of artificial heart pump implant, type Impella 5.5, the first of its kind in the country and second in the Arab world.

The surgery was for a patient in his sixties who also had a left ventricular assist device installed. The ministry explained in statement that the patient was overcome with an acute heart attack and taken directly to the chest disease hospital.

He was resuscitated for about 50 minutes, and had to undergo necessary procedures of cardiac catheterization and installation of five stents in the arteries.

The patient was then put on ECMO, an artificial life support device to help his lungs function properly, until his condition stabilized. The team at the Amir hospital took up the case later on to follow up ensure smooth recovery



KUNA photo
Devices used in an artificial heart pump implant.

and improvement.

The statement further added that the Minister, Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi, hailed the efforts of those involved in the situation for their professionalism. Impella, a family of medical devices used for temporary ventricular support in patients with depressed heart function.

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Sadaaqa presents Shaikha A. J. Al-Sabah

To mark the International Day of Yoga, Sadaaqa, the show that documents and celebrates Kuwait-India relationship by focusing on individual experiences, presents Shaikha A. J. Al-Sabah, a yogi and founder of Daratma, a yoga and wellness studio in Kuwait. Established in 2014, Daratma teaches yoga education to anyone seeking harmony, balance and awareness in day to day life.

The name Daratma by itself is a celebration and synergization of two ancient cultures. Dar in Arabic means home, and Atma in Sanskrit means soul. The ancient practice of yoga denotes the union of the body and the consciousness.

Its essence is balance – not just balance within the body or between the mind and the body, but also balance in the human relationship with the world.

The soft-spoken yogi, Shaikha A. J. Al-Sabah has the wisdom and patience of a sage. She is on a journey to master and learn the ancient practice in Kuwait and in the yoga retreats of India. She believes that yoga unites the physical, mental, and emotional energies and helps alleviate pain and suffering and spreads love and peace. On June 26th, Sadaaqa will celebrate her commitment and that of Daratma to spreading the benefits of this ancient practice.

To Kuwaitis ...

Continued from Page 1

by members of the ruling families on people, public affairs, or public funds. This is because the state has honored them, and they are no longer in need.

In all these houses, we have neither heard of corruption nor have there been any lawsuits or trials against their members due to preservation of their prestige. This can only be achieved through self-sufficiency in order for the children of these families to devote themselves to public philanthropic work, and to foster and cement good relations with the people.

Undoubtedly, Arab experiences represented a harsh lesson in preserving the stability of ruling houses as the compass for the stability of the state.

Following the monarchy era, Egypt suffered a lot. Also, Iraq witnessed bloodbaths, and is probably paying the price even today. The same is the case in Libya after Senussi and Yemen after the Imamate monarchy. Tunisia was much better during the rule of the Bey than today.

Here it must be emphasized that the members of ruling houses are symbols that must be given their due, and given full care because any danger to them is a threat to the state as a whole.

Therefore, after this new development and reconciliation today, it is necessary to reconsider the past stage and the bitter experiences that it left behind, and learn from them because the press will not be responsible for any error published, and the blame will not be directed at the parliamentarians, or even the ministers, despite their responsibility. Rather, it is directed at the premiership and the ruling family.

Hence, it is crucial to act according to the golden rule - "If he says he does" - given that the premiership is the front for the state and the one concerned with preserving it.

The question that preoccupies many Kuwaitis is - Will the reign of His Highness Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad and his deputy His Highness Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad represent a redevelopment of the role of the ruling family, restore the prestige of the ruling family, re-calibrate its relationship with the homeland, and follow its rituals to prepare a generation that has the capabilities to practice governance and confrontation, manage sovereign ministries, and maintain a good image in governance? Of course, this is not much. Everything is possible if there is a will.

Climate may

Continued from Page 1

more buses and cars, more water and electricity.

The Associated Press reached out to several Saudi officials with detailed questions but received no response. It's unclear what, if any, studies the government has done on the envi-

ronmental impact of the pilgrimage or whether that figures into its plans. And well-intentioned measures, like a high-speed railway network, aren't enough to remove polluting traffic in and around the holy city.

The trains whip through the arid landscape at top speeds of 300 km/h (186 mph), carrying pilgrims in air-conditioned comfort from Jeddah to Makkah. But they stop several kilometers away from the Grand Mosque, meaning pilgrims must either walk at least an hour or take a bus or car to the holy site. The \$19 one-way price from Jeddah's airport to Makkah may also be out of reach for pilgrims on lower incomes.

The Hajj is one of the five pillars of Islam, and all Muslims who are able to are required to undertake it at least once in their lives. For pilgrims, retracing the footsteps of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) is a profound religious experience that wipes away sins, deepens one's faith and unifies Muslims the world over.

Tehran in

Continued from Page 1

Gulf and the recent agreement between Iran and Saudi Arabia.

Elsewhere, Oman Foreign Minister Sayyid Badr Hamad Al Busaidi said Wednesday "the visit of his Iranian counterpart to the Sultanate of Oman aims to continue the consultations between the two sides and cooperation in many bilateral fields."

In a statement to Oman News Agency (ONA), Sayyid Badr affirmed the remarkable consensus in visions of the two countries in a set of topics and latest developments at the region and the world.

Such topics, he said, were discussed during the meeting and would contribute in realizing security, stability and peace, as well as backing all efforts and endeavors that target achieving the noble goals at the region.

Sayyid Badr said that it is expected to reach more agreements, memoranda of understanding (MoUs) and executive programs that would benefit the mutual interests to serve welfare and growth of the two neighboring countries' friendly peoples.

For his part, the Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian, expressed his thanks and appreciation to Omani leader for his constructive initiatives at the regional and international levels in a manner that serves peace and stability in the region and the world at large.

The Iranian minister described the bilateral consultations held today as "constructive and positive" during which consensus in views between leaders of the two countries were reviewed particularly during the recent visit to Tehran.

He also pointed out that the bilateral cooperation between the two countries has transcended the stage of dialogue and discussion to the phase of active bilateral cooperation in all spheres.

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A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

'Hope for wise and informed gov't that work to end corruption'

"AS Kuwaitis, we renew our hope at the beginning of each term of the National Assembly! We all find ourselves facing the broad and recurring question: Will we overcome the stumble, confusion and tension in parliamentary work and governmental path? The disease in all of this is the loss of rationality and practical harmonization in parliamentary practice, as it has been mere reaction and passion. Perhaps, this is the demagoguery of the masses and the state of denial and revenge that control the parliamentary behavior of the members," columnist **Dr Mohammad Al-Maqqati** wrote for *Al-Jarida* daily.

"Without introductions or justifications, and without taking into account the balanced or appropriate political considerations, the parliamentary impulsiveness jumps to the highest levels -- legislatively to 'achieve' embarrassment for the government in terms of legislation that needs delay and deliberation due to its importance, or in terms of security and sovereign sensitivity, and at other times, a frantic race among members. The main concern is to obtain a legislative precedent over their colleagues. Sometimes, they need to keep up with the escalation of the masses, in addition to the unstable demagoguery that makes parliamentarians lose their political sense and wisdom in making legislation.



Dr Al-Maqqati

"The result is the country being afflicted with an ill-advised legislative impulse dominated by the stereotypical improvisation in the enactment of legislation. This is the worst example of legislation that parliaments can put in place in any country and at any time. It exceeds the legislative limits drawn by the Assembly. Worst, there is a race to drain the country's wealth and capabilities. This indicates that the legislator is just a passerby who settles in the State to take whatever can be taken or divided, and flee to another country. He then settles there, without caring for the development and sustainability of the country, as well as the needs of its people and the successive generations!

"The supervisory path that the legislature is toeing does not differ from the previous course, as it is also governed by impulsiveness, excitement, competition, an attempt to tickle the masses and respond to demagoguery among them, far from the desired parliamentary wisdom and rationality. Good governance and administration are essential components of responsible and rational parliamentary practice.

"Is it reasonable for the members to ask dozens of questions daily, on topics that have nothing to do with the parliamentary course, going beyond its borders and invading fields and areas that are within the reach of the Parliament and its competence? Parliamentary investigations follow useless committees, without any benefit other than showcasing the power and tickling the feelings of the masses without parliamentary prudence.

"It is the speed generated by reaction, emotion and impulsiveness in submitting interpellations to prove their existence, get the attention of the masses and obtain electoral gain without care and deliberation to avoid aggravation. Collision ultimately causes losses for the country. It could have been avoided through wisdom and farsightedness in parliamentary alignment and prudence which, if missed by the questioned member, must not be missed by majority of the members and the leader!

"The legislative term started after the dire repercussions we witnessed in the past as a result of impulsiveness, excitement and parliamentary racing, far from wisdom and political correctness. Perhaps, all these are present today in order to avoid the recurrence of distraction and insta-

bility, which negatively affected the Kuwaiti parliamentary practice and experience.

"Finally, we are hoping to find a truly wise and informed government that will lead the country with developmental, legislative and corrective initiatives to end corruption and sluggishness in governmental work and get out of the state of dormancy, negativity and inadequacy with a strong and practical presence based on the institutional and systematic political program, as was the case in 2022... We are waiting."

Also:

"Not everyone who rants about patriotism is patriotic in the truest sense of the word. Instead, those who know the people credited for establishing the homeland at a time there were no 'drawings' by those who claimed artificial patriotism are aware that the people of Kuwait are honest and transparent. Civilization needs stability as its pillar, so they are the makers of civilization. This is a linguistic and idiomatic concept. The first people of Kuwait settled on its coasts and made their prosperous civilization," columnist **Dr Saud Mohammad Al-Asfoor** wrote for *Al-Qabas* daily.

"The two main jobs of the people of Kuwait prior to the discovery of oil were pearl diving and sailing. Kuwaitis depended on them as the main sources of income, in addition to other jobs such as fishing, carpentry, blacksmithing, making nets and fishing tools, and agriculture. Their settlement added originality and distinction to the history of Kuwait.

"Whoever was naturalized recently might have missed this fact, or he may know it but deliberately ignores it, because his father and grandfathers did not know about the sea, its supplies and accessories. Therefore, you find him talking about the history of the homeland, focusing on the political and military aspects only. He talks about the emergence of Kuwait, succession of rulers and battles as well as the victorious and the loser. He does not address other aspects of civilization. Most probably, he does not know the customs of the people of Kuwait, details of their celebrations, their offices, famous councils, the popular games they used to play and their famous cuisines that he never tasted, or if he tasted them, he does not know their names and the ingredients.

"Even from an economic point of view, he may not know the details of the marine activity, such as the ships, their owners, names and famous makers, their captains and the men on board, the crafts that were based on this activity, the marine terms that created many Kuwaiti proverbs, details of pearl diving trips, sailing and imported goods.

"Perhaps, he does not know the beginnings of education in Kuwait and its men, and those who occupied academic positions from beginning to end. He does not know the beginnings of the literary movement, the writers and what they wrote as a cultural legacy for generations. He does not know the cultural activities that schools organized and the services that the Ministry of Education provided to its students like food, clothing, transportation and healthcare.

"Perhaps, he does not know the history of the mosques, names of famous old personalities who established them, who undertook the rhetoric, the imams among the righteous sheikhs and sermons during religious celebrations.

"This is the tip of the iceberg, exposed to those who know the old regions of Kuwait -- Jableh, Al-Wasat, Al-Mirqab and their neighborhoods, the near and far suburbs, what is in Al-Jahra, Al-Mangaf, Al-Ras, Abu Halifa and Al-Fintas and other farms frequented by the people of Kuwait

and were part of their tourist areas.

"Indeed, patriotism has its foundations. If the foundations were not lost in the minds of those who claim to be patriotic among those naturalized recently, they would realize their shortcomings and urgent need to know more about the details. They link the present with the distant past. They should know the virtuous among the people who excelled throughout the years.

"Fusion of the newly naturalized with the old is necessary, in addition to authenticity in a harmonious society, in which each individual knows the rights of others in terms of merit and advancement, especially since the early founders were the builders and protectors of the homeland. They distributed the income between them and the newly naturalized with open arms and kindness. Their virtues should not be denied. They never pulled the strings of tribalism, sectarianism, partisanship, familial, regionalism and others, because all these lead to division and fragmentation."

□ □ □

"Al-Rai daily gave us a dangerous piece of news entitled, 'Kuwait Index in Anti-Money Laundering is in Danger'. It seems that we did not move a finger towards improving our classification in Anti-Money Laundering. We may be unaware of the importance of this indicator and combating money laundering," columnist **Assrar Johar Hayat** wrote for *Al-Qabas* daily.

"First of all, we must be aware that all these international indicators are important, especially for a country that has a vision to transform into a financial and economic center. The anti-money laundering rating and other indicators affect Kuwait's credit rating in one way or another. More importantly, these indicators are closely linked with Kuwait's international reputation. How can we transform into a financial center that attracts foreign investment if our reputation in combating corruption or money laundering is 'bad'?"

"It is painful for me to say that we are lax, whether we are aware of it or not. Since the money laundering 'outbreak' about two and a half years ago, events have revealed loopholes in the laws, paving way for money laundering. This then leads to impunity.

"The questions are: If realized this shortcoming and we read about it in the newspapers, what happened from that day until now?! Have the legal loopholes been closed? Has a new law been enacted to control the violators and those wishing to turn Kuwait into an arena for money laundering, illegal trade, drug trade, organ sales and other suspicious sources of funds?! Or were we in conflict? Did the government attend the National Assembly session or not? Is the session held or not?"

"These events distracted us from disrupting parliamentary life, obstructing the adoption of important laws and tightening the law's grip on corruption!"

"Here, the blame does not rest solely on what and who caused the disruption of political life in Kuwait. The most important questions are: Where is the role of the Financial Investigation Unit? Did it limit its role to referring files of money laundering suspicions?! Is it not supposed to submit a proposal to address the legal loopholes, so the money launderers do not get away with their action?!"

"Amend the law and address the loopholes that make money laundering criminals escape easily. Every step, apart from that, is like indirectly saying to the owners of suspicious money: 'Goodbye... they laundered your money with us.'"

— Compiled by Mai Elsoukay



Canadian ambassador (center) in a group photo.

Event held to mark World Refugee Day

'Peace by Chocolate' tells tale of Syrian refugee family

KUWAIT CITY, June 22: The UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency and the Canadian Embassy in Kuwait, in partnership with Al Hamra shopping center organized the screening of "Peace by Chocolate", the award-winning film based on the true story of a Syrian refugee family forced out of their home country which then built a new life and a new home in Canada.

The event was organized to mark World Refugee Day which falls on June 20 of each year to build bridges of understanding to absorb the plight of refugees and help them live a decent life.

The event was attended by representatives of the Kuwaiti government, diplomatic corps, and partners from the private sector, academia, civil society, and media.

The UNHCR Deputy High Commissioner, Kelly Clements, speaking on the occasion of World Refugee Day, and publishing of the Global Trends report, UNHCR's flagship annual report, indicated more than 110 million people were forced to flee their homes due to war, conflict, persecution, and human rights violations.

"In light of the unprecedented number of forcibly displaced people around the world, there must be an international direction towards reversing the upward trajectory in global forced displacement, and work to find solutions, end conflicts, and remove obstacles that prevents refugees from returning to their

homes voluntarily safely and with dignity," said Clements.

"The significance of the event which is organized in partnership with the Canadian Embassy, and Al Hamra Real Estate Company and Grand Cinema, lies in the core message of the movie that refugees have skills and significant talents that deserves care and attention, and we must provide them more opportunities and support their quest to rebuild their lives and enable them to contribute to the countries hosting them.

"I would like to thank all for being here today," she said, "to show solidarity with the millions of forcibly displaced people around the world, and I hope that more efforts are done to give refugees hope away from home."

Affirmed

Canada's Ambassador to Kuwait HE Aliya Mawani affirmed that "Canada is proud of its tradition of welcoming refugees from all over the world.

"Throughout our history, we have offered a new home and a new start to millions of refugees. We firmly believe that including refugees in the communities where they have found safety after fleeing conflict and persecution is the most effective way to support them in restarting their lives and enabling them to contribute to the countries hosting them.

"This approach offers hope for the future and is reflected in the 2023 theme of World Refugee Day which

is hope away from home. We're excited to share "Peace by Chocolate's" message of hope on this occasion."

"We take great pride in sponsoring this noble initiative, a collaborative effort by the UNHCR, the Canadian Embassy and our partner Grand Cinema.

"It aligns perfectly with our overarching CSR objectives of fostering inclusivity, peace and harmony among communities.

"On this occasion, I would like to express my deep admiration for the UNHCR and the Canadian Embassy for their tireless dedication to nurturing empathy and understanding for the challenges faced by the refugees, and for acknowledging their remarkable resilience in rebuilding their lives.

"We believe that this event will make a meaningful impact on communities and contribute to the alleviation of the hardships faced by people displaced from their homes," stated Abrar Al Habeeb, Acting General Manager at Al Hamra Real Estate Company.

According to Chadi Dali, the executive producer of "Peace by Chocolate," the movie unveils the inspiring story of a Syrian family's journey to Canada after war, successfully transforming adversity into a global chocolate enterprise. Recognized for their resilience and supported by both the Canadian people and government, this success has gained international acclaim, with acknowledgments from Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

Changes cited over allowance for realty estate usufructuary

Entities affirm completion of Hajj season preparations

KUWAIT CITY, June 22: The Minister of Finance and Minister of State for Economic Affairs and Investment **Manaf Al-Hajri** issued a decision to amend article No. 2 of the ministerial Resolution No. 40/2016 regarding the regulation of the allowance for usufruct of the state's private real estate property and service fees for chalets, reports *Al-Rai* daily.

The new Decision No. 39/2023, included amendments to the Decision No. 109/2022 of the former minister of Finance **Abdul Wahhab Al-Rasheed**, which was issued on December 13 last year and published in the official gazette on December 18, as Al-Hajri's decision reduced fees for four services.

The decision introduced three items related to the heirs, as it stipulated that the request to transfer the chalet to the heirs, for chalets and plots of land (first or second line), should be free of charge within three years from the date of issuance of the first license for the heirs.

Decision

While the decision exempted the heirs from paying any fee when requesting exit from chalets and plots of land (first line within three years from the date of issuance of the first license for the heirs), a fee of KD 3,000 per linear meter of the waterfront was specified when requesting exit after three years have passed from the date of issuance of the first license to the heirs.

As for the heirs' request for their exit from the chalets and plots of land - second line, the decision stipulated that it be free of charge within three years from the date of issuance of the first license for the heirs. It specified a fee of KD 1,500 for the longitudinal meter of the front façade (the side parallel to the sea) when requesting an exit after passing three years from the date of issuance of the first license to the heirs.

The decision also introduced a fee for licensing an accommodation space (a chalet only) amounting to KD 300 per application, while keep-

45 clinics to remain open during Eid holidays: MoH

KUWAIT CITY, June 22: The Ministry of Health announced that 45 primary healthcare centers will operate during the holidays of Arafat Day and Eid al-Adha in all health zones, reports *Al-Anba* daily.

In a press statement, the ministry explained that the centers that will operate 24 hours a day in the Capital Health Zone are **Muhammad Thunayan Al-Ghanim** in **Sulaibikhat** area, **Mirza Hassan Al-Ahqaqi** in **Daiya** area, **Hamad Al-Saqr Specialist** in **Adailiya** area, and **Jaber Al-Ahmad 2**. The **Munira Al-Ayyar Center** in **Kaifan** area and **Abdullah Youssef Al-Abdulhadi Center** in **Yarmouk** area will operate from 7:00 am to 12:00 midnight.

The centers that will operate 24 hours a day in **Hawally Health Zone** are **Rumaithiya Specialist Clinic**, **South Sabah Al-Salem Clinic**, **West Salmiya Clinic**, and **Salwa Clinic**. The **West Hawally Center** and **Mahmoud Haji Haider Center** will be open from 7:00 am to 12:00 midnight.

The centers that will operate 24 hours a day in **Farwaniya Health Zone** are **South Firdous**, **West Farwaniya**, **Andalus**, **Rabiya**, and **Abdullah Al-Mubarak clinics**.

ing the value of fees for 14 services stipulated in Al-Rasheed's decision unchanged.

□ □ □

Hajj season: Deputy Director General for Planning and Projects Affairs and official spokesperson of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) **Saad Al-Otaibi** has affirmed the completion of preparations for the Hajj season, in cooperation with the concerned government agencies; such as the Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Endowments and Islamic Affairs, Kuwait General Administration of Customs (KGAC), Kuwaiti Hajj caravans and companies, aviation and ground service providers, reports *Al-Qabas* daily.

Al-Otaibi said the first trip to Saudi Arabia for the Hajj season is scheduled for Friday, indicating

As for the centers that will operate from 7:00 am to 12:00 midnight, they are **Manahi Al-Osaimi** in **Khaitan**, **South Ardiya Clinic**, **South Jeeb Al-Shuyoukh Clinic**, and **Sabah Al-Nasser Clinic**.

In **Ahmadi Health Zone**, **West Sabahiya Clinic**, **Sabah Al-Ahmad Center** in **Khairan**, **Khairan Residential Clinic**, **Wafra Residential Clinic**, **Wafra Agricultural Clinic**, **Abdulaziz Al-Rashed Center** in **Bnaider**, **Ali Sabah Al-Salem Clinic**, **Al-Raqqqa Clinic**, **Jaber Al-Ali Clinic**, and **Fahaheel Clinic** will operate around the clock, along with **Fintas Specialist**, **Sabah Al-Ahmad Marine City**, and **Khairan Coast health centers**.

In **Mubarak Al-Kabeer Health Zone**, **Adan Specialist** and **Salaam centers** will operate around the clock. **Bayan** and **West Mubarak Al-Kabeer centers** will operate from 7:00 am to 12:00 midnight.

The centers affiliated with the **Jahra Health Zone** that will operate 24 hours a day are **Jahra**, **Saad Al-Abdullah Block 2**, **Qasr**, and **Abdali clinics**. The **South Sulaibiya Center** and **Kabd Health Center** will operate from 7:00 am to 12:00 midnight.

The centers that will operate 24 hours a day in **Farwaniya Health Zone** are **South Firdous**, **West Farwaniya**, **Andalus**, **Rabiya**, and **Abdullah Al-Mubarak clinics**.

the pilgrims will be on board five Kuwaiti and Saudi airlines. He disclosed the Kuwait Airways flights will take off from Terminal 4, Jazeera Airways at Terminal 5, while the Saudi, FlyNas and FlyDeal flights will be at the main passenger Terminal T 1. The DGCA had earlier announced that 75 flights will be operated for the current Hajj season to transport 9,000 pilgrims to the Holy House of God.

Al-Otaibi praised the coordinated efforts of all parties involved in the operational plan for the Hajj season; citing the direct follow up of Public Works Minister **Dr Amani Bukmari** and supervision of acting DGCA Director General **Imad Al-Jalawi**. He wishes for the success of the movement of pilgrims from Kuwait International Airport to King Abdulaziz Airport in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

Swiss cbank raises key interest rate

Switzerland's central bank raised its key interest rate Thursday as it seeks to combat inflation and said "it cannot be ruled out" that more hikes will be necessary.

Inflation declined significantly to 2.2% in May but is above the target set by the Swiss National Bank, which warned that price pressures persist and would make themselves felt in coming months without action. It said the decision to hike its key rate by a quarter-percentage point

to 1.75% was "countering inflationary pressure which has increased again over the medium term."

Central banks around the world have sharply raised interest rates to combat an outbreak of inflation triggered by the rebound from the pandemic, higher energy prices and Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

The Bank of England and Turkey's central bank also are both holding rate meetings Thursday. (AP)

CBK: Kuwait money supply up 0.3 pct

Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) announced Thursday that the broad money supply (M2) went up by 0.3 percent last May to settle at KD 39.6 billion (around USD 130.6 billion).

Local banks' private sector deposits increased by 0.6 percent to settle at KD 36.2 billion (around USD 119.4 billion), said the CBK's economic research department in a release to KUNA, including statistical tables.

Private sector deposits in foreign currency dropped by 2.8 percent to reach KD 1.7 billion (around USD 5.5 billion), while total

local banks claims on the CBK represented by CBK bonds rose by 6.2 percent, settling at KD 3.4 billion (around USD 11.2 billion).

Total local banks' assets fell by 0.1 percent to record KD 84.9 billion (around USD 280 billion), while the net foreign assets decreased by 0.2 percent to KD 10.4 billion (around USD 34.3 billion).

Meanwhile, time deposits with the CBK settled, in May, at KD 2.6 billion (around USD 8.5 billion), whereas balance of utilized cash credit rose by 0.1 percent to KD 52.2 billion (around USD 172.5 billion).

Average interest rate on one-year treasury bonds settled at 4.5 percent in November, while financing of Kuwaiti imports went up 75.9 percent to reach KD one billion (around USD 1.8 billion), and US Dollar exchange rate against Kuwaiti Dinar rose by 0.1 percent to 306.7 fils.

Narrow money supply indicates total volume of money in circulation including notes, coins and operational money deposits, whereas the broad money supply includes time deposits and saving accounts, as well as liquid money. (KUNA)

Market Movements

22-06-2023

	Change	Closing pts		Change	Closing pts
EGYPT	-	EGX 30	+0.04	17,712.93	
UAE	-	DFM	-0.15	3,776.39	
JAPAN	-	Nikkei	-0.92	33,264.88	
PAKISTAN	-	KSE 100	-0.12	40,181.84	
PHILIPPINES	-	PSEi	-0.30	6,404.91	
SAUDI	-	Tadawul	-0.06	11,458.98	

Business

Claims numbers for past two weeks highest since Oct of 2021

Weekly US applications for unemployment aid remain relatively elevated

WASHINGTON, June 22, (AP): The number of Americans applying for unemployment benefits remained relatively elevated last week, potentially another signal that Federal Reserve rate hikes are beginning to cool a surprisingly resilient labor market.

U.S. applications for jobless claims were 264,000 for the week ending June 17, the same as the previous week's revised number, the Labor Department reported Thursday. That's slightly more than analysts were expecting. The claims numbers for the past two weeks are the highest since October of 2021.

The four-week moving average of claims, which smooths out some of the week-to-week volatility, rose by 8,500 to 255,750. That's the highest level since November of 2021.

Jobless claims in the past three weeks have pushed closer to 300,000 after mostly being in the high 100,000 to low 200,000 range for since the fall of 2021. But that's likely not enough for Fed officials, who have said in the past that the unemployment rate needs to rise well past 4% to bring inflation down.

The labor market remains broadly healthy with the U.S. economy adding jobs at a furious pace since more than 20 million jobs vanished when the pandemic struck in the spring of 2020. Americans have enjoyed unusual job security, despite the Federal Reserve's aggressive campaign to cool the economy and labor market in its attempt to extinguish persistent inflation not seen since the early 1980s.

Last week, Fed officials chose not to increase the central bank's benchmark borrowing rate for the first time in 15 months, though some said they expect to add another half-point to rates by the end of the year. Fed Chair Jerome Powell reiterated that likelihood in testimony to Congress on Wednesday.

The rate hikes have slowly helped to suppress inflation, though perhaps not as quickly as intended. The labor market has remained unusually strong throughout

Home sales inch up in May amid record-low inventory

LOS ANGELES, June 22, (AP): Sales of previously occupied U.S. homes edged higher in May and the national median sale price posted its biggest annual drop in more than a decade, even as the supply of available properties sank to an all-time low.

Existing home sales rose 0.2% last month from April to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 4.3 million, the National Association of Realtors said Thursday. That's slightly above what economists were expecting, according to FactSet.

Sales sank 20.4% compared with May last year. That marks 10 consecutive months of annual sales declines of 20% or more. The annual drop was steepest

in markets across the West and Northeast, where sales slumped more than 25%.

The national median home price fell 3.1% from May last year to \$396,100, the NAR said. The year-over-year decline is the biggest since December 2011, when the housing market was still on the mend following the mid-2000s housing bust.

The latest housing market figures are more evidence that even with prices declining after heading higher for more than a decade many house hunters are being held back by a persistently low inventory of homes for sale.

"There's simply not enough inventory," said Lawrence Yun, the NAR's chief economist.

the more than year-long rate hike campaign designed to cool it.

U.S. employers added a surprising 339,000 jobs last month, well above expectations, painting a mostly encouraging picture of the job market, even as the unemployment rate rose to 3.7%. In April, employers posted 10.1 million job openings, up from 9.7 million in March and the most since January. Economists had expected vacancies to decline.

There are other signs that the Fed's policies are taking hold. The U.S. economy grew at a lackluster 1.3% annual rate from January through March as businesses wary of an economic slowdown trimmed their inventories. That's a slight upgrade from its initial growth estimate of 1.1%.

The manufacturing sector has been contracting and three bank failures have

been blamed in part on higher interest rates.

Though the labor market remains strong, there have been a number high-profile layoffs recently, mostly in the technology sector, where many companies say they overhired during the pandemic. IBM, Microsoft, Salesforce, Twitter, Lyft, LinkedIn, Spotify and DoorDash have all announced layoffs in recent months. Amazon and Facebook parent Meta have each announced two sets of job cuts since November.

Outside the tech sector, McDonald's, Morgan Stanley and 3M have also recently announced layoffs.

Overall, 1.76 million people were collecting unemployment benefits the week that ended June 10, about 13,000 less than the previous week.

Wall St drifts as cbanks keep up rate hike 'pressure' on inflation

Asian shares mixed after Fed chair inflation comments

NEW YORK, June 22, (AP): Stocks are drifting on Wall Street as central banks cranked up interest rates in their ongoing fight against inflation.

The S&P 500 rose less than 0.1% in afternoon trading Thursday. The majority of stocks in the benchmark index were slipping, but gains from some big technology stocks countered losses elsewhere.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 55 points, or 0.2%, to 33,895 and the Nasdaq rose 0.4% as of 12:14 p.m. Eastern.

The Bank of England raised its main interest rate by a half a percentage point to a 15-year high of 5%. Banks in Norway, Switzerland and Turkey also raised borrowing rates. The interest rate hikes come a day after Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell told Congress that he believes inflation still isn't under control.

The Fed held interest rates steady at its June meeting after raising rates aggressively throughout 2022 and into 2023 to tame inflation that had reached record levels. Inflation has been slowly cooling, but the Fed has signaled that it may have to raise rates two more times this year as it tries to push inflation down to its stated goal of 2%.

Powell appeared before a House of Representatives committee on Wednesday and is appearing before a Senate committee Thursday.

Central banks have been raising interest rates to make borrowing more difficult and slow economic growth in order to stifle inflation. The strategy risks going too far in stalling growth and dragging economies into a recession. Economists and analysts have been warning that the U.S. could slip into a recession before 2023 ends, but resilient consumer spending and a strong jobs market have been bolstering the economy.

High interest rates, though, have slowed other parts of the U.S. economy, particularly the manufacturing and housing sectors, and helped cause three high-profile failures in the U.S. banking system. The banking industry remains under pressure, even after the federal government acted quickly to provide support.

Bond yields rose. The yield on the 10-year Treasury rose to 3.79% from 3.73% late Wednesday.

Benchmarks in Europe fell following the most recent rate increases. Britain's FTSE 100 slipped 0.8%. The latest interest rate increase from the Bank of England was more than analysts had anticipated and marked its 13th rate hike in a row in its effort to combat stubbornly high inflation.

Wall Street has little economic data



People walk in front of an electronic stock board showing Japan's Nikkei 225 index at a securities firm Thursday, June 22, 2023, in Tokyo. Asian shares were trading mixed Thursday following a retreat on Wall Street after the Federal Reserve chair made comments that indicated inflation still isn't under control. (AP)

in the U.S. to look forward to for the remainder of the week. The Labor Department reported the number of Americans applying for unemployment benefits remained elevated last week, a possible sign that the Fed's rate hikes are beginning to cool a surprisingly resilient labor market.

Markets have been "taking a little bit of a breather" following a five-week rally, said Chris Zaccarelli, chief investment officer for Independent Advisor Alliance. The big focus in the coming weeks will likely be any economic data, including a big report on inflation next week, that could give investors a better sense of how the Fed will proceed.

"The Fed is pretty close to done, if not done already," he said. "The stock market is in a holding pattern waiting to see new economic data and the Fed's reaction."

Several companies made big moves on a mix of news. Spirit Aerosystems, a major supplier to the world's largest aircraft manufacturers, slumped 9.2%. It is suspending operations at a critical Kansas plant after union workers there rejected a proposed four-year contract and authorized a strike.

Office furniture maker Steelcase rose 8.5% after reporting strong financial results.

Europe

Benchmarks in Europe slid in early trading as the central banks of Switzerland and Norway raised their bench-

mark interest rates to counter inflation, while the Bank of England was expected to do so.

The British central bank is fighting to quash stubbornly high inflation that has failed to retreat from its peak as quickly as expected. The consensus among analysts was that it will raise its main interest rate by a quarter-percentage point - hitting a new 15-year high of 4.75%. But some worried it might opt for a bigger half-point increase, heaping pain on people with loans, especially the 1.4 million or so households in the U.K. that will have to refinance their mortgages over the rest of the year.

France's CAC 40 shed 1.2% in early trading to 7,174.46, while Germany's DAX fell 0.7% to 15,907.25. Britain's FTSE 100 slipped 0.8% to 7,495.94.

Asia

Asian shares were trading mixed Thursday following a retreat on Wall Street after the Federal Reserve chair made comments that indicated inflation still isn't under control.

Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 fell 0.9% to finish at 33,264.88. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 declined 1.6% to 7,195.50. South Korea's Kospi gained 0.4% to 2,593.70. Trading was closed in Hong Kong and Shanghai for Dragon Boat Festival, a national holiday.

Shares fell in India.

The Chinese markets being closed provided a break from jitters about

possible renewed tensions in the U.S.-China relationship after President Joe Biden referred to Chinese President Xi Jinping as a dictator. That pushed "back against the idea that the U.S.-China relationship could be warming with Secretary of State Antony Blinken's visit," said Yeap Jun Rong, market analyst at IG.

During Blinken's Beijing visit earlier this week, both sides agreed to stabilize badly deteriorated ties. But Blinken said China was not ready to resume military-to-military contacts.

Fitch Ratings said in its June Global Economic Outlook that the global growth outlook for next year has deteriorated, given the prospects of higher interest rates around the world.

"Global growth is showing near-term resilience but with core inflation remaining stubbornly high, central banks will have to continue tightening policy in the coming months," it said.

Oil

In energy trading Thursday, benchmark U.S. crude fell 18 cents to \$72.35 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Brent crude, the international standard, lost 21 cent to \$76.91 a barrel.

Currencies

In currency trading, the U.S. dollar edged up to 141.86 Japanese yen from 141.81 yen. The euro cost \$1.0983, little changed from \$1.0990.

Action could signal economic turnaround

Turkey cbank sharply 'hikes' interest rates

ANKARA, Turkey, June 22, (AP): Turkey's central bank delivered a large interest rate hike Thursday, signaling a shift toward more conventional economic policies to counter sky-high inflation following criticism that President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's approach has made a cost-of-living crisis worse.

The bank raised its key rate by 6.5 percentage points, boosting it to 15%. The increase - a jump from the current 8.5% - is the first since March 2021 but is lower than market expectations.

It came at the bank's closely watched first interest rate-setting meeting since Erdogan appointed two internationally respected officials to lead the bank and the finance ministry. The rate hike is an indication that the country is moving away from Erdogan's unorthodox belief that lowering interest rates fights inflation.

Traditional economic theory says just the opposite, and central banks worldwide have rapidly raised rates to combat spikes in consumer prices tied to the rebound from the pandemic and Russia's invasion of Ukraine. There were several hikes across Europe on Thursday, ranging from the Bank of England to the Swiss National Bank.

Erdogan - a self-declared "enemy" of high borrowing costs - has said he would "accept" his new finance minister's policies but also insisted that his views have not changed. That led to questions about whether Turkey's central bank could act independently.

A statement from the bank's Monetary Policy Committee said it had decided to begin "the monetary tightening process in order to establish the disinflation course as soon as possible."

"Monetary tightening will be further strengthened as much as needed in a timely and gradual manner until a significant improvement in the inflation outlook is achieved," it said.

Hamish Kinnear, senior analyst at the risk intelligence company Verisk Maplecroft, said increase from 8.5% to 15% "marks a return to more orthodox monetary policymaking."

But it was lower than market expectations of an increase of 17% to 20%, he said.

"This is a sign that the new governor is looking to tread carefully to avoid a clash with President Erdogan," Kinnear said in a note.

Under pressure from Erdogan, the central bank had cut its key interest rate from around 19% in 2021 to 8.5% earlier this year, despite soaring inflation that hit an eye-watering 85% last year.



Recep Tayyip Erdogan

Inflation has eased to 39.5% last month, according to official figures, but independent research group ENAG says the true rate is 109%.

Economists say Erdogan's unconventional belief has exacerbated economic turmoil, leading to currency and cost-of-living crises that have brought hardship to many households struggling to afford food, housing and other necessities. Erdogan says his economic model prioritizes growth, exports and employment.

Experts also say the central bank has depleted its foreign currency reserves as it tried to prop up the Turkish lira ahead of elections last month. The currency has lost around 21% of its value against the dollar since the start of the year.

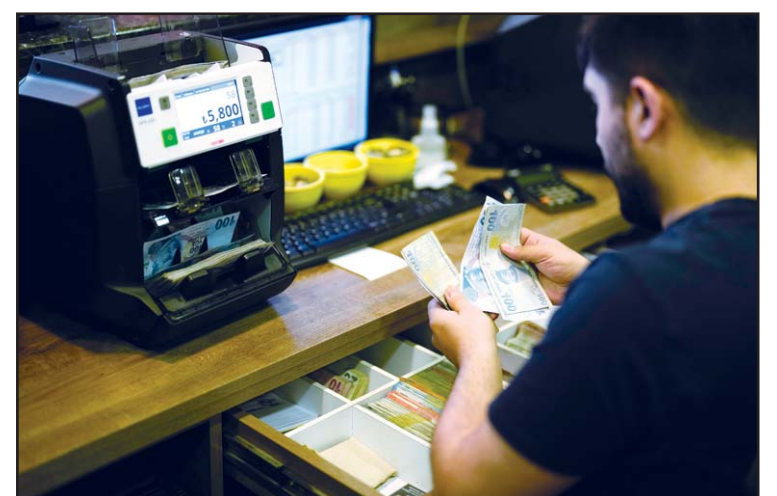
On Thursday, the lira weakened by 3% against the dollar due to the lower-than-expected rate hike.

Erdogan, who won a third term in a runoff election May 28, reappointed Mehmet Simsek to the helm of the economy. The former Merrill Lynch banker had previously served as Erdogan's finance minister and as a deputy prime minister until 2018.

Simsek said soon after his appointment that Turkey had no other option but to return to a "rational ground."

In another sign of a move toward more pragmatic policies, Erdogan appointed Hafize Gaye Erkan this month as Turkey's first female central bank governor. A former co-chief executive of the now-failed San Francisco-based First Republic Bank, Erkan replaced Sahap Kavcioglu, who oversaw a series of rate cuts.

"For now, Erdogan is happy to cede economic policymaking power to Governor Erkan and the new finance minister, Mehmet Simsek, so that Turkey can draw in much-needed foreign investment," said Kinnear, the analyst.



A worker counts Turkish lira banknotes in an exchange currency shop in Istanbul, Turkey, Tuesday, June 20, 2023. Turkey's central bank delivered a large interest rate hike Thursday, signaling a shift toward more conventional economic policies. (AP)

Ex-Goldman Sachs employee convicted of insider trading charges

NEW YORK, June 22, (AP): A former Goldman Sachs investment banker was convicted of insider trading charges Wednesday after a weeklong trial.

Brijesh Goel, 38, of Manhattan, was convicted in Manhattan federal court of securities fraud, conspiracy and obstruction of justice by a jury that deliberated less than a day before concluding he had shared secrets about likely merger-and-acquisition transac-

tions that Goldman Sachs was considering financing. Sentencing was set for Oct. 19.

Prosecutors said Goel worked in Manhattan at the investment bank when he shared information about potential merger and acquisition deals with a friend who worked at another investment bank in Manhattan.

Goel and the friend agreed to split profits from their

illegal trading, which amounted to about \$280,000, prosecutors said.

Prosecutors said Goel obstructed justice by deleting electronic communications regarding the insider trading scheme as a grand jury and the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission investigated.

Adam Ford, an attorney for Goel, declined comment.

BUSINESS

Norway proposes opening its waters to deep sea mining

Norway said it wants to open parts of the Norwegian continental shelf for commercial deep sea mining in line with the country's strategy to seek new economic opportunities and reduce its reliance on the oil and gas industry. Terje Aasland, Norway's minister for petroleum and energy, said in a statement the country needs minerals to help transition to a more green economy. The Norwegian seabed is reportedly rich with minerals including copper, zinc,

manganese and cobalt.

"Currently the resources are controlled by a few countries, which makes us vulnerable," he said. But the Norwegian government's plan is controversial and environmental groups are warning that mining the sea bed would threaten the biodiversity of the vulnerable ecosystems in the area.

Louisa Casson, global project leader for Greenpeace's Stop Deep Sea Mining campaign, said

that "to forge ahead and unleash deep sea mining in the Arctic would be criminal."

"Norway talks about leading the world but they clearly didn't get the memo of the growing opposition to this industry," she said in a statement. "Companies at the forefront of the green transition are already calling for a halt to this destructive industry, as are citizens and governments from Europe to the Pacific." (AP)

EU unveils plans to boost economic security

The European Union unveiled plans called the "European Economic Security Strategy", but said that it is not directed against China or any other country and is not a protectionist move.

"Until recently, security was related to armies. The armies provide defence and you secure yourself through the capacity of fighting. But now, security has multiple new dimensions, and the economy is one of these dimensions," EU High Representative

Josep Borrell told a press conference presenting the plans. "It is of paramount importance that our partners understand our message and that they do not see this economic security strategy as a protectionist move. It is not," he said.

"It is not about China. We are not in a confrontational mood with China," stressed Borrell.

On her part, EU Competition Commissioner Margrethe Vestager told the joint press conference that the strategy proposes

a framework, which starts with defining the risks. It outlines four types of risks, risk to supply chains, risk to critical infrastructure, risk to technology security and leakage and risk of economic coercion.

However, the EU will use a "geopolitical filter" when assessing risks: "We cannot treat supply dependencies on a systemic rival the same as we would treat the dependency on an ally," she noted. (KUNA)

'Final rule will reduce reliance on foreign sources of oil by up to 140,000 barrels per day'

EPA boosts use of biofuels but holds steady for corn-based ethanol production

WASHINGTON, June 22, (AP) - The Biden administration on Wednesday increased the amount of biofuels that must be blended into the nation's fuel supplies over the next three years, but held production totals steady for corn-based ethanol, disappointing the biofuel industry and farm advocates.

A plan finalized by the Environmental Protection Agency sets biofuel blending volumes at 20.94 billion gallons in 2023, 21.54 billion gallons in 2024 and 22.33 billion gallons in 2025. The totals under the federal Renewable Fuel Standard are higher than levels set for 2022 and earlier years, but include just 15 billion gallons of corn-based ethanol in all three years.

Most gasoline sold in the U.S. contains 10% ethanol, and the fuel is a key part of the economy in Iowa, Nebraska and other Midwest states.

EPA Administrator Michael Regan said the final rule would reduce reliance on foreign sources of oil by up to 140,000 barrels per day and support continued growth of biofuels that produce fewer greenhouse gas emissions than traditional gasoline or diesel.

Ethanol and other renewable fuels "play a critical role in diversifying our country's energy mix and combatting climate change, all while providing good paying jobs and economic benefits to communities across the country," Regan said in a statement. "Today's

final rule reflects our efforts to ensure stability of the program for years to come, strengthen the rural economy ... and help reduce greenhouse gas emissions" that contribute to global warming.

The final figures represent a decline from a proposal announced last year and drew immediate criticism from the biofuels industry.

"EPA's decision to lower its ambitions for conventional biofuels runs counter to the direction set by Congress and will needlessly slow progress toward this administration's climate goals," said Emily Skor, CEO of Growth Energy, an ethanol industry group.

"The bioethanol industry has more than adequate supply to meet" an expected increase in demand, Skor added. "Choosing not to put that supply to good use in decarbonizing the transportation sector runs counter to this administration's previously-stated commitments and undermines the goal of reaching net-zero (greenhouse gas emissions) by 2050."

Michael McAdams, president of the Advanced Biofuels Association, called the EPA plan "a missed opportunity to invest in and expand the adoption of low-carbon advanced biofuels" such as algae, switchgrass, cellulosic ethanol or landfill waste.

"By choosing not to reflect the avail-

able and growing supply of advanced biofuels in this three-year rule, the EPA is overlooking a chance to reduce 7 trillion pounds of CO2 from our atmosphere," McAdams said, referring to planet-warming carbon dioxide emissions. "This rule reneges on the Biden administration's proclaimed vision for carbon reduction."

Environmental groups also were disappointed, saying the EPA's continued push for ethanol and other biofuels push will hamper U.S. climate efforts rather than bolster them.

"Our future will not be propelled by corn - though you might think otherwise based on the Renewable Fuel Standard set by the EPA," said Dan

Lashof, U.S. director of the World Resources Institute, a global nonprofit.

Biofuels were long thought to be a climate solution, Lashof said, "but today we know that converting crops to fuel is a disaster for the planet. It increases emissions, raises food prices and is a terrible use of prime farmland."

About 40% of corn produced in the U.S. is used to make ethanol, a figure Lashof called "an incredible waste."

The federal government "should be supporting farmers to adopt climate-smart agriculture practices that produce food, store carbon and conserve biodiversity - not incentivize them to use their land to produce fuels that make the climate crisis worse," he said.

World well short of pace needed to meet UN's 2030 sustainable development goals



Wind turbines turn behind a solar farm in Rapshagen, Germany, Oct. 28, 2021. The world is falling well short of the progress needed to meet the United Nations' sustainable development goals by 2030 in areas ranging from poverty to clean energy to biodiversity, according to a report Tuesday, June 20, 2023, from the nonprofit tracking the goals. (AP)

'Improving health and protecting biodiversity are particularly off-track'

WASHINGTON, June 22, (AP) - The world is falling well short of the progress needed to meet the United Nations' sustainable development goals by 2030 in areas ranging from poverty to clean energy to biodiversity, with a growing gap between wealthy and developing nations, according to a report from the nonprofit tracking the goals.

The coronavirus pandemic stalled the limited progress made in the years after United Nations member states adopted the goals in 2015. Now, halfway through the 15-year time frame, not a single one of the goals is on target to be met.

Sustainable

"We're at the risk of a lost decade for sustainable development," said Guillaume Lafortune, a lead author of the report and vice president and head of the Paris office of the Sustainable Development Solutions Network, the nonprofit launched by the UN to foster and track sustainable development. "And there's actually a risk that the gap between rich and poor countries on sustainable development might be bigger in 2030 than it was in 2015."

The goals, which the authors described as "an ethical imperative," cover a range of areas, including threats to the climate and environment but also basic human rights such as food, health and education.

The authors noted that goals for reducing hunger, improving health and protecting biodiversity are particularly off-track. They said changing global governance mechanisms and global finance architecture are critical for improving progress on all the goals.

Lafortune pointed to the global finance summit that opens Thursday in Paris as an important moment for the world. A main focus of the summit is how international finance can be reformed to help the developing

Frontline Growth report outlines how growth of European ecosystem driving competition for SaaS Startup expansion

SAN FRANCISCO, June 22, (AP) - Frontline Growth, a growth-stage venture capital fund for U.S.-based software companies expanding into Europe, today announced the release of its second European Expansion Report. Published three tumultuous years after the inaugural report, the data confirms that even with capital markets retreating and performance being measured by paths to profitability, Europe remains a critical growth market for any U.S. software business seeking to become a global, category-leading company.

In today's economic climate, many venture-backed startups have abandoned the "growth at all costs" mentality, focusing instead on efficient growth and controlling costs. While a recalibration to fundamental business metrics is healthy, it has led many U.S. companies to halt their geographic expansion plans. By de-prioritizing European expansion, companies forgo capitalizing on a massive, new market

nations that are often most vulnerable to climate change but least able to raise capital for things like transitioning to renewable energy.

The report analyzed countries' progress on the sustainability goals by assigning them scores from zero to 100. They examined factors like poverty, hunger, disease, carbon dioxide emissions, subjective well-being scores and dozens of other indicators. Finland, Sweden, Denmark, Germany and Austria ranked highest. South Sudan ranked lowest, followed by the Central African Republic, Chad, Yemen and Somalia.

Lafortune called particular attention to the "disappointing" United States scorecard, which he said was below average for developed countries. He said the U.S. was one of the worst performers in terms of its commitment efforts and was one of only five member countries that did not present action plans and priorities to the international community. But Lafortune did note that some U.S. cities voluntarily provided local reviews.

- one that represents one-third of all global revenue for public software businesses. Additionally, given the strength of today's European technology ecosystem, companies that ignore their competition in this region run the risk of losing valuable market share.

Overriding

"When the overriding message is 'conserve cash and preserve runway,' prioritizing European expansion can seem counter intuitive. However, for companies that have strong product-market fit, a proven go-to-market motion, and have seen early demand from overseas, our report highlights why now is exactly the time to expand, particularly if they have an eye towards an IPO," said Brennan O'Donnell, Partner at Frontline Growth.

Frontline Growth's 2023 report reveals four key expansion trends that have emerged over the past few years: "Expanding internationally can be daunting, but Europe has been an impor-

tant part of Lattice's growth over the past several years," said Jack Altman, CEO of Lattice. "Frontline was instrumental in helping us understand the European market and navigate expansion. They are easily one of the most helpful investors I've ever worked with, and their latest report data is a goldmine for CEOs with global ambitions."

Surprised

Anita Ramasastry, a law professor and director of the Sustainable International Development graduate program at the University of Washington, said she wasn't surprised that the sustainable development goals are off track. Ramasastry, who had no part in the report, said she doesn't think many governments with more advanced economies, like the U.S., have embraced the goals or made them

relevant to citizens' daily lives. She questioned whether the goals were overly ambitious and added that it will be important to examine how the 2030 agenda is financed, as well as the role of the private sector.

"Business has been asked to fill a role. And I think there's just an ultimate question, which is should we have asked business to fill that role?" she asked. "Because ultimately the SDGs are meant to be about governments and states."

The report made the same point repeatedly, singling out several "basic failures" in global governance. Those included voluntary implementation of the goals with no enforcement mechanisms when countries fall short, international trade and finance rules not geared to sustainability, and national governments not coordinating well with smaller units of government on the goals.

Lafortune called for countries to keep the sustainable development goals in mind as they approach the Paris summit and other global conferences.

Leaders' resolve on climate to be tested

Summit in Paris 'aims' to shake up financial system

WASHINGTON, June 22, (AP) - Heads of state, finance leaders and activists from around the world will converge in Paris this week to seek ways to overhaul the world's development banks - like the International Monetary Fund and World Bank - and help them weather a warmer and stormier world.

While restructuring debt and reducing poverty will be part of the summit Thursday and Friday, climate will be the main driver, with representatives from developing nations in Africa, Asia and elsewhere having a prominent seat at the table.

The World Bank and IMF have been criticized for not factoring climate change into lending decisions and being dominated by wealthy countries like the U.S., with the neediest nations most at risk of global warming left out of calling the shots.

While those are the primary problems to solve, some doubt the splashy summit led by French President Emmanuel Macron will be able to take major strides to correct those challenges.

Still, the Summit for a New Global Financing Pact will draw roughly 50 heads of state and government - from Germany, Brazil, Senegal, Zambia and more - with more than 100 countries represented.

Barbados Prime Minister Mia Mottley will play a major role as a leader of the Bridgetown Initiative, a plan to reform development lending by freeing up money after climate disasters and targeting the higher borrowing costs and debt that developing nations face.

U.S. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen, Chinese Premier Li Qiang, new World Bank President Ajay Banga, IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva, and climate activists Greta Thunberg and Vanessa Nakate also are set to attend.

Masood Ahmed, president of the Center for Global Development think tank in Washington, isn't expecting much concrete action from the gathering but a broad agreement that "we've got to think much bigger, much bolder. We need to be willing to change."

It's been hard, however, to summon the political will to spend taxpayer money to combat climate change, said Ahmed, a former senior official in both the IMF and World Bank.

For example, "in the United States, we don't have in Congress today the kind of the support that you would want to have for a major global initiative on climate," he said. "That makes it harder for people to translate what is a sensible strategy, a necessary strategy, a critical set of actions into legislative action that puts money on the table."

French organizers want to show they can keep fighting poverty and meet the challenges of climate change at the same time, said a top French official said, who was not authorized to be publicly named according to the country's presidential policy.

Organizers say the summit will end with a summary of commitments, including a roadmap for what to expect from this year's meeting of the Group of 20 major economies and U.N. cli-



International Monetary Fund Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva walks to the podium during the 2022 annual meeting of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank Group on Oct. 14, 2022, in Washington. (AP)

mate conference.

But climate advocates say they want to see more meaningful commitments - like new money to help climate-vulnerable nations build sustainable infrastructure or reallocating existing funds to new climate-related projects.

Andrew Nazdin, director of the activist group Glasgow Actions Team, said the development banks "need to expand their lending - and fast - if we're going to avoid the worst impacts of the climate crisis."

A U.S. Treasury official told The Associated Press that big new monetary pledges should not be expected from the summit - rather it's viewed as a chance to push the case for an evolution of the development banks. The official spoke on the condition of anonymity to preview planning for the gathering.

Earlier this year, the World Bank announced that it would increase its lending by \$50 billion over the next 10 years to combat extreme poverty and mitigate and adapt to climate change.

The World Bank is trying to bounce back from comments by former President David Malpass seeming to doubt the science that burning fossil fuels causes global warming. He stepped down this year amid criticism and has been replaced by Banga - who is attending his first big international meeting since taking the helm.

The World Bank and IMF did not immediately offer comment.

Yellen, for her part, has called for climate to be factored into finance since at least 1997, when she chaired the White House Council of Economic Advisers. She's been vocal about the need to reform the multilateral banks and bringing lower-income countries into the conversation.

She has described climate change as an "existential crisis" that no one country could fight alone.

"We must also help developing countries transition their economies away from carbon-intensive energy sources and expand access to clean energy," she said last October.

Justin Mankin, a Dartmouth climate scientist, hopes those at the summit take into account the inequities that climate-vulnerable nations face and avoid reinforcing them.



Climate activists transform the Eiffel Tower into a wind turbine ahead of the Global Climate Finance Summit, Wednesday, June 21, 2023 in Paris. (AP)

BUSINESS

An Apple store employee stands inside the store in New York on Feb. 5, 2021. Apple illegally subjected employees to 'coercive' interviews and interfered with the distribution of union leaflets at a New York City Apple Store, a U.S. labor board judge ruled Tuesday, June 20, 2023. (AP)



Apple engaged in 'coercive' interviews, other anti-union tactics

Apple illegally subjected employees to "coercive" interviews and interfered with the distribution of union leaflets at a New York City Apple Store, a U.S. labor board judge ruled Tuesday.

The finding represents the first time that an administrative law judge at the National Labor Relations Board, a federal agency, has ruled against Apple. But it is not the last word on the subject; Apple is free to appeal the ruling to the agency's full board or to federal appeals court.

Apple had no comment on the ruling

Wednesday.

Lauren Esposito, the judge in the case, found that an Apple Store supervisor at the World Trade Center location had improperly asked an employee about his discussions with other workers about wage levels and about the employee's opinion of unionization efforts across the company. Such activities ran afoul of U.S. labor law that protects the right of workers to organize, the judge wrote.

Similarly, Esposito ruled that Apple

managers had singled out union literature, which is legally permitted in non-working spaces such as break rooms, for removal and disposal that sometimes involved shredding pamphlets.

The ruling requires Apple to "cease and desist" from activities that the judge found to violate established labor protections and to post workplace notices in the company's name acknowledging the court's findings, informing employees of their labor rights and pledging that the company will honor them. (AP)

Online safety watchdog demands answers from Twitter on how it tackles online hate

Australia's eSafety Commission takes on Musk

CANBERRA, Australia, June 22, (AP): Australia's online safety watchdog has issued a legal notice to Twitter demanding an explanation of what the social media giant is doing to tackle a surge in online hate since Tesla CEO Elon Musk bought the platform.

Australia's eSafety Commission describes itself as the world's first government agency dedicated to keeping people safer online. The agency said Thursday that it received more complaints about online hate on Twitter in the past 12 months than any other platform and had received an increasing number of reports of serious online abuse since Musk took over the company in October.

The Australian agency's boss, eSafety Commissioner Julie Inman Grant, said she sent a notice to the San Francisco-based company Wednesday with 36 detailed questions on how Twitter's policies about hateful conduct are enforced.

If Twitter does not respond with factual and truthful responses to all questions within 28 days, an Australian judge could fine the company up to 700,000 Australian dollars (\$476,000) for every day of delay, Inman Grant said.

"The whole idea of the basic online safety expectations is that global companies like Twitter are enforcing their own policies ... and that they've got people and technology to keep their platforms safe," Inman Grant said.

"They have a Hateful Conduct policy that says you may not directly attack

other people on the basis of race, ethnicity, gender, etc., and I want to know if fundamentally they are enforcing this policy and how effectively they are doing so," she added.

Twitter did not immediately respond to a request for comment Thursday.

The eSafety notice followed Musk's announcement in November that he was granting "amnesty" for suspended accounts. This led to 62,000 banned or suspended users being reinstated to the platform, including 75 accounts with more than 1 million followers each, eSafety said in a statement.

Twitter's global workforce had been slashed under Musk from 8,000 employees to 1,500, with trust and safety teams shed. Twitter had removed all public policy staff from Australia.

Inman Grant said Indigenous Australians, disabled people and those who identify as LGBTQ+ experience online hate at double the rate of other Australians.

"A third of all reports into our office of online hate are coming from Twitter. It's been a huge surge since October '22 when Elon Musk took over," Inman Grant told Australian Broadcasting Corp. "Twitter has always been fiery in terms of discourse, but it's turned into an absolute bin fire."

"A lot of the changes to the algorithms have made people feel like you see more toxicity, much more coarse discourse. But without lifting the hood and using these transparency powers, we really don't know what's happening and this is where we're trying to get to the bottom of things," she added.

Australians are not alone in their increasingly hostile experience with Twitter. American advocacy group GLAAD said last week that all major social media plat-

forms do poorly at protecting LGBTQ+ users from hate speech and harassment. But Twitter was the worst.

In its annual Social Media Safety Index, GLAAD gave Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, YouTube and Twitter low or failing scores, saying the platforms don't do enough to keep their users safe. That said, most improved from a year ago.

Twitter was the only exception. GLAAD's scorecard called it "the most dangerous platform for LGBTQ people" and the only one that saw its scores decline from last year - to 33% from 45% a year ago.

British rights group Center for Countering Digital Hate found instances of racial slurs on Twitter soared immediately after Musk bought the company.

A racial epithet used to attack Black people was found more than 26,000 times in the week following Musk's takeover - three times the average for 2022, the center found.

The center also found users who pay for a Twitter Blue Check seemed to enjoy a level of impunity from the platform's rules on online hate.

Inman Grant chairs the Global Online Safety Regulators Network, which was formed with British, Irish and Fijian online harms regulators in November to coordinate on online safety issues. Each of the 27 European Union states will soon have its own online harms regulator.

Inman Grant said Australia was discussing with other national regulators sharing information and how they might take joint regulatory actions.

"We will be working with other governments to make sure that we're shining a spotlight on these companies and getting them to improve their standards in doing the right thing," she said.

Wind farm to be country's biggest yet

Build begins on Wyoming-to-California power line despite growing 'concerns'

RAWLINS, Wyo., June 22, (AP): Portrait photographer Anne Brande shoots graduation and wedding engagement photos at scenic spots throughout southeastern Wyoming's granite mountains and sprawling sagebrush valleys. But she worries what those views will look like in a few years, when hundreds more wind turbines dot the landscape. Wind energy is booming here.

"Dandelions in my yard, you know, when there's four or five, it's OK," Brande said. "When my whole yard is dandelions, I'm just not too excited."

In a state where being able to hunt, fish and camp in gorgeous and untrammelled nature is a way of life, worries about spoiled views, killed eagles and disturbed big-game animals such as elk and mule deer have grown with the spread of wind turbines.

On Tuesday, state and federal officials beneath fluttering flags formally broke ground on the TransWest Express, a transmission line that will move electricity from the \$5 billion, 3,000-megawatt, 600-turbine Chokecherry and Sierra Madre wind farm to southern California, a place legally mandated to switch to clean energy. The wind farm will be the country's biggest yet.

Federal regulators gave the go-ahead to TransWest in April. The International Energy Agency and other experts say wind power is crucial to attaining a carbon-neutral world by 2050. Developers here estimate the wind farms will prevent the emission of between 7 and 11 million tons of carbon dioxide a year and provide enough carbon-free electricity to power 1 million homes.

"We want people to say yes - yes to clean energy in the same way that people said yes to fossil energy," Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm said at the groundbreaking that also brought out Interior Secretary Deb Haaland and Wyoming Gov. Mark Gordon, a Republican.

Gordon has pledged to make Wyoming not just carbon neutral but carbon negative, looking to renewable energy and technologies such as carbon capture to make it happen.

"As we see climate change, we know we don't have time to waste," said Gordon at the event on a treeless Wyoming expanse where not just TransWest Express but two major PacificCorp transmission lines will soon extend over the horizon.

But in Wyoming, despite extensive wildlife studies and lengthy federal environmental reviews, there's more skepticism about wind power than when TransWest Express and Chokecherry and Sierra Madre were first proposed 17 years ago.

"I think it's just as simple as too much of a good thing," Brande said.

As elsewhere, opposition to wind farms in Wyoming correlates with proximity to homes and cabins: Chokecherry and Sierra Madre is massive but isolated, and has generated less opposition than some others. But Brande and rural property owners opposed a 500-megawatt, 120-turbine wind farm soon to be built near the Colorado state line. They lost, but the matter reached the Wyoming Supreme Court.

The contentious county approval process included a five-hour public hearing in a packed courtroom in Laramie in 2021. Residents expressed a range of concerns, from turbine blades killing birds to construction blasting damaging home foundations.

In neighboring Carbon County, the county commission on June 6 held off permitting for a 280-megawatt, 79-turbine project called Two Rivers, after hearing from people with concerns.

Commissioners told the developers to get federal approval first.

The local opposition to a wind farm is a recent development in an area that previously welcomed the economic benefits with few questions, Carbon County Commission Vice Chairman Sue Jones said. Named for its coal reserves that once fueled steam engines, Carbon County adopted an official seal in 2021 that features a wind turbine.

Yet county officials recently required wind farms to turn off their red warning lights except when aircraft approach, responding to public complaints.

The regulation wasn't retroactive. But PacificCorp, which serves customers in Wyoming, Utah and the Pacific Northwest, retrofitted its wind turbines in the area with the on-and-off pilot warning system anyway, Jones said.

"The companies do try to be good neighbors," Jones said. "But it is starting to show and it is reaching a point where maybe it's too much. It's affecting wildlife habitat. It's affecting the birds and the bats."

In just four years, wind generation capacity in Wyoming has doubled, adding about 600 turbines - the bulk of them in the southeast - since 2020, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

Chokecherry and Sierra Madre alone will double that amount again - and at least five more wind farms are planned, according to a 2022 University of Wyoming report.

If they all stay on schedule, Wyoming could soon vault from 14th to among the top five states for wind energy, though wind energy is booming elsewhere, too.

Almost 60% of electricity generated in Wyoming, wind power included, isn't used here but goes to other states, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration.

Increasingly the state's wind energy is coveted by utilities in California, Arizona and the Pacific Northwest.

TransWest Express will move the Chokecherry and Sierra Madre electricity 732 miles (1,178 kilometers) from south-central Wyoming to just outside Las Vegas. Along the way, it will cross northwestern Colorado and Utah, with conversion from direct to alternating current in central Utah.

The wind farm and transmission lines, both projects of The Anschutz Corporation owned by Denver oil and gas billionaire Phil Anschutz, are scheduled to come online around the same time, starting in late 2027.

The transmission line's direct-current section allows efficient, long-distance electricity transfer with no ties-in to other power lines, while the alternating current segment is less efficient but connects to the rest of the grid.

Wyoming wind averages almost 13 mph (21 kph) day and night, year-round, matching well with daytime solar generated elsewhere. But so far there aren't a lot of ways to get wind power from Wyoming onto the western U.S. power grid, said Roxane Perruso, TransWest Express executive vice president and chief operating officer.

"So we're going to enhance the ability to move renewables and other power, carbon-free power in the future, around the grid," Perruso said.

Paralleling TransWest Express in places, PacificCorp's Gateway South transmission lines connecting Wyoming wind farms to southern Utah are scheduled for completion next year. PacificCorp's Gateway West lines, already partly built across southern Wyoming, will stretch all the way to the Pacific Northwest sometime after 2030.



The logo for Microsoft, and a scene from Activision 'Call of Duty - Modern Warfare', are shown in this photo, in New York, Wednesday, June 21, 2023. Microsoft on Thursday will try to gain clearance to complete a \$69 billion takeover of video game maker Activision Blizzard in a legal showdown with U.S. regulators that will reshape a pastime that's bigger than the movie and music industries combined. (AP)

Dispute over \$69b deal that could reshape video gaming

Microsoft, U.S. regulators head to court

SAN FRANCISCO, June 22, (AP): Microsoft on Thursday will try to gain clearance to complete a \$69 billion takeover of video game maker Activision Blizzard in a legal showdown with U.S. regulators that will reshape a pastime that's bigger than the movie and music industries combined.

The battle will pit Microsoft's ambition to expand its video game imprint beyond its Xbox console against the U.S. Federal Trade Commission's bid to block a deal that it contends will stifle competition and innovation to the detriment of consumers.

It's the latest twist in a deal that was announced 17 months ago. Both Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella and Activision Blizzard CEO Bobby Kotick are expected to testify at some point during five days of hearings in San Francisco before U.S. District Judge Jacqueline Scott Corley that will conclude June 29.

FTC lawyers will call upon experts and a top executive for Sony, the maker of the industry-leading PlayStation video game console, to show why Microsoft will gain an unfair advantage if it is allowed to blend its Xbox franchise with an Activision acquisition that will give it ownership of popular video game titles such as Call of Duty, World of Warcraft and Candy Crush.

After all the evidence and arguments are presented, Corley will decide whether or not to grant the FTC's request for a court order that would keep the deal in a holding pattern until a more exhaustive administrative trial that's scheduled to begin in Washington D.C. on August 2. The judge isn't expected to rule until after the Fourth of July holiday.

If Corley declines to issue an injunction, Microsoft could move to close the deal ahead of a July 18 deadline and avert a \$3 billion breakup fee.

The wrangling over the deal has cast a spotlight on the growing importance of video gaming, a pursuit that has already garnered an es-

timated of audience of about 3 billion people worldwide who play at least some of the time on a console, personal computer or, increasingly, smartphone. The market is expected to swell to 4.5 billion people by 2030.

All those gamers are willing to pay upwards of \$70 to own marquee titles like Call of Duty or fork over a steady stream of recurring subscriptions to services such as Microsoft's Xbox Game Pass, Amazon's Luna and Nvidia's GeForce.

Microsoft is framing the proposed Activision deal as a way to make inroads against Sony's PlayStation, which has a far larger market share, while providing new benefits for video game players. Among other things, Microsoft cites a 10-year commitment to make Call of Duty available on Nintendo's Switch console and a willingness to make a similar decade-long deal with PlayStation, and also argues video gamers will gain more access to even more games on its Xbox subscription service.

The FTC has countered the deal will give too much power to Microsoft, already one of the world's richest companies because of a personal computer software empire that the U.S. Justice Department tried to break up in landmark antitrust case more than 20 years ago. Regulators



A sign is seen outside the Activision building in Santa Monica, Calif. on Wednesday, June 21, 2023. (AP)

also allege Microsoft can't be trusted not to gradually make the most popular video games exclusive to its own Xbox console and subscription services, based on its handling of titles after buying video game maker ZeniMax Media in 2021.

The hearings will also be another test of the FTC's amped-up oversight of Big Tech under Chairperson Lina Khan, who has been outspoken about her belief that U.S. regulators were too lenient in past deals that helped increase the power of companies such as Amazon, Google and Facebook. The courtroom tussle with Microsoft comes six months after the FTC took Facebook owner Meta Platforms to court in Silicon Valley to try to stop a takeover of a virtual reality fitness company only to be rebuffed by the judge in that case.

The FTC could face challenges convincing Corley to block the Activision deal. The judge previously showed skepticism about the need to prevent the takeover in March when she dismissed a lawsuit brought by a group of gamers who sued to stop the acquisition.

Like regulators are now, the gamers argued that Microsoft's takeover of Activision would stifle competition and reduce consumer choice. They later brought an amended lawsuit, but Corley in May denied their request for an injunction to block the deal.

Another major regulator, the U.K.'s Competition and Markets Authority, also has taken action to thwart Microsoft's takeover.

But European regulators representing the 27-nation bloc approved the deal last month on condition that Microsoft make some promises meant to boost competition in the cloud-based gaming market. A number of other countries, including China, Japan, Brazil and South Korea, have also approved it.

Microsoft has lashed back against the British regulators standing in its way with an appeal of their decision, as well as voicing strong opposition to U.K. government officials.



Photos from the event.

LuLu opens new fresh market in Kuwait City

LuLu Group, the leading retailer in the region opened its new fresh market in Kuwait. The new store which is also 13th in the country was officially inaugurated by Sheikh Hamad Al Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, Royal Family Member at Jawharat Al Khaleej Complex in the presence of Yusuff Ali MA, Chairman of Lulu Group and other dignitaries.

Located in the heart of Kuwait City and in close proximity to landmarks such as Safat Square, Souq Mubarakiya and Kuwait Liberation

Tower, the new LuLu Express Fresh Market is easily accessible from all sides and provides ample parking space for the convenience of shoppers.

The 25,000 square feet store features a modern interior and the latest concepts in premium retailing that offer customers easy convenient access, wide product range and quick service. It offers an extensive range of products, including groceries, non-food goods, fresh, chilled, and frozen

foods, dairy items, fruits and vegetables, meat, and fish as well as an in-house kitchen and delicatessen. The store also features a wide range of health and beauty products, household items, home furnishing, toys, and luggage.

Also present on the occasion were Saifee Rupawala, CEO of Lulu Group, Mohamed Haris, Lulu Kuwait Director, Sreejith KS, Regional Director of Lulu Kuwait and other top officials.



Abdulwahab Al Rushood and Mohammad Al-Arbeed receive the Euromoney KFH Awards



Abdulwahab Al Rushood, Mohammad Al-Arbeed, Muhammad Al-Faris and Abdulaziz Dhiab

'World Best Islamic Bank for ESG'

KFH wins two prestigious awards from Euromoney

KUWAIT CITY, June 22: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) has received "Best Islamic Bank in Kuwait" and "Best Islamic Bank for ESG- global category 2023" awards from Euromoney magazine during the annual Euromoney Awards for Excellence ceremony held in Dubai.

The two awards came in recognition of KFH's contributions, prominent standing and leadership in the Islamic finance and banking industry locally and globally, its digital services and products, in addition to its outstanding efforts in deploying environmental, social and governance practices (ESG) in all banking business and activities.

Euromoney used a series of criteria -including core banking activities, diversified and comprehensive financing services, solvency, performance indicators, innovation, bank size and its ability to achieve sustainable growth, address market conditions, meet the needs of its customers, technological development, and digital transformation achievements.

Exceptional

On the occasion of receiving the two awards, KFH Acting Group CEO, Abdulwahab Iesa Al Rushood, said that KFH's performance has been exceptional recently following the acquisition of AUB-Bahrain, which is among the largest M&As announced last year. The transaction transformed KFH to the largest bank in Kuwait and the second largest Islamic bank in the world with assets of roughly KD 36.9 billion, as well as a market capitalization that is the largest among all private sector companies with a value of about KD 11 billion.

He added that KFH Group is characterized by its robust competitiveness, large market share, and geographical diversity in various strategic markets, in addition to continuing its vital role in financing development projects, keep-

ing pace with digitization, and adopting ESG standards in all activities.

Al Rushood stressed that the awards recently received by KFH reflect the determined steps taken by the bank in strengthening its leading position in the local and global banking industry, continuing digitalization roadmap, focusing on growth, maintaining credit quality, managing costs, strengthening relationships with customers, and investing in the bank's employees.

Meanwhile, Executive Manager Governance and Sustainability at KFH, Mohammad Al-Arbeed said that: "Sustainability is a priority for KFH. As in January 2023, the Bank partnered with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to set solid standards for sustainable development goals for Sharia-compliant finance, especially in green finance".

He added that KFH launched the (Keep it Green) campaign to serve as an umbrella for all KFH sustainability initiatives. In a testament to its successful environmentally friendly initiatives, KFH Auto showroom won the GSAS Gold Level Sustainability Assessment System Certificate, the first-of-its-kind in Kuwait.

Alarbeed pointed out that the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed earlier with UNDP will establish stronger alignments with the sustainable development goals across the Bank, as the UNDP provides technical support to facilitate investments through key tools such as the SDGs, and the Green Finance Framework.

Euromoney awards are designed to reputable institutions based on an evaluation by a team of editors, journalists, and researchers, which analyzes Euromoney's research and market data, before a jury of experts decides on the award-winning banks.

Enhance engine maintenance, minimize flight disruptions

Kuwait Airways signs Rolls-Royce TotalCare deal for A330neos fleet

KUWAIT CITY, June 22: Kuwait Airways announced signing an agreement with Rolls-Royce to enhance engine maintenance and to ensure optimal performance, reliability, and cost-efficiency of the Trent 7000 engines powering KAC's fleet of A330neos.

The service agreement will use advanced technology to monitor the health and performance of engines in real-time, which will allow Kuwait Airways to effectively have proactive maintenance and minimize flight disruptions. This partnership will also provide timely access to genuine parts and expert repair services, minimizing the impact of unscheduled maintenance events.

During the signing ceremony, the Chairman of Kuwait Airways, Captain Ali Al-Dukhan, said, "We are glad to be signing the Rolls-Royce TotalCare service agreement which will help us reach our strategic objectives of optimizing our engine operations, increase our fuel efficiencies, and enhancing the maintenance planning across our fleet. This will not only lead to lowering our costs and increasing our productivity but will also have a positive effect on our passengers as we will be able to better predict and prevent disruptions to our operations."

Access

Al-Dukhan added, "This partnership will give us the opportunity to access Rolls-Royce TotalCare services so we may promptly attend to our needs. By signing the Rolls-Royce TotalCare agreement, we can focus our internal resources and expertise on our core operations, such as flight operations and passenger services. This allows us to allocate our resources efficiently and concentrate on providing superior travel experience for our passengers."

Rob Watson, President Civil Aerospace from Rolls-Royce added, "We have a long-standing relationship with Kuwait Airways supporting their Trent 700 powered A330 fleet. Today takes that relationship one step further as we sign this new agreement for our TotalCare services package for their new fleet of Trent 7000 powered A330neos. We look forward to supporting Kuwait Airways in their continued



Kuwait Airways and Rolls-Royce officials

expansion and in the delivery of their world-class passenger experience by providing them with predictability and certainty across their operation."

It is worth noting that the official contract will be signed based on the agreement once all administrative processes are completed in line with Kuwait Airways regulations.

The Trent 7000 is the latest addition to the Rolls-Royce Trent family of engines and exclusively powers the Airbus A330neo. After entering into service in early 2019, the Trent 7000 has flown more than one million hours, delivering exceptional reliability, sustainable performance, and proven versatility. Incorporating the latest generation technology, the Trent 7000 enables 14% better aircraft fuel burn per seat (compared to the A330/Trent 700) and is already capable of flying on blends of up to 50% Sustainable Aviation Fuel.

About Kuwait Airways (KAC) Kuwait Airways, the National Carrier of the State of Kuwait with 33 young fleet of aircraft, a leading airline providing world class service, comfort, safety, reliability, and punctuality. Established in 1954, with a hub located at Kuwait International



Rob Watson (left) and KAC Captain Ali Al-Dukhan (right) during signing of agreement

Airport, the airline has grown to currently providing convenient connections to its 60 global destinations with 105 frequencies daily and over 95 destinations via its codeshare partners, spanning major cities across the Middle East, Europe, Indian Subcontinent, USA, Far East and Africa.

Identifying constant advancements in technologies in the aviation industry, Kuwait Airways has embarked on a Beyond Excellence "BE" transformation and modernization program which serves as an accelerator to its corporate sustainable strategy across four pillars of ESG. Growth, Productivity, and most important Customer Experience while driving its mission of being "The Most Efficient Airline".

To learn more, visit kuwaitairways.com

About Rolls-Royce Holdings plc
1. Rolls-Royce develops and delivers complex power and propulsion solutions for safety-critical applications in the air, at sea and on land. Our products and service packages enable our customers to connect people, societies, cultures and economies together; they meet the growing need for power generation across multiple industries; and enable governments to equip their armed forces with the power required to protect their citizens.

2. Rolls-Royce has customers in more than 150 countries, comprising more than 400 airlines and leasing customers, 160 armed forces and navies, and more than 5,000 power and nuclear customers.

Zainab Ibrahim Al Ballam wins KD10,000

ABK announces Alfouz weekly draw winner

KUWAIT CITY, June 22: Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) announced Zainab Ibrahim Al Ballam as the winner of KD10,000 in the Alfouz weekly draw. The winner was announced on Monday, 19 June 2023. The draw was held under the supervision of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

The Alfouz draw account offers ABK customers the chance to win life-changing

rewards. With Alfouz, ABK customers will get a chance to win KD10,000 in the weekly draw and the ultimate grand prize of KD5,000 monthly additional income for 10 years. Both new and existing ABK customers can benefit from this opportunity, with a minimum account balance of KD100 only.

ABK encourages everyone to open Alfouz draw account and/or increase

their balances to have more chances in winning in the upcoming draw which will happen on Monday, 26 June 2023. The higher the deposits are, the higher the chances to win.

For more information about ABK, please visit eahli.com or contact an ABK customer service agent via 'Ahlan Ahli' at 1899899. Alternatively, you can visit your nearest ABK branch.



Alfouz weekly draw

Omnipod® 5 Automated Insulin Delivery System



Omnipod 5 automated insulin delivery system available in UK

Insulet Corporation (NASDAQ:PODD) (Insulet or the Company), the global leader in tubeless insulin pump technology with its Omnipod® brand of products, has announced the commercial launch of its Omnipod 5 Automated Insulin Delivery System (Omnipod 5) for individuals aged two years and older with type 1 diabetes (T1D) in the United Kingdom (UK). "Since its commercial launch in the United States, Omnipod 5 has had a remarkable impact on people with diabetes," said Jim Hollingshead, Insulet President and CEO. "Every day, we hear how this revolu-

tionary experience of Omnipod 5 reduces the burden and improves quality of life for people with diabetes, and we are excited to make a difference in other parts of the world, beginning with the UK. We are committed to making Omnipod 5 an option for as many people as possible, as quickly as we can, and working hard to secure broad access globally." The Omnipod 5 System is where simplicity meets advanced technology. Omnipod 5 is the first CE marked tubeless hybrid closed loop system (also known as automated insulin delivery) that integrates with the Dexcom

G6 Continuous Glucose Monitoring (CGM) System to automatically adjust insulin delivery and help protect against high and low glucose levels. The system2 consists of the tubeless Pod enhanced with SmartAdjust™ technology and the Omnipod 5 Controller with its integrated SmartBolus Calculator. The system is interoperable with the Dexcom G6 CGM for automated insulin delivery. Every five minutes, SmartAdjust technology receives a CGM value and trend, and predicts where glucose will be 60 minutes into the future.

'Bridge and Opioid Halo designed to prevent overdose, save lives'

Masimo, Clinton Fdn host roundtable addressing addiction crisis

NEW YORK, June 22: Masimo (NASDAQ: MASI) and the Clinton Foundation hosted an in-person roundtable addressing the overdose and addiction crisis. Joe Kiani, Founder and CEO of Masimo, and President Bill Clinton, 42nd President of the United States and Founder and Board Chair, Clinton Foundation, led the conversation at the Foundation offices in New York City. Participants included national opioid and addiction specialists, hospital and academic executives, community members, and local, state, and national elected officials.

new ways to help serve those with substance use disorder. We need to fill in the gaps to provide better service to those in need and utilize evidence-based technologies like Bridge which can be used in various sectors of the community, such as the justice system and health care system."

Aldo Carmona, M.D., Senior VP of Clinical Integration and Chairman of Anesthesia, St. Luke's University Health Network, said: "We know the opioid crisis significantly affects families. Understanding people's genetic makeup matters and it could help us identify high-risk populations."

Sean O'Donnell, MS, Executive Director, Foundation for Recovery, said: "We need more innovation in this space. We've got heart. We've got data. We've been studying this crisis and the solutions. Now, we need to ensure those who need these products most can access them. It is time for action."

Inspired

Ryan Hampton, Co-Founder and Executive Director, Mobilize Recovery, said: "People are inspired and ready to take action. There is a lot of innovation and intent to break silos between sectors. When we come together and share our learnings, we make giant strides towards addressing this crisis by making actionable commitments for impactful change."

Karl Leonard, Sheriff, Chesterfield County Sheriff's Office, Virginia, said: "Today's event brought together leaders across disciplines to discuss how we can effectively and efficiently work together to build momentum."

Jeffrey A. Thomas, MHS, LPC, CACDC, Chief Executive Officer, White Deer Run, said: "We need to further implement technology in the treatment of opioid dependence and move away from outdated techniques and practices. Opioid users who are chemically dependent desire a powerful, timely solution, and Bridge delivers just that; we were astounded by how well the device worked and now use it to reduce recidivism and reduce abandonment of treatment. We're a great case study for abatement funds to support the community in need."

Masimo (NASDAQ: MASI) is a global medical technology company that develops and produces a wide array of industry-leading monitoring technologies, including innovative measurements, sensors, patient monitors, and automation and connectivity solutions. In addition, Masimo Consumer Audio is home to eight legendary audio brands, including Bowers & Wilkins, Denon, Marantz, and Polk Audio. Our mission is to improve life, improve patient outcomes, and reduce the cost of care. Masimo SET® Measure-through Motion and Low Perfusion™ pulse oximetry, introduced in 1995, has been shown in over 100 independent and objective studies to outperform other pulse oximetry technologies.

Masimo SET® has also been shown to help clinicians reduce severe retinopathy of prematurity in neonates, improve CCHD screening in newborns and, when used for continuous monitoring with Masimo Patient SafetyNet™ in post-surgical wards, reduce rapid response team activations, ICU transfers, and costs.

The event brought together experts and peers to collaborate on evidence-based solutions designed to help patients affected by the overdose and addiction crisis. The discussion highlighted solutions such as Bridge™ and Opioid Halo™ from Masimo – the first winner of the FDA's Opioid Innovation Challenge to have an authorized device addressing the crisis – designed to prevent overdose, save lives, and reduce the stigma surrounding opioid use. Attendees also had the opportunity to test both products onsite at an Opioid Safety Demo table.

Joe Kiani, Founder, Chairman and CEO of Masimo, said, "At Masimo, we are committed to creating evidence-based solutions that fill in existing gaps in patients' support network. We must collectively work together to eliminate the stigma around addiction and fight the opioid crisis, one of our nation's most pressing public health challenges and the leading cause of accidental deaths in the US. My hope is that our conversation today will inspire a greater dialogue around how communities can better support opioid users in the hospital and at home, reducing deaths and stopping the cycle of addiction."

Deaths

President Bill Clinton said, "Overdose deaths reached an all-time high last year with more than 109,000 lives lost. If we're going to have a chance at reversing the tide, it's going to take all of us – more hospitals and clinics, more stakeholders and community leaders, and more innovators like Joe Kiani and Masimo. Their commitment to fighting the overdose crisis has led to breakthroughs that can prevent overdose deaths and help people on the road to recovery."

Among the key participants in the roundtable were:

Chris Thrasher, Chief Executive Officer of Substance Use Disorders and Recovery, Clinton Foundation, who said: "A key component missing from the conversation is how can technology help solve this crisis. With these evidence-based technological solutions, we can and will save one life at a time."

Seonaid Nolan, M.D., Assistant Professor, Department of Medicine, University of British Columbia, said: "Collective efforts are better than each individual effort. To turn the tide, it is important we come together, across disciplines, to develop a comprehensive approach to linking people to the services they need at the time they want it."

Chief Tom Synan, Chief of Police, Newtown Police Department, Ohio, said: "We must come together to find

'A notable alternative to popular in-office procedures'

Mary Kay presents new skin treatments that can reduce facial expression lines

DALLAS, June 22: Mary Kay Inc, a global leader in skin care innovation and nutritional science, recently revealed breakthrough research on a treatment that combats the appearance of facial expression lines. The findings, which Mary Kay shared at the American Academy of Dermatology Association (AAD) Annual Meeting, could have a significant impact on understanding expression lines and offer a notable alternative to popular in-office procedures.

"Women are looking for holistic alternatives to invasive, often expensive in-office procedures to address facial expression lines," said Dr. Lucy Gildrea, Chief Innovation Officer, Product & Science at Mary Kay. "Our research reveals that there are safe, efficient, and comfortable methods that provide compelling skin benefits."

During the meeting Geetha Kalahasti, Associate Principal Scientist, Upstream Research, Clinical & Scientific Credentialing at Mary Kay, shared the exciting results of a cosmetic formulation containing a patented blend of three botanical extracts that mimic the activity of a well-known injectable. The three botanical extracts were shown in vitro to inhibit the contraction of muscle cells and calcium flux response, key factors that induct the development of expression lines.

Evaluate

Researchers at Mary Kay are also pioneering clinical research methodology. Patented clinical methodology was used to evaluate the effectiveness of the cosmetic formulation compared to the popular in-office treatment. Clinical evaluations showed significant reduction in the intensity of muscle contractions and significant visual improvement in forehead and crow's feet lines and wrinkles compared to the injectable.

"Our team of scientists at Mary Kay are filling the gaps in consumer needs by seeking the most innovative cosmetic solutions that address key contributors of pre-mature skin aging," said Dr. James Ebel, Vice President of Product Development & Product Portfolio Strategy. "This is just one example of the amazing research efforts by Mary Kay Research & Development."

The research revealed is just the latest effort by Mary Kay to reinforce the brand's long-standing commitment to advancing skin health, research and development, and nutrition. Mary Kay holds more than 1,600 patents for products, technologies and packaging designs in its global portfolio.

One of the original glass ceiling breakers, Mary Kay Ash founded her dream beauty company in 1963 with one goal: enriching women's lives. That dream has blossomed into

Solution to improve efficiency, consistency of results

Aiosyn launches 'AI-powered' mitosis detection solution for cancer research

NIJMEGEN, Netherlands, June 22: Aiosyn, a medical software company specializing in AI-powered pathology solutions, released its first AI algorithm in its Mitosis product family: Aiosyn Mitosis Research. The innovative deep-learning algorithm is designed to automatically scan for cells undergoing division (mitoses) to assist research pathology laboratories with mitotic figure detection in whole slide images from cancer biopsies and resections. The second algorithm in the family, Aiosyn Mitosis Breast for diagnostic use, is currently undergoing clinical validation.

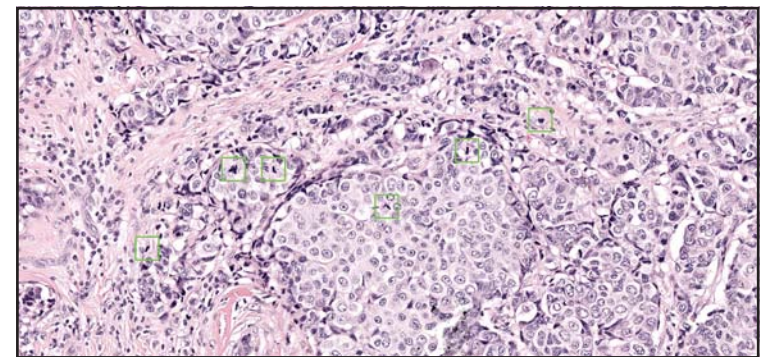
"We are thrilled to introduce Aiosyn Mitosis Research, an AI-powered mitosis detection solution that will support cancer researchers with an innovative AI-based computational biomarker approach that improves the efficiency and consistency of results," says Patrick de Boer, CEO of Aiosyn.

Counting mitotic figures in histological slide preparations is a tedious and subjective task with poor reproducibility. The AI-powered mitosis detection solution empowers laboratories to implement a more consistent and efficient protocol for biomarker discovery and drug development studies, thereby improving the quality and standardization of results. By effectively highlighting mitotic figures in hematoxylin and eosin (H&E) slides before cases are opened for review, Aiosyn's algorithm significantly enhances the efficiency of mitosis analysis, a critical

multibillion-dollar company with millions of independent sales force members in more than 35 countries. As an entrepreneurship development company, Mary Kay is committed to empowering women on their journey to economic independence through education, mentorship, advocacy, networking, and innovation.

Also:

CRANBURY, NJ: Accutar Biotechnology, Inc., a biotechnology company focusing on artificial intelligence



Cells undergoing division, also named mitotic figures or mitoses, are identified and highlighted with Aiosyn's algorithm for automated mitosis detection.

biomarker for tumor growth evaluation.

Deployed

Aiosyn Mitosis Research is a modular and flexible software offered as a service solution that can be integrated into existing digital pathology workflows. It can be deployed through the cloud or on-premise installation, adapting to different laboratory setups. This release marks yet another significant milestone for Aiosyn, following the successful launch of AiosynQC, an automated quality control (QC) tool that significantly streamlines the digital pathology workflow.

Aiosyn is currently in the validation phase for another product in the Mitosis product family, Aiosyn Mitosis Breast, for clinical diagnostics. Aiosyn Mitosis Research and Aiosyn Mitosis Breast will be part of a portfolio of deep learning algo-

ri thms currently in development for different pathologies for which there is a clear need to improve diagnostic precision and quality.

Aiosyn is a Dutch medical software company that develops AI-powered pathology solutions that are integrated into standard pathology workflows. The Aiosyn team has been built upon 20+ years of research experience in the field of pathology and is rooted into the pathology practice.

Aiosyn Mitosis Research is an AI-powered solution that recognizes and highlights mitotic figures in H&E slides. Aiosyn Mitosis Research is intended for Research Use Only. Aiosyn is currently validating another product in the Mitosis product family, Aiosyn Mitosis Breast, for clinical diagnostics. It is undergoing CE-mark certification under the EU IVDR.

(AI)-empowered drug discovery, has announced the dosing of the first patient in a Phase 1 study of AC0676, an orally bioavailable, chimeric degrader molecule designed to target and degrade Bruton's Tyrosine Kinase (BTK) with high potency, selectivity, and broad mutant coverage.

"The initiation of this study distinguishes Accutar as the first company to successfully bring oral chimeric degraders against three different targets into the clinic," said Jie Fan, Ph.D., Chief Executive Officer of Accutar Biotech-

nology, Inc. "Leveraging our protein crystallography and AI-empowered PPI-TAC (Protein-Protein Interaction Targeting Chimera) platforms, AC0676 was designed to potentially and selectively degrade both wildtype BTK and BTK mutations that confer drug resistance to both covalent and non-covalent BTK inhibitors, including but not limited to C481S and kinase dead mutations such as L528W. We are excited about the differentiated therapeutic profile of AC0676 and its broad potential to treat patients with B-cell malignancies."

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Behind Maghateer Commercial Complex & Opp. Police station, Farwaniya

Rivera says he's quitting Fox News' political combat show 'The Five'

NEW YORK, June 22, (AP): Geraldo Rivera has quit as one of the lonely liberal voices on Fox News' popular political combat show "The Five," saying Wednesday that "a growing tension that goes beyond editorial differences" made it no longer worth it to him.

The last scheduled appearance on "The Five" for the television veteran, whose 80th birthday is on July 4, is next week.

"It has been a rocky ride but it has also been an exhilarating adventure that spanned quite a few years," he said in an interview with The Associated Press on Wednesday. "I hope it's not my last adventure."

Rivera said that it was his choice to leave "The Five," but that Fox management "didn't race after me to say, 'Geraldo, please come back.'" There was no immediate comment from Fox.

Despite airing in the late afternoon instead of prime time, "The Five" has become Fox's most-watched program, with an average of more than 3 million viewers last year. Its conceit is simple - five people, four of them conservative and one liberal - kick around the issues of the day.

Greg Gutfeld, Jesse Watters, Dana Perino and Jeanine Pirro are the regular conservatives. Rivera has rotated as the liberal voice with Jessica Tarlov and Harold Ford Jr., a former congressman from Tennessee.

Rivera said he planned to remain as a "correspondent at large" at Fox, with a contract that expires in January 2025.

He said he'd been suspended a handful of times, most recently in early May. He had tweeted shortly after Fox fired Tucker Carlson on April 24 that he found Carlson's theories about the Jan. 6 Capitol insurrection to be "bullshit," leading Gutfeld to respond via tweet, "You're a class act Geraldo, a real man of the people." Carlson had downplayed the violence on Jan. 6, calling people who invaded the Capitol "sightseers."

Tension

Rivera and Gutfeld had a handful of particularly contentious exchanges. In late April, Rivera told him "stop pointing at me" when they argued over electric vehicles. He called Gutfeld "an arrogant punk" on the air last year during a fight about abortion.

Rivera would not comment directly about Gutfeld. "There has been a growing tension that goes beyond editorial differences and personal annoyances and gripes," he said. "It's not worth it to me."

Rivera, once a friend of Donald Trump who split with him over the former president's false claims of winning the 2020 election, said that "under no circumstances do I think Donald Trump should

be president of the United States again and that's an important message I am committed to bringing to the American people between now and November 2024."

Although "The Five" and its large viewership would seem a prominent place for him to deliver that message, he said "you can imagine the friction that role by definition" would provoke.

"I'm 80 years old," he said. "I don't want the friction. 'The Five' is too intimate a place and it gets too personal."

The argument over electric vehicles illustrated the challenge faced the liberal voice on "The Five." As he talked, onscreen chyrons below him read "Biden pushing pricey electric cars on Americans" and "Americans not buying Biden's EV hype."

Rivera had a colorful syndicated talk show that aired from 1987 to 1998, and hosted an evening news and interview show at CNBC in the late 1990s. He was brought to Fox shortly by then-chairman Roger Ailes after the September 2001 to be a war correspondent at first and has remained. On Wednesday he expressed some regret, in retrospect, for not leaving the network after the killing of Osama bin Laden in 2011.

He said his relationship with his colleagues on "The Five" is "a reflection of what the country is going through. ... It's not an easy job if you take it as personally as I do."

Television

Variety



This image released by Netflix shows character Nimona, voiced by Chloë Grace Moretz, in a scene from the animated film 'Nimona.' (AP)

Film

Hollywood writers at rally say they'll win

A vibrant riot-grrrl energy in 'Nimona'

By Lindsey Bahr

A powerful, shapeshifting teenage girl and a disgraced knight-in-training suspected of killing a beloved queen are at the heart of "Nimona," a vibrant and irreverent animated adventure set in a futuristic fantasy kingdom.

It is a familiar story — a society governed by ancient rules and a crippling fear of outsiders — even by recent Netflix animation standards (see "The Sea Beast"). But "Nimona" is wrapped in new, exciting packaging with a wildly fun soundtrack featuring the likes of Metric, Dope Saint Jude and Judas Priest themes that aren't clumsily subtle, and charismatic lead voice actors in Chloë Grace Moretz and Riz Ahmed. There's also a supporting character named Ambrosius Goldenloin. Ambrosius. Goldenloin. He has blonde, swooped hair and is voiced by Eugene Lee Yang of The Try Guys.

The fraught saga of getting "Nimona" to audiences could be its own epic movie. ND Stevenson's popular graphic novel first went into development in 2015 at Blue Sky Studios and was inherited by Disney in 2019 as part of the Fox acquisition. Despite seismic shifts and leadership changes, work continued. Then in 2021, when the film was reported to be 75% complete, Disney announced that Blue Sky Studios was shuttering and "Nimona" was to be shelved. In addition to the economic hardships of the pandemic, Business Insider reported that Disney leadership took issue with a same-gender kiss. Then Annapurna and Netflix stepped in, with new directors (Nick Bruno, Troy Quane), and got "Nimona" to the finish line (though also without a kiss).

Moretz is the voice of Nimona, a chaos-loving radical who sees a fellow outsider's horrifying fall from grace and thinks "I need to collab with this guy." The outsider in question is Ballister Boldheart (Ahmed), a kid from the streets who dreamt of being a knight, a position traditionally reserved for members of a certain class or descendants of an ancient, revered warrior named Gloreth, who 1,000 years ago saved the kingdom from a monster. Despite the odds, and prejudices, he rose the ranks and almost made it. On the "Night to Knight Knights" a big, televised

event with futuristic Super Bowl halftime show-meets-"Blade Runner"/"Hunger Games" production levels, the public still isn't convinced about Ballister — they sneer that he doesn't deserve it and won't keep them safe. The only people on his side are his boyfriend, the aforementioned Ambrosius Goldenloin, and the queen. But things go south quickly at the ceremony: The sword he's given kills his most public champion, the queen, in front of everyone and no one gives him the benefit of the doubt. He's a queen killer and that's that.

Innocence

Ballister is reluctant to team up with Nimona — he wants to prove his innocence and she doesn't seem like the best way back into society. But she also has some very useful skills, namely being able to morph into anyone and anything — an adult, a child, a rhinoceros — and single-handedly defeat a dozen men without much strain. Plus, she's a lot more fun than the small-minded bros and icy leaders back at the Institute. Moretz, it should be noted, is an excellent voice actor who brings real life and punk energy to Nimona. And there are some real twists and turns on the way to the resolution that would be best to just experience yourself.

Certainly the release has been plotted to coincide with Pride, but it happens that LGBTQ+ rights are also once again under seige in the country. This may not push the envelope much further than recent animated forays into more blatant depictions of same sex relationships, but it's another tiny step in the right direction which is always helped when the movie is good, too.

Netflix might not have initiated "Nimona," but it won by getting it out in the end.

"Nimona," a Netflix release in limited release Friday and streaming June 30, is rated PG by the Motion Picture Association for, "violence/action, rude humor, thematic elements and some language." Running time: 101 minutes. Three stars out of four.

Also:

LOS ANGELES: Fifty days into a strike with no end in sight, about 1,000 Hollywood writers and their

supporters marched and rallied in Los Angeles for a new contract with studios that includes payment guarantees and job security.

Speakers at the Writers Guild of America's WGA Strong March and Rally for a Fair Contract on Wednesday emphasized the broad support for their cause shown by other Hollywood unions — including actors in their own contract negotiations — and labor at large.

"We're all in it together, we're all fighting the same fight, for a sustainable job in the face of corporate greed," Adam Conover, a writer and a member of the guild's board and its negotiating committee, told a crowd at the end of the march at the La Brea Tar Pits. "We are going to win because they need us. Writers are the ones who stare at a blank page. We are the ones who invent the characters, tell the stories and write the jokes that their audiences love. They'd have nothing without us."

Talks with the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers, the group representing studios in negotiations, have not resumed since breaking off hours before the writers' contract expired on May 1. The strike began a day later, with more and more productions shutting down as it has gone on.

A similar deadline now looms for actors, whose union, SAG-AFTRA, is negotiating with the AMPTP on a contract that expires June 30. Members voted overwhelmingly to authorize guild leaders to call a strike if no deal is reached.

Streaming and its ripple effects are at the center of the dispute. The guild says that even as series budgets have increased, writers' share of that money has consistently shrunk.

The AMPTP says writers' demands would require they be kept on staff and paid when there is no work for them, and that its contract proposals have been generous.

"We are here for the sake of the profession we love," writer Liz Alper said at Wednesday's rally. "The industry we work in, our audiences, our fellow sister unions in Hollywood, and all the workers across America who have been hurt and disenfranchised by Wall Street and big tech." (AP)

LOS ANGELES: Dr Dre will need to make room in his trophy case for another prestigious award.

The American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers said on Tuesday that Dr Dre will receive the first-ever ASCAP Hip-Hop Icon Award. He'll be honored at the organization's Rhythm & Soul Music Awards Celebration of 50 Years of Hip-Hop on in Los Angeles.

"Dr Dre's groundbreaking early work laid a foundation for hip-hop as we know it today," Paul Williams, chairman of the board and president at ASCAP. "As a champion for some of today's biggest artists and a successful entrepreneur, he changed the culture around hip-hop."

The honor Dre is receiving will be presented to ASCAP members whose musical contributions have made an "indelible impact" on the art and culture of hip-hop.

DJ Kid Capri and DJ Drama will provide music for Thursday's event.

Dre, a seven-time Grammy winner, has produced big hits for Jay-Z, Eminem, Snoop Dogg, Gwen Stefani, Kendrick Lamar, Nas and 50 Cent. He won his first Emmy for last year's Super Bowl halftime performance with Eminem, Mary J. Blige, Snoop Dogg, Lamar and 50 Cent.

The prolific producer emerged from the West Coast gangster rap scene alongside Eazy-E and Ice Cube as part of the group N.W.A., which made a major mark in the hip-hop culture and music industry with controversial lyrics in the late 1980s.

Earlier this year, Dr. Dre celebrated the 30th anniversary of "The Chronic" with a re-release of his highly acclaimed debut studio album. In 2010, he was honored with the ASCAP's Founders Award. (AP)

BUCHAREST, Romania:

Andrew Tate, a social media personality known for expressing misogynistic views online, appeared Wednesday in a court in Romania, where prosecutors have charged him with rape, human trafficking and forming a criminal gang to exploit women.

The former professional kickboxer and his brother, Tristan, who also was charged, arrived at the court in Bucharest, Romania's capital, flanked by six bodyguards. Tate, 36, has denied wrongdoing and said in a

brief statement that he was being "unfairly attacked."

Reporters outside asked him, "How much money have you made from trafficking women?" Tate, whose social media posts included photos of luxury cars and displays of wealth, snapped: "Zero."

Prosecutors also have filed



Dr Dre



Stefani

charges against two Romanian women in the case. Romania's anti-organized crime agency alleges the four defendants formed a criminal group in 2021 "in order to commit the crime of human trafficking" in Romania as well as in the United States and Britain.

The agency alleged that seven female victims were misled and

transported to Romania, where the gang sexually exploited and subjected them to physical violence. One defendant is accused of raping a woman twice in March 2022, according to the agency.

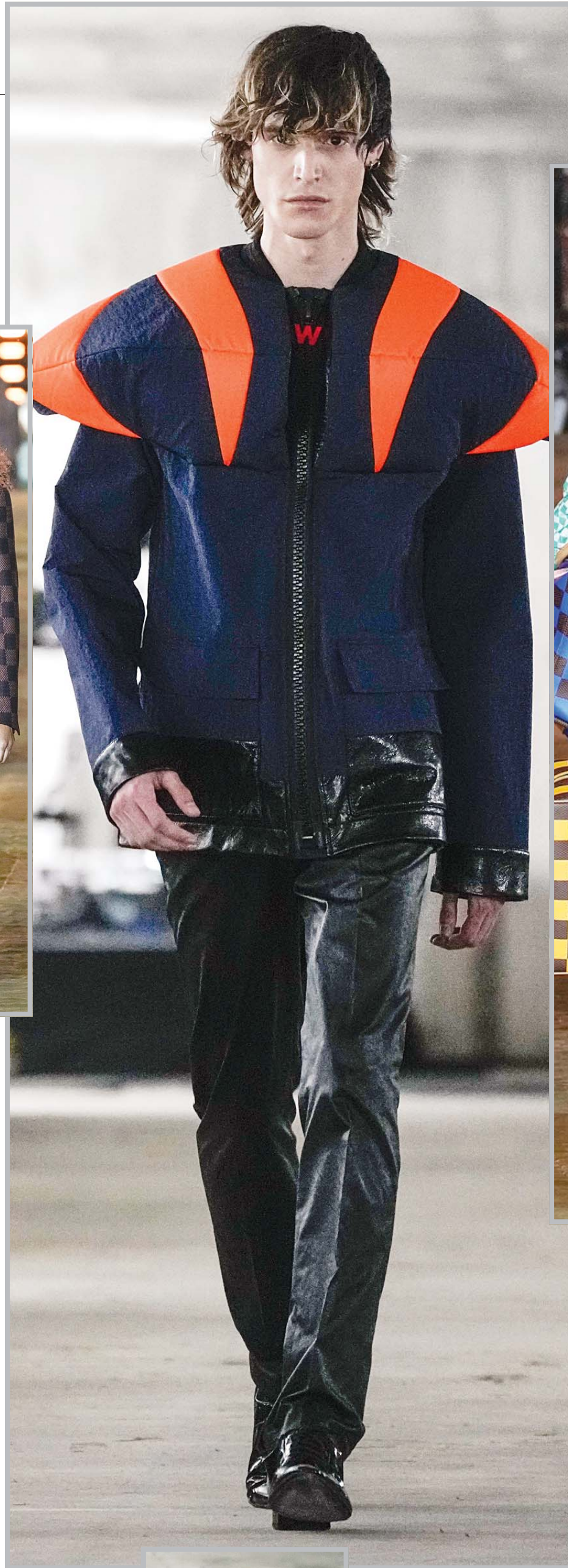
Tate and his brother both hold dual British-US citizenship. Tate's spokesperson, Matea Petrescu, said Tuesday that the two were

prepared to "demonstrate their innocence and vindicate their reputation."

"Tate's legal team are prepared to cooperate fully with the appropriate authorities, presenting all necessary evidence to exonerate the brothers and expose any misinterpretations or false accusations," Petrescu said. (AP)

People & Places

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Walter van Beirendonck



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Louis Vuitton



Louis Vuitton

Above and below: Models wear creations Louis Vuitton and Walter van Beirendonck as part of the Menswear Spring/Summer 2024 fashion collections presented in Paris, June 20-21. (AP)

Innovative storytelling

'Downey's Dream Cars' a show for gearheads

LOS ANGELES, June 22, (AP): Robert Downey Jr. knows he has amassed an impressive collection of classic cars - one he self-deprecatingly refers to as artifacts of his success.

Despite his expectations of what the "accouterments are supposed to be" when one reaches a certain level of fame and wealth, trophies, it turns out for the actor, are not all they are cracked up to be. It's that dissatisfaction that helped to inspire "Downey's Dream Cars," his latest project was to debut Thursday on Max.

"The cash and prizes, it's never been what motivated me. So, I shouldn't be surprised that it's still not," Downey said at the show's premiere, held last week at the Petersen Automotive Museum in Los Angeles.

While "Downey's Dream Cars" is very much a show for gearheads, it isn't restricted to that audience. Downey experiments with genre in a kind of eco-friendly "Pimp My Ride" that is also part memoir and a documentary about the latest advancements in clean technology.

"That was certainly the idea, was to try to innovate a little bit in this kind of storytelling," he said.

In each episode, Downey relinquishes control of his prized possessions, letting experts modify his classic cars to be more environmentally sustainable by making them electric, converting them to run on biodiesel fuel or even affixing them with mushroom leather. Downey hopes it will be a glimpse into the future of sustainability and espouses optimism by featuring what's attainable now as well as what technological progress promises.

It is indeed a show about cars and technology, but in it Downey conveys a surprising amount of tenderness and introspection. It's a window into the ways he's grown from very public struggles with drug addiction that informed his image for years before "Iron Man" and the Marvel Cinematic Universe came calling.

He exhibits a self-awareness of the "machismo" cinematic influences and capitalistic values that prompted him to build such a collection. Throughout the show, Downey weaves in reflections on his life, family and shifting priorities in recent years, specifically as they relate to the future of the planet.

Collaborates

Susan Downey, a producer who frequently collaborates with her husband, shares his commitment to environmental activism and worked as an executive producer for the show.

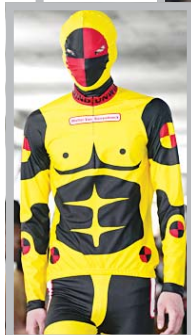
Although she said they both feel a personal responsibility in the fight against climate change, she praised her husband for his efforts to hold corporations accountable.

"It's not to absolve the everyday person of any responsibility they have, but really recognizing, to make the significant changes, they have to operate at a much higher level," she said.

The actor has in recent years become widely associated with his activism, particularly after he founded FootPrint Coalition, a venture capital fund that invests in climate technology and artificial intelligence.

In the series, Downey bemoans society's inefficiency and lack of collective will in making progress on these fronts, a frustration that contributed to his decisions to create both the company and the series.

And despite many people's concerns over the uncharted territory AI has already traversed, Downey believes in its ability to fight climate change and suspects fears of its capabilities may be to some extent unwarranted.



Walter van Beirendonck



Louis Vuitton



Walter van Beirendonck



Louis Vuitton

Fashion

Tuesday's hearing was his first time in court since just after his March 25 arrest in Manhattan's Chelsea neighborhood. He appeared by video at a hearing last month where prosecutors said they were revising the assault charge to reflect the accuser's perspective. A police officer's account was used in the original version.

Before his case was called Tuesday, Majors watched from the courtroom gallery with his lawyers and his girlfriend Meagan Good, who stars in the "Shazam!" movies, as two men in unrelated cases had their domestic violence charges thrown out.

Chaudhry urged the Manhattan district attorney's office to do the same for Majors and to instead charge his 30-year-old accuser, "holding her accountable for her crimes." In lieu of

a decision, Chaudhry requested that Majors' case go to trial as soon as possible.

Chaudhry said she's provided prosecutors with "compelling evidence" of Majors' innocence, including video showing the woman assaulting the actor and Majors running away from her.

"We also provided photographs illustrating the injuries she inflicted on Mr. Majors and photos of his clothing torn as a direct consequence of (the woman's) violent actions," Chaudhry said.

She has also accused police and prosecutors of racial bias against Majors, who is Black. She said a white police officer got in Majors' face and taunted him when he tried showing the officer injuries that he said the woman caused. (AP)

WINCHESTER, Va: A wild animal trainer featured in the popular Netflix series "Tiger King" has been convicted of wildlife trafficking in Virginia, the attorney general's office announced Tuesday.

Bhagavan "Doc" Antle was accused of illegally buying endangered lion cubs in **Frederick County, Virginia**, for display and profit at his **South Carolina** zoo, Attorney General **Jason Miyares** said in a news release. A jury convicted Antle on Friday of two felony counts each of wildlife trafficking and conspiring to wildlife traffic.

Antle, who owns the Myrtle Beach Safari, appeared in "Tiger King: Murder, Mayhem and Madness," a Netflix documentary miniseries that focused on tiger breeders.

The jury acquitted Antle of five counts of animal cruelty and Judge **Alexander Iden** dismissed four additional animal cruelty charges against Antle and all charges against his two adult daughters, The Winchester Star reported.

Prosecutor **Michelle Welch** said Myrtle Beach Safari's lucrative petting zoo motivated Antle to maintain a steady supply of immature lion cubs that he purchased from Wilson's Wild Animal Park near Winchester, calling the arrangement a "cub pipeline" from Virginia to South Carolina.

When Antle and **Keith Wilson**, the park's former owner, began doing business in 2015, it was still legal to buy and sell lions, Welch said. But after lions were designated as an endangered species in December 2015, lions could only be traded between zoos and wildlife preserves that were part of an established breeding program and had permits. There were three illegal cub exchanges in 2017, 2018 and 2019, Welch said. (AP)



Chaudhry



Majors

Variety

NEW YORK: Actor **Jonathan Majors'** domestic violence case will go to trial Aug 3, a **Manhattan** judge said Tuesday, casting him in a real-life courtroom drama as his idled **Hollywood** career hangs in the balance. Majors' accuser alleges he pulled

her finger, twisted her arm behind her back, struck and cut her ear and pushed her into a vehicle, causing her to fall backwards, during a March confrontation in New York City. The woman was treated at a hospital for minor head and neck injuries, police said.

Majors' attorney, **Priya Chaudhry**, said Tuesday that she provided prosecutors with video evidence showing the female accuser attacked her client, not the other way around. The woman

has not been named in court records.

Majors had been a fast-rising Hollywood star with major roles in recent hits like "Creed III" and "Ant-Man and The Wasp: Quantumania." But in the wake of his arrest, the U.S. Army pulled TV commercials starring Majors, saying it was "deeply concerned" by the allegations. Disney last month postponed Majors' upcoming Marvel film "Avengers: Kang Dynasty" from May 2025 to May 2026. He is also

slated to appear in "Avengers: Secret Wars" in 2027.

Judge **Rachel Pauley** wished the actor "best of luck" as she scheduled his trial. "Yes, ma'am," Majors said, standing with his lawyers in front of Pauley's bench in Manhattan's domestic violence court.

Majors, 33, is charged with misdemeanors, including assault, and could be sentenced to up to a year in jail if convicted.

Climate

'Make armies green'

NATO climate change fight faces dilemmas

BRUSSELS, June 22, (AP): NATO faces a series of dilemmas in its attempts to fight climate change while ensuring the effectiveness of its combat forces, as Europe's biggest land war in decades ravages Ukraine, the head of the military alliance told The Associated Press in an interview on Wednesday.

The world's armed forces are among the greatest consumers of hydrocarbons - fuel and oil - that contribute to greenhouse gases. They have been in much demand recently as global warming fans conflicts and crises because of resource and food scarcity.

The main dilemma NATO is contending with, Secretary-General **Jens Stoltenberg** said, is the difficult choice "between either having a green or a strong military."

He said that NATO needs to "reconcile the need for an effective, strong, armed forces with the need to have climate-friendly armed forces."

Last year, in its new Strategic Concept - essentially NATO's mission statement - the world's biggest security organization recognized, for the first time, climate change as "a defining challenge of our time, with a profound impact on Allied security."

The document acknowledged that the 31-nation alliance's "infrastructure, assets and bases are vulnerable to its effects." It warned that NATO armies are being forced to operate in more extreme climate conditions and are increasingly called upon to take part in disaster relief operations.

"Climate change is a crisis multiplier. It increases competition over scarce resources like water and land, and it drives millions of people to leave their country. So, all this impacts our security," Stoltenberg told the AP at NATO's headquarters in Brussels.

Last week, NATO began an air deployment exercise in Germany billed as the biggest in the alliance's history. Some 250 aircraft - a major source of emissions - from 25 nations responded to a simulated attack on a NATO member. The United States alone sent about 100 aircraft.

Wargames

The exercise was long-planned, but remains part of NATO's deterrence and defense strategy; its ongoing effort to dissuade Russian President Vladimir Putin from expanding his war against Ukraine to any member of the alliance. Wargames are not likely to be halted.

Stoltenberg said that the best way to achieve a balance is "to develop technology and to ensure that the armed forces are part of the energy transition which is going on." NATO has established an "innovation fund" and a center for excellence on climate change to help develop such technology.

The United Kingdom has also begun to use more climate-friendly fuels, biofuels, for some of its aircraft. Other allies are working on ways to reduce their dependency on diesel, which is also particularly vulnerable to air or land attacks when being transported.

But Stoltenberg said that NATO cannot simply "go 100% from fossil technologies to zero-emission technologies in one stroke." That raises another dilemma.

"Over time we will have parallel systems that will increase costs and there will be additional problems with logistics," when it comes to supplying motors, battle tanks and ships with different kinds of fuels and parts, he said.

"The other dilemma (is) to make sure that the systems can work together," Stoltenberg said. "If different nations (use) different systems that are partly fossil and partly new technologies, then the issue of the interchangeability and interoperability will be even harder."

The fight against climate change has, in some ways, been postponed by the heavy reliance of many European countries on Russia for oil and natural gas before it invaded Ukraine last year. Some, like Poland, are slowing their transition away from coal, while others, such as Belgium, plan to keep using nuclear energy for longer.

Stoltenberg warned that nations must be wary of creating new dependencies, notably on authoritarian countries like China, for rare earth minerals like lithium and cobalt used in the manufacture of batteries and solar panels and windmills.

Security though is at the heart of the battle against climate change, Stoltenberg told the AP, and peace is a precondition for that, whether in Ukraine or elsewhere.

We need peace and stability, he said, so countries can cooperate among themselves and incur a meaningful global effort to reduce emissions.

"If allies or Ukraine were forced to choose between a climate-friendly or an effective armed force, then everyone would choose a strong and effective military because that's about our security," he said. The challenge, Stoltenberg underlined "is to reconcile, those two goals in the long run."

Also:

BRUSSELS: The European Union achieved a small political breakthrough Tuesday when a majority of the 27 member states backed controversial plans for restoring nature across the continent.

The 27-nation EU has long been at the forefront of fighting climate change and protecting the environment but is struggling to push the latest piece of legislation through a long-winding legal procedure. Some member states and the biggest party in the legislature, the right-wing European People's Party, turned against the proposed plans because of fear they would negatively affect the economy.

"It's been hard work from all parties involved," said Swedish Environment Minister **Romina Pourmokhtari**, who chaired the meeting. "It is a good day for nature," she said.

The plans proposed by the EU's executive commission set binding restoration targets for specific habitats and species, with the aim by 2030 to cover at least 20% of the region's land and sea areas.

For the next step, the file would go to the EU parliament where it would face a committee vote next Tuesday before going to the full plenary debate next month. Based on those results, the member states and legislators would seek to broker a final compromise text over the next year.

At stake is the EU's role as a guiding light to climate issues. It was instrumental in pushing through global rules aimed at containing climate change over the past years.

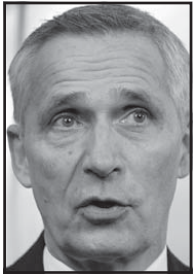
"We were among those pushing a global agenda towards higher ambition, and we've managed to accomplish that," said EU Environment Commissioner **Virginijus Sinkievicius**. "It was an extremely important message, also to the world, that we also can deliver at home."

But countries like the **Netherlands** objected to parts of the proposals and a one-size-fits-all approach saying that could hurt national industries like farming, or hem nations into a legal straightjacket that could force them into decisions their electorate would strongly oppose.

Dutch Environment Minister **Christianne van der Wal-Zeggelink** called it "micromanagement per square meter" that would ultimately hurt nature.

The nature restoration plan is part of a far bigger project for the EU to become climate neutral by 2050. It includes a wide range of measures, from reducing energy consumption to sharply cutting transport emissions and reforming the EU's trading system for greenhouse gases.

The EU's executive Commission said it wanted to keep all actions interlinked for optimal impact, which is why the nature restoration plans had to remain as fully intact as possible.



Stoltenberg



Chef Zach Tyndall prepares Good Meat's cultivated chicken at the Eat Just office in Alameda, Calif., Wednesday, June 14. The US government is allowing the sale of chicken made from animal cells. California companies Upside Foods and Good Meat were granted permission on Wednesday, June 21, to sell their products by the Agriculture Department. Proponents say this 'cultivated meat' is better for animals and the environment because livestock doesn't need to be raised and killed to produce it. (AP)

Science

Is it chicken?

How does 'cell-cultivated' meat taste

By JoNel Aleccia

When I told friends and family I was reporting on the first chicken meat grown from animal cells, their first comment was "Eww." Their second comment was: "How does it taste?"

The short answer (you've probably heard this sentence before in other contexts): Tastes like chicken.

The longer answer, which folds in the "Eww" response, is more nuanced. Yes, it's strange to think of eating a totally new kind of meat - chicken that doesn't come from a chicken, meat that will be sold as "cell-cultivated" chicken after the US Agriculture Department on Wednesday gave the green light to two California firms, Upside Foods and Good Meat.

But it's also interesting (and exciting!) to taste test the first offerings of a new era in meat production, which aims to eliminate harm to billions of animals slaughtered for food - and to dramatically reduce the environmental effects of grazing, growing feed for those animals and dealing with their animal waste.

I'm a lifelong meat eater, I'm also a victim of the "meat paradox," a term scientists use to describe the psychological conflict that occurs in people who like to eat meat but don't like to contemplate the animals that died providing it.

As someone who has reported on food-borne illness outbreaks and slaughterhouse safety, I'm keenly aware that the chicken on my dinner plate probably suffered to get there. And that fact makes me uneasy if I dwell on it too much.

So I was open to trying a different kind of meat - and also curious to see if it would taste like the real thing.

Substitutes

I've tried plant-based options like the Beyond Meat sausage and the Impossible Burger and liked them, even though I didn't think they were perfect substitutes. To be honest, the Beyond Meat sausage tasted good, but a little mealy. And the Impossible Burger was dry, although I may have cooked it too long. In both cases, I enjoyed the taste of the products but was still aware that I wasn't actually eating beef.

What about the artificiality of it all? It didn't bother me that this new cultivated meat is made from cells that grow to epic proportions in big steel vats, only to be shaped and formed - "extruded" is the somewhat unfortunate verb that came to mind - into familiar cutlets, filets and nuggets that

NEW YORK, June 22, (AP): The US government is allowing the sale of chicken made from animal cells.

California companies Upside Foods and Good Meat were granted permission on Wednesday to sell their products by the Agriculture Department.

Livestock doesn't need to be raised and killed to produce this new type of meat, which proponents say is better for the animals and for the environment because land does not need to be cleared for grazing or growing feed.

Currently, the US uses over 1 billion acres of land for agriculture, or just over half of total land -- the majority of which is used for grazing cattle.

It's meat grown from the cells of animals in steel tanks. Though it's known in the industry as cultivated meat, it's sometimes called cultured meat, lab-grown meat or cell-based meat. There are more than 150 companies around the world trying to develop these food products. They're working on a variety of meats: chicken, beef and lamb.

At this point, you can't buy these new meats at the grocery store - they will be initially rolled out at restaurants. Consumers can expect cultivated meat to be sold at a growing number of restaurants and small retailers within the next two to five years and on supermarket shelves within seven to 10 years,

would look right at home on the dinner table.

But as with all food, in the end it would come down to taste. And in this case, to the larger question behind it: Is this new material in fact chicken, or is it an impostor?

In January, I traveled to the Upside Foods manufacturing plant in Emeryville, California. There, chef Jess Weaver sautéed a cultivated chicken breast in a white wine butter sauce with tomatoes, capers and green onions.

The aroma was enticing, just like any filet cooked in butter would be. And the taste was light and delicate with a tender texture, just like any chicken breast I'd make at home - if, that is, I were a chef trained at the Culinary Institute of America.

said Sebastian Bohn, a project manager specializing in cell-based food for CRB, a Missouri firm that designs and builds facilities for pharmaceutical, biotech and food companies.

It starts with cells, which can come from a fertilized egg, a special bank of stored cells or tissue initially taken from a living animal. The cells are mixed with a broth of nutrients that the cells need to grow and divide. Cells are triggered to turn into skeletal muscle, fat and connective tissues. After days or weeks, the cells are removed from the tanks and shaped into products such as nuggets.

The easiest products to make this way are those usually made with ground meat, such as hamburgers and chicken nuggets. Some companies are working on products with more structure, such as chicken breasts and steaks. Those need a scaffold, or structure for the cells to grow on, which can be vegetable-based or made of animal products like collagen.

Experts say it's real meat created in a different way. It's not the same as plant-based products such as Impossible burgers, which do not contain animal cells. Some versions of cultivated meat - including Good Meat chicken products - do contain a small amount of vegetable proteins. Upside Foods officials say their meat does not.

Last week, I visited the Alameda, California, plant where Good Meat is poised to begin production of its chicken products. Chef Zach Tyndall was ready with a smoked chicken salad with mayonnaise, golden raisins and walnuts. He followed it with a chicken "thigh" dish - darker meat served on a bed of potato puree with a mushroom-vegetable demi-glace, golden beets and tiny purple cauliflower florets.

The taste was richer than a chicken breast, more like the dark meat of a thigh. And the texture was both tender and chewy, like a well-cooked chicken thigh should be.

That, says Tyndall, is the whole point.

"It needs to be as lifelike as possible for it to catch on," he said.



A United Launch Alliance Delta IV Heavy lifts off from Cape Canaveral Space Force Station, Fla., Thursday, June 22, carrying a payload for the National Reconnaissance Office. (AP)



Kowalewski



Morawiecki

Discovery

'Protect forests': Greenpeace activists on Wednesday called on the Polish prime minister to take action to protect Poland's forests, asking the government to limit the harvesting of timber in the vast old-growth forests of the Carpathian Mountains.

During a news conference held outside the office of Prime Minister **Mateusz Morawiecki**, Greenpeace activists held a section of a fire tree trunk that they took from the forest. It was the conclusion of a 40-day expedition to try to raise awareness about the threats to a forest which is home to bears, lynx and other wildlife. They delivered it to the prime minister's office after the conference.

According to Greenpeace, a forested area the size of five soccer fields disappears every hour from the Carpathians, which run through parts of Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania and Ukraine.

Activists on the expedition witnessed up to 40 trucks full of timber per day being transported out of the Bieszczady Mountains, which form part of the Carpathians, on one road alone, said Greenpeace spokesman Marek Jozefiak.

He said the government has not fulfilled its promise to put more of the country's forests under protection by declaring them national parks.

Logging in the Carpathians is highly problematic, he added, because it is the home to the only population of brown bears in Poland and to the biggest population of lynx, wolves and others species.

"It's really mindboggling. We are talking about the most precious mountain forest that we have," Jozefiak said.

Greenpeace says that the biggest obstacle to protecting the Polish Carpathians is the appropriation of the state forests by a party in the right-wing government.

Greenpeace argues that politicians from a party that belongs to the governing coalition led by Justice Minister Zbigniew Ziobro "have de facto privatized Polish forests and treat them like money-making machines."

Jozefiak said large-scale logging is taking place in all the countries, and activists are asking governments and the European Commission to take action. (AP)

'Bear didn't have rabies': A bear that fatally attacked a 66-year-old Tucson man at a campsite in central Arizona last week tested negative for rabies and had no apparent signs of disease, authorities said Wednesday.

Anne Justice-Allen, the Arizona Game and Fish Department's wildlife veterinarian, conducted a necropsy on the carcass of the adult male black bear that killed Steven Jackson on Friday at his property about 100 miles (161 kilometers) north of Phoenix.

Jackson was killed in the Groom Creek area near Prescott.

The bear acted in what appeared to be an unprovoked predatory attack, Game and

Fish officials said.

The bear's cause of death was determined to be from multiple gunshot wounds from a neighbor who was trying to stop the attack. Authorities said it's illegal to shoot or hunt

a bear in Arizona unless there is an immediate threat.

The bear's brain stem was tested for rabies at the state Department of Health Services state laboratory. Arizona has recorded

only one case of a bear having tested positive for rabies, in 1971. (AP)

Algae culprit in sea lion deaths: Marine mammal rescue organizations have been swamped with reports of sick and dead sea lions and dolphins along the Southern California coast this month, and experts believe a bloom of harmful algae is to blame.

Hundreds of sea lions are believed to have died in the first weeks of June, according to a statement by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Fisheries Service, known as NOAA Fisheries.

The number of dead dolphins has reached about 100, according to **Michelle Berman Kowalewski**, founder and director of the Channel Islands Cetacean Research Unit, a Santa Barbara-based biosurveillance organization.

Tissue samples have been collected for tests to confirm the animals are victims of domoic acid, a neurotoxin produced by the algae *Pseudo-nitzschia*, according to NOAA Fisheries. The toxin enters the food chain and sickens marine mammals as they eat prey.

Domoic acid is also a risk to people who eat crustaceans, fish and shellfish that have accumulated elevated levels, according to the California Department of Public Health. It can be fatal if consumed in high doses. (AP)



Participants pass by the Blue Bear sculpture on the way into the Psychedelic Science conference in the Colorado Convention Center Wednesday, June 21, in Denver. (AP)

Sport will still be at the Paris Games

IOC banishes boxing governing body IBA from Olympics

GENEVA, June 22, (AP) — The International Boxing Association was banished from the Olympic family on Thursday, ending a years-long dispute fueled by defying advice and instructions from the IOC. Boxing, however, will keep its status as an Olympic sport at the 2024 Paris Games.

The International Olympic Committee voted to derecognize the IBA at a specially called meeting — an outcome that was inevitable after being recommended two weeks ago by the executive board, a body chaired by IOC president Thomas Bach.

The vote was 69-1, with 10 members abstaining.

Boxing was never really in danger of being kicked out of the Olympics over the four years since the IOC suspended the sport's governing body in an effort to force changes.

"We highly value the sport of boxing. We have an extremely serious problem with IBA because of their

governance," Bach told IOC members during their online meeting.

The dispute centered on the IBA's management under presidents from Uzbekistan and Russia who the IOC disapproved of, its finances being backed by Russian state energy firm Gazprom, plus the integrity of bouts and judging.

"The boxers fully deserve to be governed by an international federation with integrity and transparency," the IOC president said.

The IOC is already overseeing boxing competitions for the Paris Olympics without IBA involvement, as it did for the Tokyo Games in 2021.

It was unclear if boxers representing national federations who stay affiliated to the IBA will be classed as eligible for the Paris competition.

Boxing can now be confirmed on the 2028 Los Angeles Olympic program, which the IOC and Bach withheld as leverage against IBA. Boxing is "guaranteed" to be in Los Angeles, members

were told Thursday.

The sport is good for Olympic business with broad appeal — 25 different countries won boxing medals in Tokyo, with nine taking gold — and the IOC repeatedly said its problem was with boxing officials, not its athletes.

"We appreciate boxing as one of the most global sports. We embrace the values of boxing," Bach said, praising the sport's "important social role promoting inclusion."

OLYMPICS

The IBA had not published a response more than two hours after the IOC decision, which it can challenge at the Court of Arbitration for Sport.

Olympic boxing has had a tainted reputation for decades, typified by notorious judging at the 1988 Seoul Games that denied American light-middleweight Roy Jones Jr. the gold medal

against home fighter Park Si-hun. Jones, who now has Russian citizenship, was enlisted by the IBA last year to support its fight for Olympic status.

There were allegations ahead of the 2012 London Olympics of cash deals planned to fix medals, and further doubt cast by fighters on the integrity of bouts at the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Games.

At those Olympics, the president of boxing's governing body, then known by its French acronym AIBA, was a long-time IOC member C.K. Wu of Taiwan.

After Wu was ousted by boxing officials in 2017, the sport's problems with the IOC intensified.

National federations defied IOC warnings in 2018 by electing Gafur Rakhimov as president. The businessman from Uzbekistan allegedly had ties to organized crime and heroin trafficking.

Umar Kremlev's election to replace Rakhimov in 2020 followed another round of IOC election warnings that

went unheeded.

The IBA's debts approaching \$20 million were cleared under Kremlev and the IOC objected to the boxing body's financial reliance on Gazprom.

Kremlev announced last month at the men's world championships that the IBA was no longer sponsored by Gazprom, and his rhetoric against Olympic officials got more confrontational.

Thursday's meeting went ahead after a late appeal by the IBA to CAS against the IOC board's recommendation failed this week.

IOC vice president John Coates recused himself from the debate and vote on boxing because he has led the CAS management board for the past 12 years.

The IOC can now start to work with a rival organization created this year called World Boxing. It has drawn support from officials in the United States, Switzerland and Britain, countries whose national federations resisted Kremlev's leadership of the IBA.



In this Oct. 27, 2020 file photo, Umar Kremlev, General Secretary of the Russian Boxing Federation and member of the Executive Committee of the International Boxing Association (IBA), speaks during a news conference in Moscow. (AP)

Medvedev reaches quarters, Jarry upsets Tsitsipas in Halle

Shuai out in 1st round at Birmingham Classic as seeds tumble

HALLE, Germany, June 22, (AP) — Daniil Medvedev continued building momentum after recent setbacks as he moved into the quarterfinals of the Halle Open, beating Laslo Djere 6-3, 6-7 (5), 6-3 at the grass-court tournament.

Medvedev could have wrapped up the second-round match in straight sets when he took a 4-1 lead in the second-set tiebreaker but lost the next four points as Djere took control.

Medvedev is coming off first-round losses at the French Open and last week at the Libema Open, his first grass event of the season.

The third-ranked Russian is preparing to return to Wimbledon next month for the first time since 2021 after the grass-court Grand Slam barred players from Russia and



Medvedev

Belarus last year over the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Medvedev next faces Roberto Bautista Agut in Halle after the eighth-seeded Spanish player beat American Brandon Nakashima 7-5, 7-6 (2) in their second-round match.

Chilean player Nicolas Jarry upset the second-seeded Stefanos Tsitsipas 7-6 (7), 7-5 to set up a quarterfinal match against Alexander Zverev or Denis Shapovalov, who were playing later.

Also, home favorite Jan-Lennard Struff defeated Russian qualifier Roman Safiullin 6-1, 7-6 (4) in their first-round match.

A finalist at the Birmingham Classic last year, Zhang Shuai of China was eliminated in the first round of the grass-court tournament as one of four seeded players to go out.

The seventh-seeded Zhang was beaten 6-4, 6-3 by 150th-ranked Emina Bektas of the United States in a little more than an hour in a big surprise at the WTA event.

Zhang reached the 2022 final, only to retire because of injury in the first

TENNIS

set to hand Beatriz Haddad Maia the title.

In second-round play, third-seeded Magda Linette of Poland was beaten 6-3, 6-0 by Zhu Lin of China, fifth-seeded Anhelina Kalinina of Ukraine lost 6-3, 3-6, 6-1 to Britain's Harriet Dart, and sixth-seeded Bernarda Pera of the United States was ousted by Linda Fruhvirtova of the Czech Republic, 6-1, 7-6 (3).

Playing a delayed first-round match, top-seeded Barbora Krejickova beat Cristina Bucsa 6-3, 6-3.

Tennis players Nastja Kolar and Alexandra Riley were banned from the sport for life and fined as part of a match-fixing case, the International Tennis Integrity Agency said.

Kolar, a 28-year-old Slovene, committed 25 offenses from 2015-20 and was fined \$175,000. Riley, an American, committed 15 offenses in the same period and was fined \$50,000.

The ITIA said the penalties reflected "the depth and significance of these breaches, which included contriving aspects of matches, wagering, facilitating wagering, courtsiding, conspiracy, and failing to report corrupt approaches." Courtsiding is a prohibited practice which involves transmission of live scoring data from a match to a third party for betting purposes.

The agency said "neither player showed any contrition or remorse for their actions."

Kolar's WTA ranking peaked inside the top 200 for both singles and doubles; Riley's singles ranking



Sebastian Korda of the US in action against Frances Tiafoe of the US during their Men's singles round of 16 match on day three of the Championships at The Queen's Club in London. (AP)

reached No. 691 in 2015.

Frances Tiafoe's winning run on grass was ended by Sebastian Korda in an all-American second-round match at the Queen's Club Championships.

Korda won 7-6 (2), 6-3 to end the fourth-seeded Tiafoe's bid to follow up his title in Stuttgart last week with another grass-court trophy ahead of Wimbledon.

Tiafoe arrived in west London in a career-high spot of No. 10 but was beaten by a compatriot 22 places lower in the rankings, with Korda's big serve coming to the fore on Centre Court.

That was especially the case when serving for the match as the 22-year-old Korda sent down three aces — including one on match point — to get past the second round of a tournament for the first time since reaching the Australian Open quarterfinals in January.

Korda sustained a wrist injury in the last eight in Melbourne and had around three months out. Since returning, he has played three events — all on clay — and exited in the second round each time.

The first-set tiebreaker proved key and was dominated by Korda, mostly because of Tiafoe's errors. Tiafoe slipped to fall 3-1 down and dropped a second straight point on serve by sending a backhand volley into the net for 4-1. Then he double-faulted to go 6-2 down and hit a forehand long on Korda's first set point.

Korda will next play British No. 1 and fifth-seeded Cameron Norrie, who rallied to beat Jordan Thompson of Australia 4-6, 6-3, 6-2.

□ □ □

Second-ranked Aryna Sabalenka and seventh-ranked Coco Gauff had upset losses to Russian players in the second round of the Berlin Open.

Sabalenka, the Australian Open champion from Belarus, was beaten 6-2, 7-6 (2) by Veronika Kudermetova despite improving after an error-strewn start. Gauff lost 6-4, 6-0 to Ekaterina Alexandrova.

"For me it's very important to play like that today," Kudermetova said. "I always believe in myself. I know I can play really well, and I always

believe."

Both Sabalenka and Gauff were playing their first tournament on grass — and their first since the French Open — while their Russian opponents reached the final of the grass-court Libema Open in the Netherlands on Sunday, which Alexandrova won.

They will now have a rematch in Berlin for a place in the semifinals against either Caroline Garcia or Petra Kvitova.

Gauff had the edge early on with a 3-1 lead in the first set before losing 11 of the next 12 games as Alexandrova dominated.

"Maybe the score looks easy, but it's never like that because she played amazing," said Alexandrova, who won her seventh straight match. "I needed to stay focused during every single point to keep it that way. I'm just hoping I can keep this form as long as I can."

Players from Russia and Belarus are returning to Wimbledon next month after they were barred last year following the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Marketa Vondrousova booked her place in the quarterfinals when her opponent **Jule Nemeier** retired while losing 6-3, 6-5 after injuring her wrist in a fall.



USA's Emina Bektas in action against China's Shuai Zhang during their first round Women's Singles match on day three of the Rothesay Classic Birmingham at Edgbaston Priory Club, Birmingham, England. (AP)

'Spencer Knight is doing well'

SUNRISE, Fla., June 22, (AP) — Spencer Knight has been in contact with the Florida Panthers, and the team is working under the premise that the goaltender will be back with them this fall.

Knight entered the NHL/NHLPA player assistance program in February and was not with the Panthers for the remainder of the season, including their run to the Stanley Cup Final.

"He's doing well and we expect

him back in the fold in the fall," Panthers general manager Bill Zito said Wednesday.

Knight was in his second full season in the NHL, sharing responsibilities in net with veteran goalie Sergei Bobrovsky. He started in 19 games and appeared in 21 this past season, going 9-8-3 with a 3.18 goals-against average and .901 save percentage.

He last appeared for Florida on Feb. 18.

'We want to do something that's never been done before'

Morgan, Rapinoe selected for US Women's WC roster

WASHINGTON, June 22, (AP) — Eighteen-year-old Alyssa Thompson was selected Wednesday alongside veteran Megan Rapinoe and 21 others for the U.S. roster that will vie next month to do what no country has done before — raise a third straight trophy at the Women's World Cup.

Thompson, who has been impressive this season as a rookie for Angel City in the National Women's Soccer League, is the youngest on the roster, while the 37-year-old Rapinoe is the oldest.

"I've already talked to some of the other experienced players about how we rally this group of players from ages 18 through (Rapinoe)," Forward Alex Morgan joked. "Just how we can all come together and be incredibly fluid and go through this World Cup."

The players were introduced with a star-studded social media post that included President Joe Biden, first lady Jill Biden, Taylor Swift, Lil Wayne and Megan Thee Stallion.

Morgan, 33, and Rapinoe will each

be making their fourth World Cup appearances for the No. 1 ranked U.S. team. Morgan stopped short of saying the Americans were the favorites going into the tournament.

"I think that at the end of the day, we already have a target on our backs coming in as reigning World Cup champs. But there's some teams that have done incredibly well over the last four years and have made a name for themselves to compete for this trophy," she said.

Defender Kelley O'Hara, 34, also earned a spot on her fourth World Cup squad, lending a veteran presence to shore up the backline in the absence of team captain Becky Sauerbrunn, who announced last week she won't play in the World Cup because of a lingering foot injury.

The tournament kicks off on July 20 in Australia and New Zealand. The Americans are in Group E with Vietnam, the Netherlands and Portugal. The United States, which has won four total World Cups, opens with Vietnam on July 22 in Auckland.

SOCCER

"We want to do something that's never been done before. We believe in the quality of the team and the support we have and we think we have what it takes to make it possible," Andonovski said about the opportunity to win a third straight World Cup title.

Rapinoe is currently nursing a calf injury but she should be ready to play in the U.S. team's sendoff match against Wales on July 9 in San Jose, California. Andonovski said she will take on a different role than in 2019, when she scored six goals including a penalty in a 2-0 victory over the Netherlands in the final.

The team has been hit by injuries in the run-up to the event. In addition to Sauerbrunn, the United States will be without forward Mallory Swanson, who tore the patella tendon in her left

knee. Swanson had seven goals this year before she was hurt in an April exhibition match against Ireland.

Catarina Macario, a talented forward who tore her ACL last year while playing for her French club, Lyon, did not recover in time for a spot on the team. Midfielder Samewis also has a lingering injury and wasn't available for the World Cup.

Some of the youngsters include 22-year-old Sophia Smith, who was named both the NWSL Most Valuable Player and the U.S. Soccer Player of the Year for 2022, and 21-year-old Trinity Rodman, U.S. Soccer's Young Player of the Year in 2021 and the daughter of former NBA star Dennis Rodman.

Thompson is the second-youngest player ever named to a World Cup roster, behind U.S. assistant coach Tiffany Roberts Sahaydak, who played in the 1995 World Cup. Thompson was called onto the team in early April for a match against Ireland, taking the place of Swanson.

A surprise inclusion on the roster was 25-year-old Savannah DeMelo, who has yet to appear in a match for the United States. DeMelo plays for Racing Louisville in the NWSL, and has scored in three of her last four matches. She has five total goals this season.

DeMelo is just the third U.S. player to be named to a World Cup squad without playing in an international level match.

The roster by position with club affiliation:

Squad Goalkeepers: Aubrey Kingsbury, Casey Murphy, Alyssa Naecher.

Defenders: Alana Cook, Crystal Dunn, Emily Fox, Naomi Girma, Sofia Huerta, Kelley O'Hara, Emily Sonnett.

Midfielders: Savannah DeMelo, Julie Ertz, Lindsey Horan, Rose Lavelle, Kristie Mewis, Ashley Sanchez, Andi Sullivan.

Forwards: Alex Morgan, Megan Rapinoe, Trinity Rodman, Sophia Smith, Alyssa Thompson, Lynn Williams.

Brown opts out of contract with Nuggets

Wizards trading Porzingis to Celtics, Smart headed to Grizzlies

WASHINGTON, June 22, (AP) — The Washington Wizards have agreed to trade center Kristaps Porzingis to the Boston Celtics as part of a three-team trade that also includes Marcus Smart heading to the Memphis Grizzlies, two people with knowledge of the deal said Thursday morning.

The people spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the agreements hadn't been announced. The trade comes with Porzingis accepting his player option for next season.

The deal also includes the Grizzlies acquiring Smart, the 2022 Defensive Player of the Year, from Boston in exchange for first-round draft picks in 2023 and 2024. ESPN reported the Wizards are also receiving guard Tyus Jones from Memphis, and forwards Mike Muscala and Danilo Gallinari and a second-round pick this year from Boston.

The Celtics add the 7-foot-3 Porzingis after they lost in seven games to Miami in the Eastern Conference finals. Porzingis is coming off a solid season in Washington in which he averaged a career-high 23.2 points per game along with 8.4 rebounds. Most importantly, he stayed healthy enough to play in 66 games, his most since 2016-17 when he was with the New York Knicks.

Porzingis' departure completes a swift breakup of Washington's core after the Wizards agreed to trade Bradley Beal to Phoenix, and Kyle Kuzma declined his option. Washington has missed the playoffs the past two seasons and is now clearly in a rebuilding mode under new team president Michael Winger.

Smart has played in Boston all nine of his NBA seasons, was its longest-tenured player and one of the strongest presences in the locker room. He also ranks fourth on the franchise's career lists for 3-pointers (911) and assists (2,700). His departure leaves the Celtics with Derrick White and reigning Sixth Man of the Year Malcolm Brogdon as the top two candidates to replace Smart.

Smart brings much needed experience to a young Memphis team that needs help at point guard following the announcement of Ja Morant's 25-game suspension for next season. Smart also brings postseason experience to the Grizzlies, who have won only one playoff series despite finishing second in the West the past two seasons.

The Celtics reached the NBA Finals in 2022, but were unable to make it back this season despite their talented tandem of Jayson Tatum and Jaylen Brown.

BASKETBALL

Boston becomes Porzingis' fourth NBA team. Drafted in 2015 by New York with the fourth overall pick, he played three seasons with the Knicks before being traded to Dallas before the deadline in 2019 - when he was recovering from knee surgery. The Wizards acquired him from Dallas 16 months ago.

Bruce Brown is set to become a free agent after declining his \$6.8 million player option with the NBA-champion Denver Nuggets, a person with knowledge of the decision said Wednesday.

The person spoke to The Associated Press on the condition of anonymity because the move hasn't been announced. The NBA free agency period opens next week.

Brown signed with Denver last summer and became an integral piece off the bench for the Nuggets. He can play either guard position or small forward and averaged 12 points and four rebounds in a postseason that culminated with Denver knocking off Miami in five games during the Finals to win its first NBA title.

Nuggets coach Michael Malone said at the Nuggets' championship parade last week the team wants to keep Brown in their bid to defend their title. But the Nuggets cannot offer him more than \$7.8 million for next season; if he stays, Brown would be eligible for a four-year deal in Denver starting in 2024-25, with an initial salary of about \$14 million.

The 26-year-old Brown was a second-round pick in 2018 by Detroit out of the University of Miami. He played two seasons with the Pistons, and two more with Brooklyn, before joining a Nuggets team that includes a core of Jamal Murray, Michael Porter Jr., Aaron Gordon and Finals MVP Nikola Jokic.

New Phoenix Suns coach Frank Vogel on Wednesday announced his coaching staff for the coming season, which includes associate head coach Kevin Young and former NBA head coach David Fizdale.

Young was the associate head coach for the past two seasons under former Suns coach Monty Williams, who was fired after four seasons following the team's second-round loss in the playoffs to the eventual champion Denver Nuggets.

Young - whose offensive-minded approach should balance well with Vogel's defensive pedigree - was a candidate to replace Williams before the franchise ultimately decided to go with Vogel, who led the Los Angeles Lakers to a championship in 2020.

Fizdale has been the head coach of the Memphis Grizzlies and New York Knicks, leading the Grizzlies to the playoffs in 2017. He spent the past season as an associate general manager for the Utah Jazz.

NYCFC snap 9-match winless streak



Seattle Sounders midfielder Joao Paulo (left), and Los Angeles FC forward Denis Bouanga try to kick the ball during the first half of a Major League Soccer match in Los Angeles. (AP)

Cincinnati set record

ATLANTA, June 22, (AP) — Gabriel Pereira scored in the first minute and early in the second half and New York City FC snapped a nine-match winless streak with a 2-1 victory over Atlanta United on Wednesday night.

Pereira took a pass from Keaton Parks and scored to give NYCFC (5-7-7) the lead just 42 seconds into the match.

Tyler Wolff didn't need long to net the equalizer, using an assist from 20-year-old rookie midfielder Ajani Fortune in the 11th minute to score his fourth goal this season.

Fortune, who was making his seventh career appearance and second start, had a hand in a goal for the first time. Wolff, also 20, has made 24 appearances and eight starts in four seasons with the club. Wolff made his first start this season after scoring three times as a substitute to tie teammate Giorgos Giakoumakis for the league lead coming off the bench.

NYCFC regained the lead for good in the 56th minute on Pereira's sixth goal of the season with an assist from Richard Ledezma.

NYCFC entered play with a 0-5-4 record in its last nine matches. Atlanta United (7-5-7) came around at the right time for NYCFC, which improved to 5-0-3 in the last eight match-ups of the series. The two clubs played to a 1-1 draw at Yankee Stadium earlier this season. Only the New York Red Bulls own a longer unbeaten run against Atlanta United with a nine-match streak from 2018-22.

SOCCER

Lucas Bartra finished with three saves for NYCFC. Brad Guzan stopped one shot for Atlanta United.

Atlanta United came in 2-0-4 in its last six matches. The club had won three straight at home, scoring at least three goals in each of the wins.

Luciano Acosta scored for the fifth straight match at home, adding an assist, and FC Cincinnati rolled to a 3-0 victory over Toronto FC, setting a league record with its 13th straight win at home in all competitions.

Cincinnati (13-1-4), which began the day with a five-point lead in the race for the Supporters' Shield, broke a record set by the 2002 San Jose Earthquakes. Cincinnati's record at home in its previous 62 home matches was 13-31-18.

Defender Santiago Arias scored his first career goal to give Cincinnati a 1-0 lead at halftime. Arias' goal was unassisted in the 35th minute. It was the 13th appearance and fifth start for the 31-year-old in his first MLS season.

Acosta added an insurance goal in the 54th minute, using a pass from Marco Angulo to score for a ninth time this season. Acosta is one away from tying Brandon Vazquez's club-record goal streak at home, set last season.

Acosta notched an assist in the 63rd minute on Dominique Badji's second netter of the campaign.

Roman Celentano totaled four saves in the clean sheet for Cincinnati.



St. Louis City's Tim Parker (26) and Real Salt Lake's Damir Kreilach (8) reach for the ball during the second half of an MLS soccer match in St. Louis. (AP)

Celentano has eight shutouts this season, one behind Stefan Frei of the Seattle Sounders for the league lead.

Greg Ranjitsingh saved four shots in his first career appearance for Toronto (3-6-10). Ranjitsingh made eight appearances and three starts for Minnesota United in 2020. He had two starts in three appearances for Orlando City in 2019.

Cincinnati is Toronto after losing the first three in the series.

Toronto is winless in its last 12 road matches (0-7-4), losing by shutouts in five of the last seven. Toronto has just two wins in its last 34 away matches.

Damir Kreilach scored two goals, teenager Gavin Beavers saved two shots and Real Salt Lake beat St. Louis City 3-1.

RSL (7-7-5) improved to 2-8-2 in 12 road matches against expansion teams - with the first victory knocking LAFC out of the 2018 playoffs. RSL lost to St. Louis 4-0 in March, tying its worst loss to an expansion team.

St. Louis (9-7-2) is winless in four straight matches, going 0-2-2. SLC won its first five matches but has since gone 4-7-2.

Diego Luna opened the scoring in the 15th minute for Real Salt Lake. Kreilach's first goal gave RSL a 2-1 lead in the 48th after sending home Maikel Chang's heel pass. Kreilach also scored in the 66th with a one-touch finish of Andrew Brody's cross.

Beavers, who turned 18 on April 29, was making his fourth start and fifth appearance for RSL. Roman Bürki finished with five saves for St. Louis.

Nicholas Gioacchini scored his team-leading eighth goal of the season for St. Louis in the 21st. Gioacchini has scored the last four goals for St. Louis. Bryce Duke scored in the 27th minute, rookie goalkeeper Jonathan Sirois collected his seventh clean sheet and CF Montreal ended Nashville 10-match unbeaten streak with a 1-0 victory.

Montreal (8-9-1) won its sixth straight home match by a clean sheet to join the 2000 Kansas City Wizards as the only clubs to do so in a single season. Montreal also snapped a three-game losing streak in the series with its first win over Nashville.

Nashville (10-4-5) had won seven games during its club-record unbeaten streak.

Hosts' coach Stimac shown red card

Chhetri scores hat trick as India rout Pakistan

BANGALORE, June 22, (AP) — Captain Sunil Chhetri scored a hat trick in an ill-tempered 4-0 win for India over rival Pakistan in the group stage of the South Asian Football Federation Cup on Wednesday.

The Pakistan players, who mostly arrived hours before the game due to visa problems, looked jet-lagged and short of practice. It's the Pakistan soccer team's first visit to India since 2014 when it drew a two-match series.

Temper flared when India coach Igor Stimac was shown a red card for knocking the ball out of a Pakistan player's hands before a throw-in toward the end of the first half.

India led 2-0 at halftime on the back of early goals from Chhetri.

Chhetri completed his hat trick from the penalty spot after

he was fouled. Udanta Singh added a fourth with a goal 10 minutes from the end.

The SAFF Cup organizers had turned down 95th-ranked Pakistan's request to reschedule the match because of the

SOCCER

delay in issuing visas.

Pakistan and India are in Group A with Kuwait and Nepal. Lebanon, Maldives, Bhutan and Bangladesh are in Group B. FIFA lifted a 15-month ban on the Pakistan Football Federation in July last year which had been imposed for third-party interference.

Issues mounting for England to add to pain of nail-biting loss in Ashes opener

LONDON, June 22, (AP) — Losing the opening match of the series in a final-day nail-biter isn't England's only concern at the start of the Ashes.

In fact, issues already are mounting for captain Ben Stokes.

Stokes himself came into the series with lots of scrutiny about the state of his left knee - and he only bowled seven overs in a desperate bid to win the match for England late in the fourth innings at Edgbaston. Indeed, he barely celebrated dismissing Australia opener Usman Khawaja.

CRICKET

Is the knee still affecting him?

Moeen Ali, the replacement for injured spinner Jack Leach, has a problem now, too, because of a blister on his spinning finger that led to him dropping out of England's attack at times in both innings.

Then there are a couple of selection dilemmas that have cropped up.

Jimmy Anderson, England's most successful bowler of all time, had a poor test by his standards and wasn't trusted with the new ball in those key final overs Tuesday as Australia squeezed out a two-wicket win.

Will taking only one wicket in two

five minutes of the match, Thorleifur Ulfarsson scored twice off the bench in the second half after a lengthy

weather delay and the Houston Dynamo cruised to a 4-1 victory over the San Jose Earthquakes.

Bassi notched his eighth goal of the season when he scored unassisted in the third minute to give the Dynamo (8-7-3) the lead. Bassi and Nelson Quiñones picked up assists when Baird scored his third of the season for a 2-0 lead.

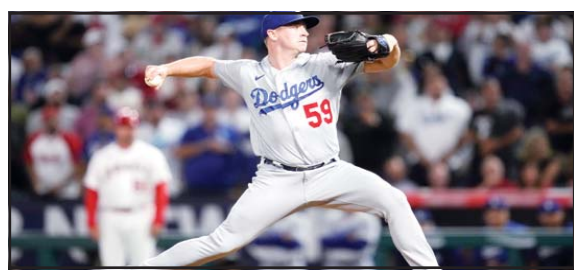
The Earthquakes (7-6-6) cut the lead in half by intermission when defender Carlos Akapo took a pass from Cristian Espinoza in the 41st minute and scored for a second time this season.

Houston put the match out of reach after thunderstorms halted play in the 62nd minute on goals by Ulfarsson in 77th and 89th minutes. Héctor Herrera and Bassi had assists on Ulfarsson's second goal this season and Herrera and Franco Escobar assisted on his third.

Steve Clark did not have to make a save in his seventh clean sheet of the season for Houston. Daniel de Sousa Brito had one save for San Jose.



West Indies batsman Nicholas Pooran in action during their ICC Men's Cricket World Cup Qualifier match against Nepal at Harare Sports Club in Harare, Zimbabwe. West Indies won by 101 runs. (AP)



Los Angeles Dodgers relief pitcher Evan Phillips (59) throws during the ninth inning of a baseball game against the Los Angeles Angels in Anaheim, Calif. (AP)

Sports

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Reds extend winning streak to 11

Rays split series with Orioles

CINCINNATI, June 22, (AP): Jake Fraley hit a tie-breaking, two-run homer in the eighth inning, and the Cincinnati Reds extended their majors-best winning streak to 11 games, rallying past the Colorado Rockies 5-3 on Wednesday for a three-game sweep.

Rookie sensation Elly De La Cruz hit a one-out bloop to left that fell for a double against Daniel Bard (3-1), and Fraley hit the next pitch over the wall in right, sending the Reds to their majors-best 12th comeback win of the season and the Rockies to their season-worst eighth straight loss. Cincinnati trailed 3-0 after four innings.

The NL Central-leading Reds (40-35) have swept three straight three-game series and won five consecutive series overall. Their winning streak is the club's longest since winning 12 straight

in 1957. Andrew Abbott allowed the first run of his career when Brenton Doyle led off the game with a homer. But the rookie left-hander was solid from there, striking out a career-high 10 in six innings and giving up three runs, all on solo homers. Abbott struck out the side in the sixth.

Abbott combined with Lucas Sims, Ian Gibaut and Buck Farmer to hold the Rockies scoreless after the fourth. Gibaut (8-1) pitched around a lead-off single in the eighth and Farmer worked the ninth for his second save in five tries. The Rockies struck out 15 times.

Rays 7, Orioles 2

In St. Petersburg, rookie Taj Bradley allowed one run over a career-high six innings, Randy Arozarena and Isaac Paredes homered, and Tampa Bay beat Baltimore to split a two-game series between the top two teams in the AL East.

Bradley (5-3) gave up three hits and struck out eight. Arozarena and Paredes started a four-run second with consecutive homers against Tyler Wells (6-3), who also made two errors during the inning.

BASEBALL

Arozarena had an RBI single in a two-run seventh as Tampa Bay improved to 32-8 at home and stopped a season-long three-game skid overall.

Ramón Uriás and Gunnar Henderson homered for the Orioles, who are five back of the first-place Rays.

Yankees 4, Mariners 2

In New York, Jhony Brito pitched a career-high 5 2/3 scoreless innings in a return to the major leagues and New York beat Seattle.

Fill-ins Jake Bauers and Billy McKinney homered off Luis Castillo (4-6) as the Yankees won a series for the first time since placing Aaron Judge on the injured list. New York is 6-8 with Judge out of the lineup and had not won a series since taking two of three from the Dodgers in Los Angeles 2 1/2 weeks ago.

Rookie Anthony Volpe added his 10th homer in the seventh after nearly missing a homer in the third.

Brito (4-3) allowed two hits, struck out three, walked one and reached the sixth inning for the first time as a starter. Tommy Kahnle earned his sixth career save.

Guardians 7, Athletics 6

In Cleveland, Rookie Bo Naylor scored the go-ahead run in the eighth inning on a throwing error. Gavin Williams pitched 5 2/3 innings in his major league debut and Cleveland beat Oakland.

Naylor singled for his first hit in the majors - snapping an 0-for-19 drought - and scored on Steven Kwan's one-out double. Myles Straw was the first to score on Kwan's hit, which turned into a two-run play when right fielder Ramón Laureano wildly flung the ball back to the infield.

Williams, the Guardians' consensus top prospect and 2021 first-round pick, allowed four runs on four hits - all in the third - while striking out four. The right-hander maxed out at 98 mph, topping 96 mph on 18 of his 84 pitches.

MLB Results/Standings

WASHINGTON, June 22, (AP): Results and standings from the MLB games on Wednesday.

Toronto	6	Miami	3
Tampa Bay	7	Baltimore	2
Detroit	9	Kansas City	4
Houston	10	NY Mets	8
NY Yankees	4	Seattle	2
Cleveland	7	Oakland	6
Minnesota	5	Boston 10 inn	4
Texas	6	Chicago W. Sox	3
LA Dodgers	2	LA Angels	0
Cincinnati	5	Colorado	3
Chicago Cubs	8	Pittsburgh	3
Arizona	5	Milwaukee	1
Washington	3	St. Louis	0
San Francisco	4	San Diego	2

American League

East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Tampa Bay	52	25	.675	—
Baltimore	45	28	.616	5
New York	41	33	.554	9-1/2
Toronto	41	35	.539	10-1/2
Boston	39	36	.520	12

Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Minnesota	37	38	.493	—
Cleveland	35	38	.479	1
Detroit	32	41	.438	4
Chicago	32	44	.421	5-1/2
Kansas City	20	54	.270	16-1/2

West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Texas	46	28	.622	—
Houston	41	34	.547	5-1/2
Los Angeles	41	35	.539	6
Seattle	35	37	.486	10
Oakland	19	57	.250	28

National League

East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	47	26	.644	—
Miami	42	33	.560	6
Philadelphia	38	35	.521	9
New York	34	40	.459	13-1/2
Washington	28	45	.384	19

Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Cincinnati	40	35	.533	—
Milwaukee	38	36	.514	1-1/2
Chicago	36	38	.486	3-1/2
Pittsburgh	34	39	.466	5
St. Louis	31	44	.413	9

West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Arizona	45	30	.600	—
San Francisco	42	32	.568	2-1/2
Los Angeles	41	33	.554	3-1/2
San Diego	35	39	.473	9-1/2
Colorado	29	48	.377	17



Yaqoub Al-Youha displays the national flag as he celebrates his victory in the 110-m hurdles.

KUNA photo

Kuwaiti wins gold at Arab Athletic Championship

RABAT, June 22, (KUNA): Yaqoub Al-Youha, of Kuwait, won on Wednesday the gold medal of the 110-m. hurdles race of the 23rd Arab Athletic Championship in Morocco.

ATHLETICS

His achievement adds to the tally of the Kuwaiti mission one day after his compatriot Aisha Al-Khedr, a female sprinter, was able to break the national record with a 5.45-m. long jump.

The championship, being hosted by Marrakesh city, on June 20-24, gathered athletes from 16 Arab countries.

In the fifth inning, Abrams sent a 1-0 fastball from Mikolas (4-5) into the visitors' bullpen in left-center. Jeimer Candelario drove in runs for Washington with a double in the sixth and a grounder in the eighth.

Williams (4-4) allowed five hits and threw 75 pitches while working into the seventh inning for the first time this year as he cooled off the Cardinals, who had won four straight. St. Louis was shut out for the seventh time this season.

Hunter Harvey pitched the ninth for his fourth save.

Cubs 8, Pirates 3

In Pittsburgh, Kyle Hendricks pitched effectively into the seventh inning. Nico Hoerner homered, tripled and drove in three runs and Chicago beat Pittsburgh to complete a three-game sweep.

Hendricks (3-2) won his third consecutive start for the Cubs, who have won eight of nine to give them some serious momentum heading into a weekend series against rival St. Louis in London, England, starting on Saturday.

Hoerner hit a two-run triple off Rich Hill (6-7) in the third and added a solo home run in the seventh. Ian Happ doubled twice and drove in two runs.

The Pirates have dropped nine straight, their longest losing streak since a nine-game slide from June 6-16, 2021. The franchise was in full-on rebuilding mode then. Pittsburgh believes it is drawing closer to becoming a contender but the good vibes that came with a promising 19-9 start have faded over the past two weeks. The Pirates are 15-30 over their past 45 games.

Tigers 9, Royals 4

In Detroit, Zack Short homered and drove in three runs. Javier Báez got his 1,000th hit and Detroit sent slumping Kansas City to its 15th loss in 18 games.

Matthew Boyd (5-5) allowed two runs and six hits in six innings for Detroit. He struck out seven without a walk.

Brady Singer (4-7) lost his third straight decision, giving up five runs, seven hits and a walk in seven innings.

Báez put the Tigers ahead 4-2 in the third, driving in Kerry Carpenter

with his 1,000th hit.

Blue Jays 6, Marlins 3

In Miami, Matt Chapman homered and doubled, Kevin Gausman pitched six-plus innings of three-run ball and Toronto beat Miami.

Cavan Biggio stepped in for late scratch Bo Bichette and doubled and singled for the Blue Jays. Bichette, who leads the American League in hits with 101 and played in Toronto's first 75 games, sat out because of left thumb discomfort.

Luis Arraez went 2 for 5 for the Marlins and is hitting a major league-leading .398.

Gausman (7-3) allowed eight hits and struck out six in his 12th start of six or more innings. Jordan Romano picked up his 22nd save.

Marlins starter Sandy Alcantara had another rough outing. The reigning NL Cy Young Award winner gave up five runs and 10 hits over seven innings as his ERA increased to 5.08. Alcantara (2-6) has allowed double-digit hits in each of his past two starts.

Diamondbacks 5, Brewers 1

In Milwaukee, Zac Gallen pitched seven strong innings for his ninth win and Arizona took two out of three games from Milwaukee in the series.

Gallen (9-2) limited the Brewers to one run and three hits. He walked one and struck out four. He allowed a solo home run to Raimel Tapia in the fifth inning.

Scott McGough pitched two scoreless innings with four strikeouts to close out the victory and pick up his fourth save.

The NL West-leading Diamondbacks broke through in the sixth against Brewers reliever Elvis Peguero (1-1). Pavin Smith walked with one out and scored to tie it when center fielder Joey Wiemer failed to cleanly field Emmanuel Rivera's sharply hit single up the middle. Rivera scored on Alek Thomas' line-drive single to right to give Arizona a 2-1 lead.

Twins 5, Red Sox 4, 10 innings

In Minneapolis, Kyle Farmer hit a game-winning single that scored

automatic runner Willi Castro from third base and Minnesota beat Boston.

Farmer's line drive fell in front of Jarren Duran, who was playing shallow in center field, scoring Castro and snapping Minnesota's three-game losing streak. Michael A Taylor dropped a sacrifice bunt that moved Castro to third base, setting up the potential winning run.

Max Kepler homered for the second straight game for the Twins and added an RBI single. Minnesota had lost five of its last six games.

Reliever Jovani Moran (1-2) earned the win for the Twins. Kaleb Ort (1-1) took the loss for the Red Sox.

Rangers 6, White Sox 3

In Chicago, Jonah Heim hit a three-run homer a night after he was involved in a controversial play at the plate and Texas beat Chicago.

Ezequiel Duran also connected as Texas won for the fourth time in five games. Martín Pérez (7-3) pitched seven effective innings in his first victory in a month.

The AL West leaders bounced back nicely after a frustrating 7-6 loss Tuesday night. Chicago scored the winning run in its three-run eighth when Heim was called for illegally blocking the plate in a replay review that overturned umpire D.J. Reyburn's out call.

Andrew Vaughn hit a solo homer for the slumping White Sox, and Michael Kopech (3-6) lasted just four innings in his shortest start of the season. Chicago has dropped eight of 11.

Giants 4, Padres 2

In San Francisco, Sean Hjelle pitched four shutout innings of relief to help San Francisco extend its winning streak to 10 games, beating Yu Darvish and San Diego.

Joe Pederson and Mike Yastrzemski added RBI singles, and the Giants turned four double plays to keep their longest win streak since 2004 intact.

San Francisco also benefited from an overturned call at home plate in the fifth.

UEFA bans Mou for abusing ref

GENEVA, June 22, (AP): José Mourinho was banned by UEFA from four European games for verbally abusing the Europa League final referee in a stadium garage after Roma lost to Sevilla.

Footage circulated after the May 31 final of the Roma coach approaching English referee Anthony Taylor in the garage in Budapest and calling him a "disgrace" with an expletive.

Roma lost a penalty shootout to Sevilla after a 1-1 draw which was the Italian club's last chance to qualify for the Champions League next season.

Mourinho is set to serve the ban in the Europa League group stage starting in September, after being found guilty of "directing abusive language at a match official." UEFA said in a statement announcing its disciplinary panel's verdict.

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The ban is double the minimum two-game ban required by UEFA disciplinary rules.

One day after the final, Taylor and his family were harassed by Roma fans at the airport in Budapest.

UEFA also fined Roma 50,000 euros (\$55,000) and will block the club selling tickets for its next away game in the Europa League. The charges included "lighting of fireworks, throwing of objects, acts of damage and crowd disturbances," UEFA said.

Roma must also contact the Hungarian soccer federation to settle damages caused by its fans at Puskas Arena. Roma was fined a further 80,500 euros for fan disorder and stadium organization issues in the first leg of the semi-finals against Bayer Leverkusen.

UEFA ordered Roma to close two sections of Stadio Olimpico totaling 6,000 seats at its first Europa League home game in September. At the Europa Conference League final on June 7, Fiorentina captain Cristiano Biraghi was struck and cut by an object thrown from the West Ham fans' section of the stadium in Prague and left with a bloodied head.

Hjelle (2-1) allowed three hits and had five strikeouts, including one of Tatis, who went down swinging to end the top of the fifth with runners at second and third. Four relievers followed Hjelle. Camilo Doval got the final three outs for his 20th save.

Trent Grisham had two hits and a RBI for San Diego. The Padres have lost five of seven.