



Chairman of the Board of Directors, Dr. Mahmoud Ahmed Abdel Rahman



Chief Executive Officer, Eng. Mazyad bin Nasser Al-Harbi

KD 86.6 mn stc's revenues for the first 3 months of '23 with KD 8.2 mn net profit

Revenues increased by 12.7%

- Revenue increased by 12.7% to reach KD 86.6 mn
- EBITDA increased by 6.4% to reach KD 21.6 mn
- stc's customer base increased by 16.4% to reach 2.4 mn customers
- Net profit increased by 7.3% to reach KD 8.2 mn

KUWAIT CITY, May 3: Kuwait Telecommunications Company (stc), a world-class digital leader providing innovative services and platforms to customers and enabling the digital transformation in Kuwait, announced its financial results for the three months period ended 31 March 2023, highlighting the most significant achievements, financial and operational performance in addition to the social initiatives made by the company during the first three months of 2022.

The financial results for three months period ended 31 March 2023

- KD 86.6mn Revenues
- KD 21.6mn EBITDA
- KD 8.2mn Net Profit
- 8 fils per share Earnings per share
- KD 435.7mn Assets
- KD 219.7mn Shareholders' equity
- 220 fils per share Book value per share

2.4mn customers Customer base
Commenting on the announcements of these results, Dr. Mahmoud Ahmed Abdulrahman, stc's Chairman, stated: "stc achieved a number of financial and operational achievements during the first three months of 2023 through offering a package of integrated offers and digital services to its customers from the individual and enterprise sectors. This comes from stc's concern to meet the needs of its customers in light of the competition that the ICT and telecommunications sectors are witnessing in Kuwait, not

to mention the increasing demand for the digital communications and IT services. Supported by its corporate strategy and the strategic expansion process, stc is keen to keep pace with the rapid changes in the telecommunications sector especially that of the enterprise sector, to sustain its market share by upgrading its services and enhance its customer experience by relying on its solid infrastructure."

Commenting on stc's financial position as of March 31, 2023, Dr. Abdulrahman said: "stc's total assets reached KD 435.7 mn by the end of March 2023, while total shareholders' equity increased by 2% reaching KD 219.7 mn. Whereby, stc has a strong solvency position among its peers in the Middle East.

With regards to stc's CSR framework, Dr. Abdulrahman commented: "Q1 2023 witnessed a number of community and interactive activities aimed at promoting a culture of social responsibility and developing the concept of sustainability within the local community. In line with the Company's integrated CSR program, stc launched a series of campaigns and initiatives in collaboration with various charitable organizations, as well as institutions in the government and private sectors respectively. The objective of these various initiatives was to make effective and positive contributions in the society while engaging with different sections of the community and spreading awareness on important causes that affect the community.

stc's CSR program has focused on activating sustainable development partnerships with the public and private sectors and strengthening the relationships with local communities in addition to increasing community awareness of the concept of social responsibility. We are proud of the steady growth and diversity of stc's corporate social responsibility framework, which addresses core issues across our main pillars: education, health, sports, environment, entrepreneurship and youth development."

Commenting on stc's major milestones during the first quarter of 2023, Eng. Mazyad Alharbi, stc's CEO stated: "stc's robust results which were achieved in both the individual and the enterprise sectors through its subsidiaries specialized in the ICT and business solutions have contributed in enhancing

its financial and operational performance. Whereby, stc achieved outstanding results during the first three months of 2023, which enabled the Company to maintain its competitive position in the ICT sector. Throughout 2023, stc was keen to update its digital transformation strategy in order to encounter the latest developments in the telecommunications sector and support the Company to provide a variety of high quality services aimed at meeting the needs of its individual and enterprise customers as well as exceeding their expectations. Accordingly, stc strives for capturing all the available potential opportunities that would support the key pillars of its corporate strategy focused on leading the ICT sector in Kuwait. This is driven by stc's future vision of the digital solutions through creating unparalleled dazzling opportunities to deliver the most advanced and best-in-class services in order to expand its presence in the individual and enterprise sectors and build a strong customer base in addition to increasing its market share."

Commenting on the announcement of company's financial results for the three months period ended March 31, 2023, Eng. Mazyad Alharbi said: "stc managed to generate good financial results leveraging its internal capabilities to meet the anticipation of the Company's shareholders and enrich its product portfolio through the implementation of a productive and digital operating model which would enable the Company to deliver the latest innovative solutions in the ICT sector. Whereby, stc's total revenue reached KD 86.6 mn in the first three months of 2023 with growth rate of 12.7% compared to KD 76.8 mn during the same period in 2022. This increase is attributed to stc's services and smart packages designed to cater the demands of most segments of our individual customers. Not to mention stc's emphasis on the providing digital services to the enterprise segment and delivering integrated technical solutions to companies from all sectors in addition to driving its operations into new areas of sustainable growth through a series of innovative initiatives aimed at improving its operational efficiency, delivering the best services and products that meet its customer's needs, as well as supporting the company's advanced infrastructure with the best and widest 5G coverage".

Alharbi added: "These outcomes resulted in agrowth of EBITDA by 6.4% to reach KD 21.6 million in the first quarter of 2023 compared to KD 20.3 million in the same period of 2022. As a result, the company's net profit during the three months period ended 31 March 2023 reached KD 8.2 million compared to KD 7.7 million during the same period in 2022. stc's customer base reached approx. 2.4 million customers at the end of March 2023".

Alharbi noted: "at stc, we are committed to constantly update our financial and operational plans in order to enhance the Company's ability and reach the optimal as well as the most efficient cost optimization process. This, in turn, would aid stc keep abreast with the latest developments in the telecommunications sector to boost profitability levels in addition to achieving the desired financial and operational results, which enables the Company to maintain the liquidity of its cash flows."

About stc
Kuwait Telecommunications Company (stc) is a Kuwaiti shareholding company incorporated pursuant to Amiri Decree No. 187 on 22 July, 2008, to op-

erate and manage the third GSM mobile network in Kuwait as per Law No. 2 of 2007. Accordingly, stc launched its operations in December 2008 and was listed on Boursa Kuwait in December 2014. It is a world-class digital leader providing innovative services and platforms to customers and enabling the digital transformation in Kuwait, and is a subsidiary of stc Group. stc has rapidly reached a leadership stance in the market

through its customer and employee centric strategy.

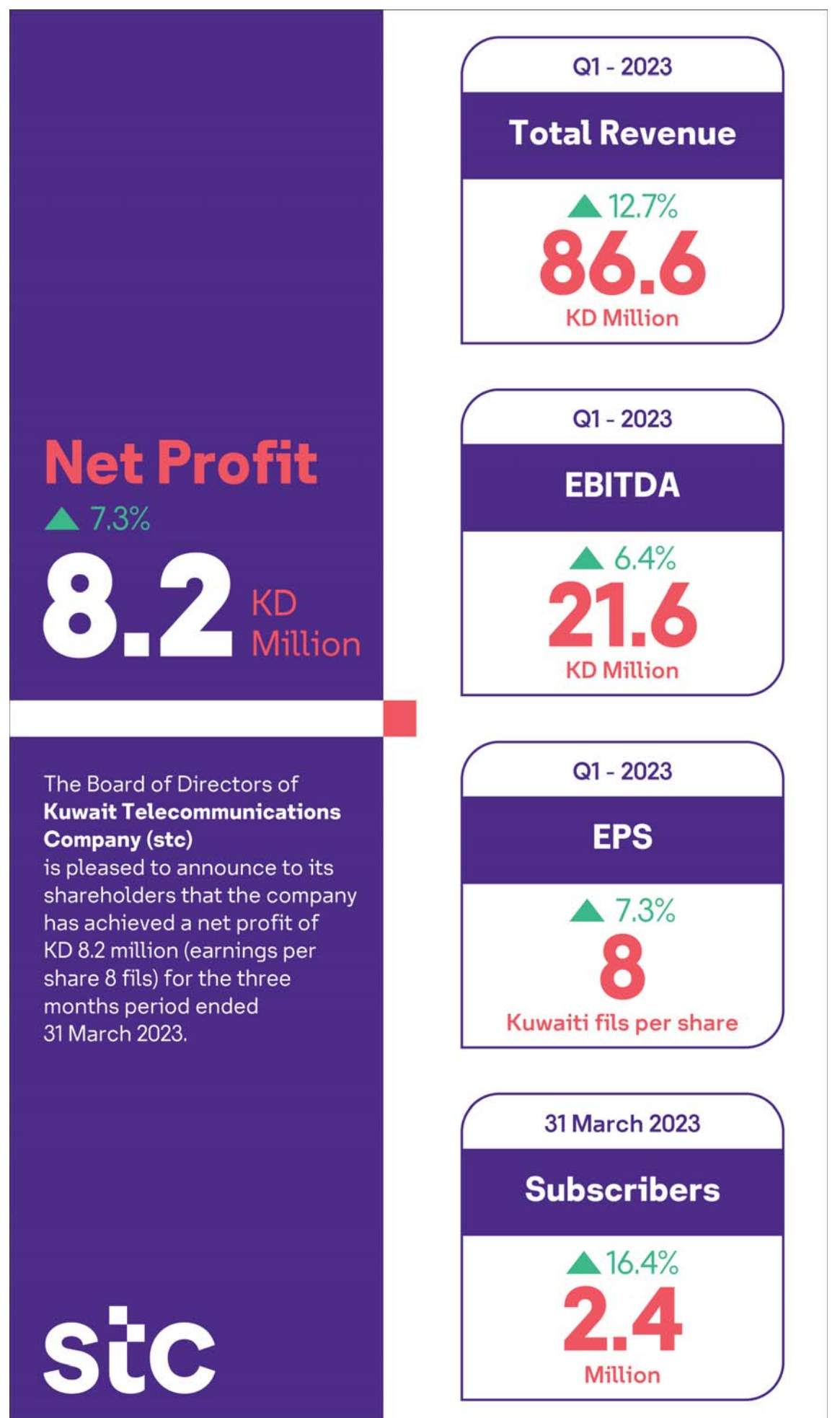
stc offers an innovative range of world-class products, services and solutions with high quality, that cater to the customers' needs and demands, both for individuals and enterprises (solutions by stc). In 2019, stc acquired 100% of the share capital of the Internet Service Provider, Qualitynet General Trading and Contracting

Company (solutions by stc) in Kuwait. stc offers high internet speeds due to the implementation of the most advanced 5G network and deployment of the largest network nationwide.

stc seeks to support several initiatives within its social responsibility programme that support various initiatives in the areas of health, education, environment, sports and entrepreneurship that benefit society and employees.



stc headquarters



KFH offers 'Rafaa' plan

Considering its pioneering role in offering unique solutions and innovative products, Kuwait Finance House (KFH) has continued its distinction in fulfilling customers aspirations and providing the best investment plans and solutions according to the highest international standards.

KFH is keen to meet customers' desires to secure a better future of the family. As big steps require early planning, KFH offers the "Rafaa" plan, which is a long-term investment plan to cover the expenses of your children's marriage to be ready for the happiest moments. Among the conditions of the investment plan is that the age of the son or daughter be less than 20 years, and the age of the cus-

tomers must range between 21 and 61 years. The investment period ranges from 4 years to 25 years.

The investment plan "Rafaa" advantages include the following: the investment amount or monthly payments may be amended at any time and the amounts shall be automatically transferred on monthly basis from the customer account to the flexible investment plan "Rafaa" account. Also, the customer can withdraw 60% of the balance in the first year and 60% every year after the first withdrawal. The customer can automatically increase the monthly investment amount once every two years. It is possible to deposit specific financial payments in addition

to the monthly deductions without affecting the schedule of the investment plan. The saving amount and accrued profit during the investment period shall fall due upon expiration of the investment plan. The investment plan can be cancelled at any time and the invested amount and profits accrued on the date of closing shall be refunded to the customer.

Long term investment plans provided by "KFH" encourage and inspire customers to enhance future planning and saving culture, determine family spending priorities and enhance chances of increasing family income through innovative and flexible solutions with rewarding investment returns.

Plan for their future family

with KFH investment plans



KFH's 'Rafaa' plan flyer

Company promotes quality education and learning

KIPCO supports AUK's 'EDUCON 2023' global engineering education confab

KUWAIT CITY, May 3: KIPCO – Kuwait Projects Company (Holding) – was the Premier Sponsor of the IEEE Global Engineering Education Conference, EDUCON 2023, hosted by the American University of Kuwait. The support comes as part of the company's efforts to promote quality education and learning.

The conference, which took place from May 1-4, is the fourteenth in a series that rotate in Europe and the MENA region. This is the first time that it is held in Kuwait. The event catered to more than 200 researchers, industry representatives, members of academia and students par-



A photo from the event.

ticipating from 50 countries. The workshops and technical sessions focused on aspects of engineering education.

Opening

Speaking at the opening of the event, KIPCO's Group Senior Vice President – Corporate Communications and Investor Relations, Ms Eman Al Awadhi said:

Education is an important pillar of KIPCO's portfolio, and the establishment of AUK in 2003 marked our entry into this sector. Since then, we have been contributing to the education of young people in Kuwait through our network

of K-12 schools and this university, shaping the future of the country through the quality of learning that we offer. We pride ourselves on upholding a culture of freedom of thought and expression, respect for individual rights and cultural diversity in our institutions."

She added: "Throughout the years, we have strongly supported AUK's efforts to engage with the education community and leave its mark in the field. We are delighted that EduCon is being hosted here this year, where participants will not only have the opportunity to present their work and exchange ideas, but also present the latest re-

search topics in engineering education."

Kuwait Projects Company (Holding) – KIPCO – is a holding company that focuses on investments in the Middle East and North Africa. Its strategy of acquiring, building, scaling and selling companies in the MENA region has worked successfully for over 30 years.

KIPCO's main business sectors are financial services, energy, media, real estate, industry and education. KIPCO's financial service interests include holdings in commercial banks, insurance companies, asset management and investment banking.

Dedicates platform for charity

talabat concludes Ramadan program with great success

KUWAIT CITY, May 3: As we approach the end of the holy month of Ramadan. We at talabat, the leading e-commerce platform in Kuwait and the region, would like to take a moment to reflect on the month and the programs that we have undertaken to give back to the community. The program included the distribution of food baskets, Iftar meals and in addition to participating in numerous charitable and social events.

Talabat Managing Director, Bader Al-Ghanim said that "talabat is proud to be a leading pioneer in social development through its CSR programs. "This program aims to maintain deeper relationships with the communities we operate in, through the introduction of multiple initiatives and projects that aim to nurture individuals and families and provide the necessary support to their goals of decent living," he added. We are incredibly proud of our employees, partners, and customers who have supported us in these efforts. It is through our collective actions that we can make a difference and create a better world for all.

Tec for good

Talabat signed an agreement with Give, a non-profit company that aims to improve the process of electronic donation to charities in Kuwait, for its social responsibility campaign during the holy month of Ramadan and Eid Al-Fitr. Through the month of Ramadan 16,350 Iftar meals were donated by talabat app users to different charities.

Food Basket

"The Food Basket" initiative was launched with the goal of providing food assistance to families and individuals in need during the month of Ramadan. Through talabat's platform, customers were able to easily donate food baskets to the Kuwait Red Crescent Society, which were then distributed to more than 400 families in need.

Iftar

talabat has distributed over 10,000 pre-iftar packs daily to their network of riders from various talabat mart locations. These packs included essential food items to help them break their fast. Additionally, Talabat organized a two-day iftar at Symphony Hotel for its riders. As well 200 full iftar meals were distributed to street cleaners in various locations around Kuwait.

Volunteers

As they do every year, talabat employees participated in the Ramthan initiatives by conducting visits to various areas to do good deeds. This comes in light of talabat keenness to promote volunteerism among its employees by reinforcing participation in various humanitarian and social activities.

Break Your Fast

Talabat distributed fast breaking meals to drivers at strategic locations. This initiative is aimed at reducing traffic accidents during the holy month of Ramadan, especially around iftar time as drivers attempt to reach their destinations before iftar time, resulting in traffic violations.

Geergean

Talabat launched a group of fun activities During Girgian for children at various locations around Kuwait.

Ghabgha with the Media

Talabat held a Ghabgha for the media representatives in Four Seasons Hotel Kuwait on the 30th of March. During which it hosted a number of media professionals who are considered key partners in the development of talabat. The event was organized in celebration of the holy month of Ramadan and in recognition of the ongoing support and efforts made by the media sector.

To conclude, talabat social efforts have witnessed high praise and shall continue its social participations and strategic initiatives and support all voluntary work initiatives.



Borgan Bank's Ro2ya graduates

Bank's 52 talents successfully conclude program

Borgan celebrates its Ro2ya graduates

KUWAIT CITY, May 3: Borgan Bank recently celebrated the graduation of 52 aspiring Borgan talents who have successfully concluded the first round of the Bank's dynamic talent development program, Ro2ya, each completing their relevant learning path.

The graduation ceremony, which was held at Dar Al-Athar, was attended by Mr. Fadel Mahmoud Abdullah, Acting Deputy Group Chief Executive Officer & CEO – Kuwait, and Chief Corporate Banking Officer, and Mrs. Halah Mohammad El-Sherbini, Group Chief Human Resources and Development Officer at Borgan Bank, alongside Borgan's top management, colleagues, and family members who were at hand to show support for the graduates and their achievements. Ro2ya is celebrated as one of Borgan Bank's most forward-looking human capital development programs, under the umbrella of its expansive support for growing Kuwaiti talent to reach senior positions as per CBK mandate.

"The greatness of an institution is best achieved through the abundance of its people's potential and the high level of invested opportunities," commented El-Sherbini on the graduates' successful completion of Ro2ya. "Today, we stand before 52 of our very best talents who walked a path of learning and growth with resolve and ambition. And on behalf of the Borgan Bank staff, we congratulate them all on their remarkable resilience and achievements. Through Ro2ya, Borgan is marking yet another great leap into the future by implementing the latest in learning and talent development."

Nurtured

El-Sherbini added: "Human capital is to be continuously nurtured and developed, and that's what we aim to do through our multiple development programs: invest in our most promising talents by helping them grow on both the personal and professional levels. We thank all our executives and senior leaders for their unwavering continued support, we strongly appreciate the efforts exerted by our Ro2ya pioneers, and we look forward to witnessing their impact on Borgan's success and the banking sector as a whole."

Solution (012)

Despite the unique challenges brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, Borgan Bank launched the first batch of Ro2ya in 2020 as a progressive solution in response to the pushed for the digitization of its processes, products, and services.

Commenting on Ro2ya, Mr. Bashir

South African products showcased

Lulu Hypermarket participates in S. Africa's 'National Day' celebrations

KUWAIT CITY, May 3: Lulu Hypermarket Kuwait joined the South African Embassy in Kuwait to celebrate the South African National Day on May 2, 2023. The event was held at the Salwa Sabah Al Ahmad Ballroom at Marina Hotel.

During this occasion The Embassy in Kuwait organized an exhibition to showcase the various South African products available in Kuwait. Lulu Hypermarket attended the exhibition and showcased its range of imported South African products.

Lulu Hypermarket Kuwait has its own procurement sourcing center in South Africa, which allows them to import more than 1000 South African products from over 100 brands. These products include groceries, fresh produce, and many other items.

Conveyed

On this occasion, Mohamed Haris, the Director of Lulu Hypermarket Kuwait, conveyed his national day wishes to the Ambassador of the republic of south Africa to Kuwait H.E. Dr. Manelisi Genge. The participation of Lulu Hypermarket in the event was well-received by attendees, who appreciated the opportunity to learn more about South African products available in Kuwait.

Commenting on the event, Director said, "We are honored to be a part of



A photo from the event.

the South African National Day celebrations in Kuwait. At Lulu Hypermarket, we are committed to providing our customers with high-quality products from around the world. Our procurement product sourcing center in South Africa allows us to import a wide range of South African products, which are popular with our customers in Kuwait."

The participation of Lulu Hypermarket Kuwait in the South African National Day celebrations highlights the growing cultural and economic ties between South Africa and Kuwait. With its extensive range of imported South African products, Lulu Hypermarket Kuwait is playing an important role in promoting trade and commerce between the two countries.

local and international universities and business schools, whose learning materials and approaches ensure profound personal and professional growth for all program participants.

Following the astounding success of the program's first batch, Borgan Bank launched Ro2ya in its second batch in October, which welcomed 45 talents aboard the program's paths, Arrows and Sprouts. With this program and a wide range of other similar efforts, Borgan Bank continues to lead the efforts on developing Kuwait's national talents, with a motivation to elevate the national market's competitiveness, paving the path for bigger successes and a stronger domestic economy.

ing its exceptional and most promising talents while attracting the best candidates in the market to the Borgan family. While this promised to fortify Borgan Bank's position as a market leader in Kuwait's financial and banking sector, it also aimed to advance the level of knowledge and skill available within the national pool of talent.

Designed with the Bank's diversity of talent cohorts and their different needs in mind, Ro2ya presents three learning paths that serve different career paths and aspirations: Eagles, Arrows, and Sprouts. Along all paths, program participants receive dedicated guidance that is tailored to their personal needs and professional aspirations. This is further enriched by the invaluable collaborations signed with



Photos from the Ramadan activities

The Conversation

Toxicologist explains how to decode package inserts

Prescription drugs' fine print vital for safety, effectiveness

By Brad Reisfeld
Colorado State University

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

Many adults take prescription drugs, and usage rates are continually increasing. With approximately 1.3 million emergency department visits in the US caused by adverse drug events each year, patient education is becoming increasingly important.

All prescription drugs come with instructions on how to safely and effectively use them. Depending on the medication, there may be several types of information included: the patient package insert, medication guide and instructions for use. One or more of these documents could be folded up in the box or attached as a printed page provided by your pharmacist.

You can listen to more articles from The Conversation, narrated by Noa, here.

I am a scientist who studies how drugs and other chemicals affect human health. While they may look intimidating, package inserts - and particularly the prescribing information - can help patients better understand the science inside the pill bottle and blister pack, among others.

An often overlooked part of the package insert is the prescribing information. Though written primarily for health care professionals, it contains a wealth of information regarding the ways in which the medication interacts with the body.

If the prescribing information was not included with your prescription, you can often find a copy on the National Institutes of Health's DailyMed website or other drug information websites.

As an example, let's consider one of the most widely prescribed medications in the US, atorvastatin (Lipitor). Among other effects, it reduces elevated levels of cholesterol overall as well as levels of low-density lipoprotein cholesterol - LDL, or "bad" cholesterol.

Information

Reading the insert can answer a few important questions about the drug. If you'd like to follow along, a copy of the prescription information for Lipitor can be found here.

To answer this question, you can refer to the "Mechanism of Action" and "Pharmacodynamics" subsections of the prescription insert.

The mechanism of action and pharmacodynamics are related concepts. The mechanism of action describes the chemical and molecular interactions that cause a drug's therapeutic or toxic effects. Pharmacodynamics refers to "what the drug does to the body," which includes the mechanism of action as well as how other factors like drug concentration influences its effects.

Often the mechanism of action of a drug is related to how it interacts with cell receptors and enzymes involved in mediating specific signals and biochemical reactions in the body.

In the case of Lipitor, the prescribing information tells us three important things about how the drug works. First, the liver is the primary site that produces cholesterol in the body and the area the drug is meant to target. Second, the drug works by inhibiting an enzyme involved in cholesterol production called HMG-CoA reductase. And third, the drug increases the number of LDL cholesterol receptors on cell surfaces, ultimately increasing the catabolism, or metabolic breakdown,

of LDL cholesterol.

Before we answer this question, let's start with some background information in the "Pharmacokinetics" subsection.

Pharmacokinetics can be thought of as "what the body does to the drug." It focuses on four major processes the body undergoes in response to the chemical: absorption, or how the drug gets into the body; distribution, or how the drug is dispersed throughout the body; metabolism, or how the drug is converted into other chemical forms; and excretion, or how the drug is eliminated from the body.

The pharmacokinetics of a drug are determined by factors related to the chemical itself and the person taking the medication. For instance, disease state, age, sex and genetic makeup can all cause the same medication to work differently in different people.

Now, let's look at the "Distribution" subsection.

For Lipitor, the prescription insert does not specifically say where the drug goes in the body, but it does note that the volume of distribution is 381 liters. The volume of distribution is the ratio of the amount of the drug in the body overall to its concentration in the blood. A value greater than about 30 liters suggests that the drug has entered body tissues and is not confined to the bloodstream. For reference, the drug warfarin, which prevents blood clots, is tightly bound to proteins in the blood and has a volume of distribution of only 8 liters. On the other hand, chloroquine, an antimalarial drug that enters body fat, has a value of 15,000 liters.

Though the therapeutic effects of most drugs come from the chemical compound it's made of, many break down into active metabolites in the body that also have some relevant biological effects.

Some medications are administered in an inactive form called a prodrug that the body converts into metabolites with the desired therapeutic effects. Drugmakers generally use prodrugs because they have better pharmacokinetics - such as improved absorption and distribution in the body - than the active form of the drug.

In the case of Lipitor, the "Metabolism" subsection under "Pharmacokinetics" tells us that the drug is broken down into several products and that these metabolites contribute significantly to its therapeutic effect.

A key drug property to consider in this case is its half-life, which is the length of time required for the concentration of the drug to decrease to half of its initial amount in the body. Information about a drug's half-life is found in the "Excretion" subsection under "Pharmacokinetics."

Absorption

The half-life for Lipitor is approximately 14 hours. If you were to stop taking the medication, 97% of the drug would be gone from your blood after about three days, or five half-lives.

The prescription insert provides another interesting piece of information: because Lipitor's active metabolites have a longer half-life than the drug itself, the half-life for its cholesterol enzyme inhibiting effects is 20 to 30 hours. This means that the drug's effects may last even after the drug itself is out of your system.

Eating food can change the amount and rate at which a drug is absorbed into the body in several ways, including changing the acidity of the digestive system, altering the release of bile and increasing blood flow to the gut.

For Lipitor specifically, the answer to this question can be found in the

Body lotions, mothballs & other widely used products contain toxic chemicals

By Robin Dodson, Boston University; Megan R. Schwarzman, University of California, Berkeley, and Ruthann Rudel, Northeastern University

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

Consumer products released more than 5,000 tons of chemicals in 2020 inside California homes and workplaces that are known to cause cancer, adversely affect sexual function and fertility in adults or harm developing fetuses, according to our newly published study.

We found that many household products like shampoos, body lotions, cleaners and mothballs release toxic volatile organic compounds, or VOCs, into indoor air. In addition, we identified toxic VOCs that are prevalent in products heavily used by workers on the job, such as cleaning fluids, adhesives, paint removers and nail polish. However, gaps in laws that govern ingredient disclosure mean that neither consumers nor workers generally know what is in the products they use.

For this study we analyzed data from the California Air Resources Board (CARB), which tracks VOCs released from consumer products in an effort to reduce smog. The agency periodically surveys companies that sell products in California, collecting information on concentrations of VOCs used in everything from hair spray to windshield wiper fluid.

We cross-referenced the most recent data with a list of chemicals identified as carcinogens or reproductive/developmental toxicants under California's right-to-know law, Proposition 65. This measure, enacted in 1986, requires businesses to notify Californians about significant exposure to chemicals that are known to cause cancer, birth defects or other reproductive harms.

We found 33 toxic VOCs present in consumer products. Over 100 consumer products covered by the CARB contain VOCs listed under Prop 65.

Of these, we identified 30 product types and 11 chemicals that we see as high priorities for either reformulation with safer alternatives or regulatory action because of the chemicals' high toxicity and widespread use.

Our study identifies consumer products containing carcinogens and reproductive and developmental toxicants that are widely used at home and in the workplace. Consumers have limited information about these products' ingredients.

We also found that people are likely

"Absorption" subsection under "Pharmacokinetics." Food decreases the rate and extent of Lipitor's absorption but doesn't significantly affect LDL cholesterol reduction.

Interestingly, the insert also states that the blood concentration of the drug is significantly lower when taken in the evening than in the morning, but reduction in LDL cholesterol levels is the same

Consumers have limited info on products' ingredients

Armis identifies riskiest medical and IoT devices in clinical environments

Nurse call systems could pose threat to hospitals

CHICAGO, May 2: HIMSS - Armis, the leading asset visibility and security company, has released new research identifying the top connected medical and IoT devices that are exposed to malicious activity in clinical environments. Data analyzed from the Armis Asset Intelligence and Security Platform, which tracks over three billion assets, found nurse call systems to be the riskiest IoT device, followed by infusion pumps and medication dispensing systems. When looking at IoT devices, IP cameras, printers and Voice Over Internet Protocol (VoIP) devices are topping the list.

By 2026, smart hospitals are expected to deploy over 7 million IoT devices, doubling the amount from 2021. Medical and non-medical devices are increasingly connected, automatically feeding patient data from monitoring devices into electronic records. These connections and communications within a medical environment help improve patient care but also make it increasingly vulnerable to cyberattacks, which could result in the interruption of patient care.

Upon a comprehensive analysis of the data from all connected medical and IoT devices on the Armis Asset Intelligence and Security Platform,

several noteworthy conclusions can be drawn:

- Nurse call systems are the riskiest connected medical device, with 39% of them having critical severity unpatched Common Vulnerabilities and Exposures (CVEs) and almost half (48%) having unpatched CVEs.
- Infusion pumps are second, with 27% having critical severity unpatched CVEs and 30% having unpatched CVEs.
- Medication dispensing systems are in third place, with 4% having critical severity unpatched CVEs, 30% having unpatched CVEs. Moreover, 32% run on unsupported Windows versions.
- Almost 1 in 5 (19%) connected medical devices are running unsupported OS versions.
- More than half of IP cameras we monitored in clinical environments have critical severity unpatched CVEs (56%) and unpatched CVEs (59%), making it the riskiest IoT device.
- Printers are the second riskiest IoT device in clinical environments, with 37% having unpatched CVEs, and 30% having critical severity unpatched CVEs.
- VoIP devices are in third place. Although 53% of them have unpatched CVEs, only 2% have critical severity

unpatched CVEs.

"These numbers are a strong indicator of the challenges faced by healthcare organizations globally. Advances in technology are essential to improve the speed and quality of care delivery as the industry is challenged with a shortage of care providers, but with increasingly connected care comes a bigger attack surface," said Mohammad Waqas, Principal Solutions Architect for Healthcare at Armis. "Protecting every type of connected device, medical, IoT, even the building management systems, with full visibility and continuous contextualized monitoring is a key element to ensuring patient safety."

Armis secures all medical assets and patient care environments in some of the largest healthcare delivery organizations around the world:

"Armis appeared to be a good alternative for us because it immediately provided us with visibility into what devices were plugging into the network. It shows us how they are interacting with each other, creates alerts based on observed behavior and enforces firewall rules based on those alerts," said Brian Schultz, Director of Network Operations and Security, Burke Rehabilitation Hospital.

co-exposed to many hazardous chemicals together as mixtures through use of many different products, which often contain many chemicals of health concern. For example, janitors might use a combination of general cleaners, degreasers, detergents and other maintenance products. This could expose them to more than 20 different Prop 65-listed VOCs.

Similarly, people experience aggregate exposures to the same chemical from multiple sources. Methanol, which is listed under Prop 65 for developmental toxicity, was found in 58 product categories. Diethanolamine, a chemical frequently used in products like shampoos that are creamy or foamy, appeared in 40 different product categories. Canada and the European Union prohibit its use in cosmetics because it can react with other ingredients to form chemicals that may cause cancer.

Some chemicals, such as N-methyl-

2-pyrrolidone and ethylene glycol, are listed under Prop 65 because they are reproductive or developmental toxicants. Yet they appeared widely in goods such as personal care products, cleansers and art supplies that are routinely used by children or people who are pregnant.

Regulations

Our findings could help state and federal agencies strengthen chemical regulations. We identified five chemicals - cumene, 1,3-dichloropropene, diethanolamine, ethylene oxide and styrene - as high-priority targets for risk evaluation and management under the Toxic Substances Control Act by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Our analysis of the CARB data on volatile toxicants does not paint a complete picture. Many toxic chemicals, such as lead, PFAS and bisphenol A (BPA), don't have to be reported to the

rely on the same enzyme system in

the body to break them down. Taking them at the same time can ultimately lead to higher-than-anticipated levels of either or both drugs in the body. Information to answer this question can be found in the "Drug Interactions" section.

One of the drug categories of concern for Lipitor are "strong inhibitors

of CYP 3A4," an enzyme that plays a key role in metabolizing many drugs. Because Lipitor itself is broken down by this enzyme, taking it alongside drugs that inhibit CYP 3A4, such as the antibiotic clarithromycin or the fungal infection drug itraconazole, can lead to its increased concentration in the blood and potentially result in adverse effects. (AP)

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Late-night TV shows go dark as writers strike for better pay

LOS ANGELES, May 3, (AP): Hollywood writers picketing to preserve pay and job security outside major studios and streamers braced for a long fight at the outset of a strike that immediately forced late-night shows into hiatus, put other productions on pause and had the entire industry slowing its roll.

The first Hollywood strike in 15 years commenced Tuesday as the 11,500 members of the Writers Guild of America stopped working when their contract expired.

The union is seeking higher minimum pay, more writers per show and less exclusivity on single projects, among other demands - all conditions it says have been diminished in the content boom of the streaming era.

"Everything's changed, but the money has changed in the wrong direction," said Kelly Galuska, 39, a writer for "The Bear" on FX and "Big Mouth" on Netflix, who picketed at Fox Studios in Los Angeles with her 3-week-old daughter. "It's a turning point in the industry right now. And if we don't get back to even, we never will."

The last Hollywood strike, from the same union in 2007 and 2008, took three months to resolve. With no talks or even plans to talk pending between the WGA and the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers, which represents studios and production companies, there is no telling how long writers will have to go without pay, or how many major productions will be delayed, shortened or scrapped.

"We'll stay out as long as it takes," Josh Gad, a writer for shows including "Central Park" and an actor in films including "Frozen," said from the Fox picket line.

The AMPTP said in a statement that it presented an offer with "generous increases in compensation for writers as well as improvements

in streaming residuals" and was prepared to improve its offer "but was unwilling to do so because of the magnitude of other proposals still on the table that the guild continues to insist upon."

The writers were well aware that a stoppage was likely. Yet the breakdown of contractual talks hours before a deadline that negotiations in previous years have sailed past for hours or even days, and the sudden reality of a strike, left some surprised, some worried, some determined.

"When I saw the refusals to counter and the refusing to even negotiate by the AMPTP, I was like on fire to get out here and stand up for what we deserve," Jonterri Gadson, a writer whose credits include "A Black Lady Sketch Show," said on a picket line at Amazon Studios as she held a sign that read, "I hate it here."

Impact

All of the top late-night shows, which are staffed by writers that pen monologues and jokes for their hosts, immediately went dark. NBC's "The Tonight Show," Comedy Central's "Daily Show," ABC's Jimmy Kimmel Live," CBS' "The Late Show" and NBC's "Late Night" all made plans for reruns through the week.

NBC's "Saturday Night Live," which had been scheduled to air a new episode Saturday, will also go dark and air a rerun, and the two remaining episodes in the season are in jeopardy.

The strike's impact on scripted series and films will likely take longer to notice - though some shows, including Showtime's "Yellowjackets," have already paused production on forthcoming seasons.

If a strike persisted through the summer, fall TV schedules could be

upended. In the meantime, those with finished scripts are permitted to continue shooting.

Union members also picketed in New York, where less known writers were joined by more prominent peers like playwright and screenwriter Tony Kushner ("The Fabelmans") and "Dopesick" creator Danny Strong.

Some actors including Rob Lowe joined the picket lines in support in Los Angeles. Many striking writers, like Gad, are hybrids who combine writing with other roles.

Speaking from his acting side, Gad said of his fellow writers, "We are nothing without their words. We have nothing without them. And so it's imperative that we resolve this in a way that benefits the brilliance that comes out of each of these people."

The other side of his hyphenated role could be in the same space soon, with many of the same issues at the center of negotiations for both the actors union SAG-AFTRA and the Directors Guild of America. Contracts for both expire in June.

Streaming has exploded the number of series and films that are annually made, meaning more jobs for writers. But writers say they've been made to make less under shifting and insecure conditions that the WGA called "a gig economy inside a union workforce."

The union is seeking more compensation for writers up front, because many of the payments writers have historically profited from on the back end - like syndication and international licensing - have been largely phased out by the onset of streaming.

Galuska said she is among the writers who have never seen those kind of once common benefits.

Film

Variety



This image released by Polk & Co. shows the cast during a performance of 'Some Like It Hot.' (AP)

Stage

Three shows tie with 9 nominations each

'Some Like It Hot' leads Tony Award noms

LOS ANGELES: Kevin Costner and his wife of nearly 19 years, Christine Baumgartner, are divorcing, a representative for the actor said Tuesday.

"It is with great sadness that circumstances beyond his control have transpired which have resulted in Mr Costner having to participate in a dissolution of marriage," Costner's publicist Arnold Robinson said in a statement.

Costner and Baumgartner, a model and handbag designer, began dating in 1998 before getting married at his Colorado ranch in 2004.

They have two sons, ages 14 and 15, and a 12-year-old daughter together.

It was the second marriage for Costner, 68, the Oscar and Emmy winning star of TV's "Yellowstone" and films including "Dances With Wolves," "The Bodyguard" and "Bull Durham."

Costner also has four adult children from previous relationships. (AP)

LOS ANGELES: Upon further review, this year's Super Bowl ended up setting a viewer record.

Nielsen released a revised number of 115.1 million for Fox Sports' broadcast of the Kansas City Chiefs' 38-35 victory over the Philadelphia Eagles in February.

The previous record was the 2015 game between New England and Seattle at 114,442,000 viewers, not including streaming. It also supplanted the 2017 Super Bowl between Atlanta and New England (113,668,000) as the most-watched of Fox's 10 Super Bowls.

Nielsen revised this year's original figure of 113.1 million by 2 million after a review that revealed encoding irregularities as well as issues with out-of-home measurement.

"I really appreciate their diligence in conducting the review and coming to the most correct number possible. Super Bowl Sunday is the most difficult day for them because you have not just the scale but people are watching on English and Spanish, in and out of home, online and all of that has to be stitched together into a credible number. I give them credit for acknowledging the issue,

NEW YORK, May 3, (AP): "Some Like It Hot," a Broadway musical adaptation of the cross-dressing movie comedy that starred Tony Curtis and Jack Lemmon, waltzed away Tuesday with a leading 13 Tony Award nominations, putting the spotlight on a show that is a sweet, full-hearted embrace of trans rights.

With songs by Marc Shaiman and Scott Wittman and starring Christian Borle and J. Harrison Ghee, who all got nominations, the show follows two musician friends who disguise themselves as women and join an all-girl band to flee Chicago after witnessing a mob hit. Like the movie, there are men in dresses trying to pass as women. But this time, the dress awakens something in Ghee's character, akin to a transformation from a caterpillar to a butterfly.

"The only thing we wanted to do was to be honest and we wanted to treat these characters with dignity," said Matthew Lopez, who wrote the Tony-nominated book with Amber Ruffin and has a Tony already for the play "The Inheritance." "Sometimes the best way to treat a character with dignity is to let them be flawed and scared and funny and brave and human. So one of the things that was really, really important to us is just to create human-scaled characters going through some extraordinary experiences."

The musical comes at a time when trans rights are under attack and its message of self-acceptance and respect for all was echoed across Broadway, from a revival of "Parade" to a Black actor-led "Death of a Salesman" to the new play "Ain't No Mo'" and new musical "Kimberly Akimbo."

"I think the pandemic put a lot of things in perspective, both in terms of improvements we needed to make in the community and also just the way that everybody's feeling about the world and about being a human," said Ben Platt, nominated for "Parade." "The art people are making has a real urgency and a real purpose."

Three shows tied with nine nominations each: "& Juliet," which reimagine "Romeo and Juliet" and adds some of the biggest pop hits of the past few decades, "New York, New York," which combined two generations of Broadway royalty in John Kander and Lin-Manuel Miranda, and "Shucked," a surprise lightweight

musical comedy studded with corn puns.

Betsy Wolfe, in her eighth Broadway show, earned her first nomination in "& Juliet," playing Anne Hathaway, Shakespeare's wife. The actor had just dropped her daughter, almost 3, off at ballet class on Tuesday morning. "I hope she addresses me properly now when I see her," she joked.

In the musical, playwright David West Read took an original story using "Romeo and Juliet" as a launch pad and mixed in hits by Swedish super-producer Max Martin, including Britney Spears' "Oops! ... I Did It Again," Katy Perry's "Roar" and Bon Jovi's "It's My Life." The musical imagines a happier ending for Juliet after a journey of self-discovery.

"It's a beautiful story about second chances, which honestly is what we're all going through right now," said Wolfe. "We've all been given a second chance after this time we've all been through. And so to have a musical that allows us all to celebrate in each individual way that we need to celebrate is really, really special and timely."

Musical

The critical musical darling "Kimberly Akimbo," with Victoria Clark playing a teen who ages four times faster than the average human, rounds out the best musical category, and earned a total of eight nominations.

Clark, who was nominated for best lead actress in a musical, hopes to add a second Tony to her trophy case, having previously won one in 2005 for "The Light in the Piazza." But more than that she hopes more attention will be paid to her show, which she calls a "little under the radar."

"It's a special event that celebrates our collective humanity," she said. "It doesn't say life is perfect. The show doesn't say there aren't going to be strange and horrible people in your life. It doesn't say life is going to be easy. But it does say life is worthwhile. And I think that is a message that we need to get out there. Life is worth living."

In the best new play category, nods were distributed to Tom Stoppard's "Leopoldstadt," which explores Jewish identity with an intergenerational story, and "Fat Ham," James Ijames' Pulitzer Prize-winning adaptation

of Shakespeare's "Hamlet" set at a Black family's barbecue in the modern South.

The rest of the category is made up of "Ain't No Mo,'" the short-lived but critically applauded work by playwright and actor Jordan E. Cooper, Stephen Adly Guirgis' Pulitzer Prize-winning play "Between Riverside and Crazy" and "Cost of Living," parallel stories of two caretakers and their respective patients.

"Ain't No Mo,'" which earned six nominations, begins with the United States government emailing every Black citizen with the offer of a free plane ticket to Africa, and each scene explores how various personalities respond to the offer.

Cooper learned he's been nominated twice - as best playwright and as lead actor - while visiting his childhood home in Texas. He and his family learned of his triumph in the living room where, as a 6-year-old, he put on his first plays.

"It is a little bittersweet," Cooper said. "We only got a chance to do about like 60 performances and this cast and this creative team were like some of the most talented you've ever seen. It was unfortunate that people don't get a chance to experience it because we really felt like it was something special. Audiences felt like it was something special. And it's just so beautiful to know that the work that we put in - that blood, that sweat and tears - are not in vain."

"Parade," a doomed musical love story set against the real backdrop of a murder and lynching in Georgia in pre-World War I, earned six nods, including for Platt, hoping to win a second Tony after his triumph in 2017 with "Dear Evan Hansen," and rising star and first-time nominee Micaela Diamond.

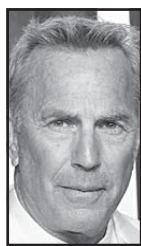
Jessica Chastain, an Oscar-winner for "The Eyes of Tammy Faye," got her first Tony nomination for a stripped down version of "A Doll's House" and Wendell Pierce, who won a Tony for producing "Clybourne Park," earned his first nomination as an actor on Broadway for a blistering revival of "Death of a Salesman."

When Pierce heard the news, he wept. The actor, best known for his role as Bunk on the HBO drama "The

Continued on Page 12

being transparent about it and get to the most correct number they can get to," said Fox Sports Executive Vice President Michael Mulvihill, who is head of strategy and analytics.

The review was initially triggered when NFL Network was credited with over 1 million viewers during the game at a time when



Costner



Baumgartner

their usual number is 80,000. A second review found errors with out-of-home measurement. (AP)

DES MOINES, Iowa: Patch, sporting a jean jacket as she strutted down the runway, was crowned the winner of Drake University's Beautiful Bulldog Contest.

The 2-year-old English bulldog beat out 28 other contestants from six states to win the top prize. The bulldog is Drake's mascot and the contest kicks off of the Drake Relays track and field competition happening later this week. Events will take place at the university's stadium just west of downtown Des Moines.

Patch's entry seemed to get a boost when she carefully ambled through a hoop on the runway, bringing cheers from a crowd of spectators. Her owners, Jennifer Hinton and Joel Kornder of Johnston, Iowa, said they had worked on the hoop routine for months ahead of the competition. (AP)

Features

ARABO TIMES

THURSDAY, MAY 4, 2023



Golden State Warriors' Andrew Wiggins (left) tries to stop Los Angeles Lakers' LeBron James during the second quarter of an NBA basketball Western Conference semifinal game in San Francisco. (AP)

Sports

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LA Lakers strike first against Warriors

Knicks even Eastern Conference semi series

SAN FRANCISCO, May 3, (AP): Anthony Davis had 30 points, 23 rebounds, five assists and four blocked shots, LeBron James added 22 points and 11 rebounds dueling with Stephen Curry in their latest postseason showdown, and the Los Angeles Lakers held off a late flurry by the Golden State Warriors to win an entertaining Game 1 in the Western Conference semifinals 117-112 on Tuesday night.

Jordan Poole missed a 3-pointer to tie it with 9.7 seconds left as the Warriors' rally in the closing minutes fell short. Curry's 3 with 1:38 left tied the game, then D'Angelo Russell answered right back before Davis blocked a shot by Curry moments later. James missed the first of two free throws with 1:05 to go.

BASKETBALL

Poole's 3 with 2:48 remaining cut the Lakers' lead to 112-109, and James was called for traveling with 1:53 left.

For all-time scoring leader James and Curry - who has the most 3-pointers ever - this is a new chapter in the long rivalry between the superstars after they faced off in four straight NBA Finals from 2015-2018 while James played for Cleveland.

Curry scored 27 points, Splash Brother Klay Thompson had 25, and Kevon Looney grabbed a career-high 23 rebounds for his fourth game of this postseason with 20 or more. He also had 10 points and five assists. Thompson made a 3 with 5:19 to go that cut the Lakers' lead to 112-104.

The defending champion Warriors will try to even the series in Game 2 on Thursday night back on their home floor at Chase Center, where LA fans could be heard chanting "Let's go Lakers!" after the final buzzer.

Curry's 3 with 9:38 left got Golden State within 99-95, but the Lakers responded with two straight scoring possessions, including James' layup with 8:38 remaining.

Davis dominated from the opening tip, making 9 of his first 10 shots, while Russell scored 19 points and dished out six assists against his former team.

James' 3-pointer with 5:23 left in the third put the Lakers ahead by 10, 86-76. Then Thompson's snazzy behind-the-back pass led to a dunk by Gary Payton II over James with 3:48 to go as Golden State cut it to 86-80 and forced a Lakers timeout.

The Lakers finished off Memphis in six games Friday night and had a couple of extra recovery days to get ready as Golden State was pushed to the distance by the young Sacramento Kings and won Game 7 on Sunday. The Warriors were the first reigning champion to come back from behind 2-0 and win a playoff series.

Curry went off for a playoff career-high 50 points, an NBA record for a Game 7. Warriors coach Steve Kerr said he thought his team had an advantage having just played two days earlier.

But the revamped Lakers took it to Golden State just as they did winning the final three regular-season matchups - and Los Angeles is a far different team than the one that lost 123-109 here on Oct. 18 to start the season.

The franchises' first playoff match-up since 1991 didn't disappoint. They hadn't played on the postseason stage since "Run TMC" Warriors led by Tim Hardaway, Mitch Richmond and Chris Mullin lost in the Western Conference semifinals to Magic Johnson and James Worthy.

Thompson was determined to come out hot in Game 1 after calling his 4-for-19 day in Game 7 on Sunday at Sacramento "disgusting." He's been waiting his whole life to play the Lakers on the big stage, too, and scored 18 by halftime with four 3s.

He, Curry and Poole each made six 3-pointers after a season in which all three reached 200 3s and Thompson 301.

Golden State is the sixth seed and the Lakers No. 7, marking the first time a No. 6 seed has home court in the second round since the sixth-seeded Houston Rockets against the No. 7 Seattle SuperSonics in 1987.

Curry dropped to 15-8 against James in the playoffs.

Looney is leading the NBA in rebounds this postseason. He had seven rebounds by the 4:31 mark of the first and 13 by halftime on the way to double-digit rebounds in his sixth straight playoff game - with four 20-plus rebound performances.

He grabbed 106 rebounds in seven games against Sacramento, including 90



Kuwait's national figure skating team with the training staff.

KUNA photo

Kuwait participates in Int'l figure skating event in UAE

Kuwait's figure skating team will participate in the 2023 UAE International Championship in the emirati city of Al Ain, next Thursday, and will last for three days.

The championship will attract 267 female players from Arab and foreign countries, with the Kuwaiti team including Hessa Al-Saraawi, Sarah Al-Lahou, Dalal Al-Bader,

Leah Al-Qabandi, Lara Al-Barrak, Sama Juragh, Juri Al-Mulla, Laila Al-Farsi and Dana Al-Mutlaq.

Kuwait Winter Sports Club Chairman Fahad Al-Ajmi, speaking to

KUNA, stressed the importance of participation of Kuwaiti players in this tournament to enhance their performance levels, saying that the Kuwaiti team will arrive in the UAE on Thursday.

Al-Ajmi explained that the Kuwaiti team is completely prepared for the event thanks to recent intensive training, praising the players' commitment and keenness. (KUNA)



Kuwait Winter Sports Club Chairman Fahad Al-Ajmi.



New York Knicks guard RJ Barrett reacts in the second half of Game 2 in the NBA basketball Eastern Conference semifinals playoff series against the Miami Heat at Madison Square Garden in New York. (AP)

with 34 on the offensive end and 27 assists in the final five games of that series.

Knicks 111, Heat 105

In New York, Jalen Brunson scored 30 points and keyed the run the New York Knicks needed just in time to get by a Miami Heat team playing without Jimmy Butler, evening the Eastern Conference semifinals at a game apiece with a 111-105 victory.

Julius Randle returned from a sprained left ankle that sidelined him in Game 1 with 25 points, 12 rebounds and eight assists, and RJ Barrett scored 24 points for the No. 5-seeded Knicks. Josh Hart finished with 14 points, 11 rebounds and nine assists.

But it was Brunson, who pointed the blame at himself and said he had to be better after going 0 for 7 from 3-point range in the opener, who made the biggest plays in a game the Knicks trailed much of the way.

Caleb Martin scored 22 points in place of Butler for the Heat, who host Game 3 on Saturday afternoon. They will hope to have Butler, the leading scorer in the playoffs who sat out after spraining his right ankle late in their 108-101 victory in the opener.

SOCCER

Both Madrid and Osasuna are focused on Saturday's Copa del Rey final between the clubs in Seville. Madrid is also focused on the semifinals of the Champions League against Manchester City, with the first leg taking place in Madrid on May 9.

Osasuna coach Jagoba Arrasate rested several regular starters against Barcelona ahead of the club's first Copa final since 2005.

Barcelona last won the league in 2019 to cap a run that included eight league titles in 11 seasons. That was the team's last league trophy with Lionel Messi, who left in 2021 amid the club's financial struggles to join Paris Saint-Germain.

It was Barcelona's third straight win at home. It had gone through a tough stretch recently but victories against Atletico Madrid and Real Betis at Camp Nou helped it maintain its comfortable lead at the top.

Osasuna played a man down from the 26th after central defender Jorge Herrando, who was making his first-division debut, was shown a straight red card for pushing Pedri from behind to stop a breakaway. The ensuing free kick taken by Raphinha glanced off the crossbar.

Real Madrid fall, Elche relegated

Late winner by Alba moves Barca closer to league title

Kudermetova defeats Pegula to reach semis

MADRID, May 3, (AP): Veronika Kudermetova reached the semifinals of a WTA 1000 event for the first time by upsetting third-seeded Jessica Pegula 6-4, 0-6, 6-4 at the Madrid Open on Wednesday.

The 12th-seeded Kudermetova sealed her victory with an ace on her second match point to set up a semifinal match against either No. 1 Iga Swiatek or Petra Martic, who will play later Wednesday.

Pegula was trying to reach her second consecutive final in Madrid. She was runner-up to Ons Jabeur at the clay-court tournament last year.

It was the fourth consecutive three-set win for Kudermetova.

"I feel so happy and proud of myself, because every match I played three sets," the fifth-ranked Kudermetova said. "Before this match, every match was almost three hours. Today, only two hours, I feel fresh."

She had reached three quarterfinals at WTA 1000 level or above, all in 2022, including at Roland Garros for her best run at a Grand Slam. The

26-year-old Kudermetova had reached two other semifinals this year, in Adelaide and Doha. She entered the tournament in Madrid on a four-match losing streak.

Pegula struggled on her serve and showed frustration at times, including by knocking her racket onto

TENNIS

the ground. She was broken three times in both the first and third sets, though needed only 22 minutes to get through the second as Kudermetova won only five points.

The last player to reach the Madrid semifinals by winning four straight three-set matches was Dominika Cibulkova in 2016, when she was runner-up to Simona Halep.

The other women's semifinal match will be played between second-seeded Aryna Sabalenka and ninth-seeded Maria Sakkari.

Pedri had nearly scored from close range before the red card, but Barcelona wasn't able to create many more significant chances in the first half after going a man up, finishing with no attempts on target going into the break.

Frenkie de Jong, Fati, Dembélé and Lewandowski all came close in the second half before the 34-year-old Alba finally broke the deadlock with a low shot with the outside of his left foot after a set up by De Jong inside the area. Alba had entered the match less than 10 minutes earlier.

It was the 25th clean sheet in the league for Barcelona, which had lost playmaker Gavi in the 36th with an apparent muscle injury. He was replaced by Fati.

Osasuna had won three of its last five league matches but was coming off a home loss against Sociedad.

Sociedad later hosts Madrid hoping to strengthen its hold on fourth place and the final Champions League place. It has a five-point gap to fifth-place Villarreal, which visits relegation-threatened Valencia on Wednesday.



Barcelona's Ansu Fati (left) attempts a shot at goal in front of Osasuna's Iker Munoz during a Spanish La Liga soccer match between Barcelona and Osasuna at the Camp Nou stadium in Barcelona, Spain. (AP)

Former Madrid player Takefusa Kubo scored in the 47th and Ander Barrenetxea added another goal in the 85th as Sociedad gave Madrid its second loss in three league rounds and strengthened its hold on the final Champions League place.

Madrid played a man down from the 61st after defender Dani Carvajal was sent off for a foul. The defending champions were coming off a 4-2 win against Almeria but had lost 4-2 at Girona in the previous round.

It was the second straight win for fourth-place Sociedad, which is unbeaten in four consecutive games. It opened an eight-point gap to fifth-place Villarreal, which visits relegation-threatened Valencia on Wednesday.

Last-place Elche became the first team relegated to the second division after a 2-1 loss at Almeria.

The result left the club with 16 points, 17 behind 17th-place Valencia, the first team outside the relegation zone.

Elche, with only three wins from 33 matches, hadn't played in the second division since 2019-20. It routed Rayo Vallecano 4-0 in the previous round to end a run of six consecutive losses.

Almeria, which had lost three of its last four matches, moved to 14th place, three points clear of the relegation zone.