



Murals commemorate Kuwaiti martyrs Let the young remember



One of the murals sent by the Martyr's Bureau to the Ministry of Education.

Photo by Martyr's Bureau

KUWAIT CITY, May 8, (KUNA): Murals honoring the 1,317 Kuwaiti martyrs who lost their lives in defense of their homeland, were sent Monday by the Martyr's Bureau to the Ministry of Education.

The 836 murals were dispersed across schools of all levels, and in all six governorates to serve as a reminder to younger generations of the martyrs'

significant sacrifice, the bureau said in a statement.

Number of schools in Kuwait Capital Governorate amounted to 165 schools whereas 127 schools are located in Al-Jahraa governorate, 155 in Al-Farwaniyah, 104 Mubarak Al-Kabeer, 181 in Al-Ahmadi and 113 schools in Hawally governorate, it added. The Bureau reiterated its commitment to the memory of the martyrs, and noted the role of the education ministry in commemorating their stories.

Opinion

To whom it may concern ... This is the story of the strangled dog

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

ONCE upon a time, a ruler wanted to personally check on his people. He gathered his dignitaries and bailiffs and went out to the towns and villages. While he was on the way back, he saw a house made of mud and decided to visit it.

As soon as they arrived, the owner of the house warmly welcomed them even though he didn't know who they were. The ruler and his entourage decided not to identify themselves.

The man invited them to the table, and after finishing the meal, the ruler stepped outside to stroll a bit. While doing so, he found a strangled dog. When he inquired about the story behind the strangled dog, the host respectfully refused to tell.

The next day, the ruler found himself thinking about the strangled dog, and he sent one of his bailiffs to go to inquire about the strangled dog that he saw the previous day. However, the man refused to tell the story.

The bailiff returned and told his boss what the man said. This further provoked his curiosity and he vowed to quench his curiosity by knowing the story of the strangled dog.

Through his aides, the ruler summoned the man. The man arrived at the palace, and the ruler warmly welcomed him and honored him. He then asked him about the dog.

The man said, "O my lord, your command is obeyed. However, I can only tell you the story of the strangled dog on one condition. I want to be a ruler in your place for a period of time."

The ruler was surprised, and said to him, "Who are you? Why do I think I will allow that to happen?" The man responded, "That is my condition."

After a week, the ruler said to himself, "Perhaps this man has something major to tell". He therefore summoned him again, and said to him, "You have your condition, but you must fulfill your promise."

During that time, the provinces used to pay large sums of money to its neighbors for many reasons.

The ruler appointed the man in his place and disappeared. The latter immediately imprisoned the senior of-

ficials of the state, and put them in the place of the second row of the officials. He then sent the neighboring provinces a message - "From now on, you are not allowed to take ransoms and money from this state. I will send you an army to take money that you took earlier from this province."

The notables of other provinces tried to contact their clients in the state, but they did not find any of their cronies and fixers because they were all in prison. This prompted the governors of the other provinces to submit to the orders and return what they had looted before.

Once everything was settled, the man returned his powers to the ruler and told him, "Now I will tell you the story behind the strangled dog."

The man said he used to miss one of his big sheep everyday, and this continued for about ten days.

"So I decided to investigate and find the perpetrator. After some time, I discovered that one of the dogs used to come late at night around the house, and take a healthy looking sheep to give it to his friend, the hyena."

This discovery prompted the man to capture the dog and punish it by strangling it and then hanging it by the door as a deterrent to other dogs with such habits.

When the trustee betrays the trust and dwells on error, everything becomes easy in order to preserve his interests. When the one responsible neglects small mistakes, chaos ensues in the state, even if it is one of the most powerful states.

This is due to the fact that it does not restore order and prestige to it except through the decision of those with determination and will to restore order, and to ensure its enforcement.

Continued on Page 4

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Warba Bank earns KD 4.293 mn operating profit in Q1

— Details Page 7 —

League opens door to Damascus

Ties with Syria sovereign decision

NewsWatch

KUWAIT CITY: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, with the attendance of His Highness Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, will patronize His Highness the Amir Cup final soccer match due on Tuesday between Kazma and Kuwait sport club teams at Jaber Al-Ahmad Sport Stadium. (KUNA)

DUBAI: Iran hanged two men Monday convicted of blasphemy, authorities said, carrying out rare death sentences for the crime as executions surge across the Islamic Republic following months of unrest.

Iran remains one of the world's top executioners, having put to death at least 203 prisoners since the start of this year alone, according to the Oslo-based group Iran Human Rights. But carrying out executions for blasphemy remains rare, as previous cases saw the sentences reduced by authorities.

The two men executed, **Yousef Mehrad** and **Sadrollah Fazeli Zare**, died at Arak Prison in central Iran. They had been arrested in May 2020, accused of being involved in a channel on the Telegram message app called "Critique of Superstition and Religion," according to the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom. (AP)

BAGHDAD: An Iraqi court on Sunday issued a death sentence against the alleged killer of a prominent Iraqi security analyst known for his expertise on the Islamic State group, nearly three years after his assassination amid threats from militias.

A criminal court convicted of a terrorism charge and sentenced to death police officer **Ahmed Hamdawi al-Kinani** for the killing of **Hisham al-Hashimi**, according to a statement from Iraq's Supreme Judicial Council. A video of al-Kinani appearing to confess to his purported involvement in the crime was released shortly after his arrest two years ago, but many say he had the backing of armed groups.

A relative of al-Hashimi's said the family supported the verdict, but said those who ordered the assassination should be brought to justice in addition to those who carried it out.

"Until now, we have not learned who is backing the killer of Hisham al-Hashimi and who gave the orders to execute," the relative said, speaking on condition of anonymity due to fear of armed groups. (AP)

DUBAI: US President **Joe Biden's** top national security aide met Sunday night with **Saudi Arabia's** crown prince amid long-standing tensions between the White House and the kingdom.

The state-run Saudi Press Agency said the meeting between **Jake Sullivan** and Crown Prince **Mohammed bin Salman** took place in **Jeddah**, the Red Sea port city now at the heart of seaborne evacuations from the fighting in **Sudan**.

The state news report said only that the men reviewed "strategic relations" in a meeting that included other American officials. Later, Sullivan took part in a meeting with the crown prince and Indian national security adviser **Ajit Doval** and **Sheikh Tahnoon bin Zayed Al Nahyan**, the national security adviser of the neighboring **United Arab Emirates**. (AP)

CAIRO, May 8, (AP): The Arab League agreed Sunday to reinstate Syria, ending a 12-year suspension and taking another step toward bringing Syrian President Bashar Assad, a long-time regional pariah, back into the fold.

Some influential league members remain opposed to reinstating Syria, chief among them Qatar, which did not send its foreign minister to Sunday's gathering. Thirteen out of the league's 22 member states sent their foreign ministers to the meeting in Cairo.

The decision represented a victory for Damascus, albeit a largely symbolic one. Given that Western sanctions against Assad's government remain in place, the return to the Arab League is not expected to lead to a quick release of reconstruction funds in the war-battered country.

Syria's membership in the Arab League was suspended early on during the country's 2011 uprising against Assad's rule that was met by a violent crackdown and quickly turned into a civil war. The conflict has killed nearly a half million people since March 2011 and displaced half of the country's pre-war population of 23 million.

Arab League Secretary-General **Ahmed Aboul Gheit** said in a televised statement that the decision to return Syria to the organization, which will allow Assad to take part in the group's upcoming May 19 summit, is part of a gradual process of resolving the conflict.

"This doesn't mean that the Syria crisis has been resolved, on the contrary," he said. "But it allows the Arab (states) for the first time in years to communicate with the Syrian government to discuss all the problems."

Aboul Gheit also said restoring Syria's membership in the organization does not mean all Arab countries have normalized with Damascus.

"These are sovereign decisions for each state individually," he said.

Syrian Prime Minister **Hussein Amous** claimed Sunday that Syria had been the victim of "misinformation and distortion campaigns launched by our enemies" for 12 years. He said Sunday's consultations reflected the "prestigious position" Syria holds regionally and internationally.

Opponents of Assad saw the move toward normalization as a betrayal.

"Arab states have put their own cynical realpolitik and diplomatic agendas above basic humanity," said **Laila Kiki**, execu-

tive director of The Syria Campaign, an international advocacy group. The move, she said, has "cruelly betrayed tens of thousands of victims of the regime's war crimes and granted Assad a green light to continue committing horrific crimes with impunity."

Sunday's decision came days after regional top diplomats met in Jordan to discuss a road map to return Syria to the Arab fold as the conflict continues to de-escalate. The next Arab League summit is to take place May 19 in Saudi Arabia.

The Arab League generally tries to reach agreements by consensus but sometimes opts for simple majorities. Sunday's session was held behind closed doors, and it was not immediately clear which countries had registered objections.

A spokesperson for Qatar's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a statement published by state media that normalization with Syria should be tied to a political solution to the conflict but that it "always seeks to support what will achieve an Arab consensus and will not be an obstacle to that."

Sunday's decision also includes a commitment by Arab governments to try to reach a political solution to the conflict, in line with U.N. Security Council Resolution 2254. Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, Jordan and Iraq were asked by the league to follow up on developments.

The league welcomed what it said was the Syrian government's willingness to cooperate with Arab countries to resolve "humanitarian, security, and political" crises that affected Syria and the region due to the conflict, including refugees, "the threat of terrorism and drug smuggling."

Many observers had anticipated Syria's imminent return to the organization.

Arab rapprochement with Damascus accelerated after a deadly Feb. 6 earthquake that shattered parts of the war-torn country. One of the countries pushing normalization is Saudi Arabia, which once backed opposition groups trying to overthrow Assad.

Egyptian Foreign Minister **Samer Shoukry** said before Sunday's meeting that only an Arab-led "political solution without foreign dictates" can end the ongoing conflict. "The different stages of the Syrian crisis proved that it has no military solution, and that there is no victor nor defeated in this conflict," he said.

Continued on Page 4

Prayer Timings

Fajr	03:33	Asr	15:20
Sunrise ..	05:01	Maghrib ..	18:28
Zohr	11:44	Isha	19:54

Local

Expected weather for the next 24 hours:

By Day: Hot and relatively humid over coastal areas and partly cloudy to cloudy with moderate to fresh southeasterly wind to southerly wind with speeds of 20-55 km/h with a chance for rain that

Weather

might be thundery at times.

By Night: Mild and relatively humid specially over coastal areas and partly cloudy with light to moderate freshening at times southeasterly wind with speeds of 10-40 km/h.

Station **Max Exp** **Min Rec**
Kuwait City 34 27

Kuwait Airport	35	24
Abdaly	37	24
Jahra	39	26
Salmiyah	27	26
Ahmadi	28	26
Nuwaisib	35	24
Wafra	39	23

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Over 300 guests grace event

Top and above: Some photos taken at the event

British Embassy, Kuwait hosts Street Party, marks coronation

As part of celebrations marking the Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III, the British Embassy Kuwait was delighted to host over 300 guests for a fun-filled Street Party on the evening of Sunday, May 7. The Embassy's Street Party was one of three events it organized to celebrate the Coronation, following a live screening of the Coronation and a VIP evening reception on Saturday.

The Street Party is a British tradition that became popular in 1919 when the country celebrated the signing of the Treaty of Versailles after the end of World War I. Roads around cities, towns and villages were closed to allow communities, especially children, to sit down at long tables in the streets to share food and celebrate Peace Day. Over time, it has become a staple of national festivities, including Royal occasions such as Jubilees and Coronations.

The British Embassy Kuwait's Street Party ran in parallel with many thousands of similar celebrations in the UK across the Coronation weekend. Just like modern Britain, the Party was a diverse affair, attended by people from different nationalities and backgrounds who had won tickets in a

competition on the Embassy's social media sites.

Guests were treated to famously British food, such as fish and chips, scones and the 'Coronation Quiche', approved by His Majesty The King himself. They also enjoyed activities and entertainment including face painting, a raffle and a live music courtesy of both a UK Royal Air Force band and local musicians, in an inclusive and family-friendly environment.

Commenting on the Party, His Majesty's Ambassador to the State of Kuwait, Her Excellency Belinda Lewis said: "My team and I were delighted to host our very own Street Party. This was a fitting close to a packed couple of days' worth of events celebrating the Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III. It was wonderful to bring this British tradition to Kuwait and to celebrate a new chapter in the UK's history".

British teacher Daniel Crampsie, attending as one of the lucky winners of the Embassy's ticket ballot added: "It was amazing to have the opportunity to celebrate the historic occasion of His Majesty the King's Coronation in what felt like home."

Nationality card must for voting

KUWAIT CITY, May 8: The Citizenship and Passport Affairs General Department in the Ministry of Interior has advised eligible voters, who have not obtained a replacement for lost or damaged nationality card, to do so immediately as no one will be allowed to vote or run for the National Assembly election on June 6 without this document, reports Al-Rai daily.

The ministry stressed the need for the concerned citizens to personally carry out the abovementioned procedure during official working hours at the department; indicating they must present their original civil identification card or the most recent certificate from the Public Authority for Civil Information (PACI) along with four pieces of personal size photos.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Education is currently conducting a study on utilizing the artificial intelligence technology to improve the quality of secondary education, reports Al-Rai daily quoting a source from the educational sector.

According to the source, the ministry has launched an online survey to know the opinions of teachers and heads of departments in the secondary stage.

The source said Director of the Educational Research Department in the Curriculum Sector Abdullah Al-Ajmi asked the directors of the six educational districts to ease procedures for the researchers tasked to conduct the study.

The source explained that the study is about the use of robots in the educational sector; similar to some banks. The source disclosed the robots will automatically respond to the questions of students any time – day or night.

'Nazaha' help sought

E-publicity service eyed

KUWAIT CITY, May 8: The Ministry of Social Affairs is studying the possibility of launching the 'electronic publicity' service through the Ministry's website and the automated complaints through the "Sahel" application, reports Al-Jarida daily.

According to the daily, this will be done in coordination with Public Anti-Corruption Authority which will train employees to detect corruption in cooperative societies with the help of e-advertising as a continuation of the ministry's policy aimed at expanding the use of automated systems, which limit human intervention as much as possible, by activating electronic linkage.

Al-Jarida learned this is to facilitate public benefit associations and to shorten the time and effort expended in order to complete their transactions, explaining that among these services is "electronic publicity" through the Ministry's website with prior coordination and the concerned departments, including the Computer and Legal Affairs Departments as well as the electronic complaints service through the "Sahel" application.

Meanwhile, in light of the circular issued recently by the Ministry of Social Affairs, at the request of the Ministry of Interior, to postpone the holding of 'general assembly meetings' and elections for the boards of directors of cooperative societies whose legal term has expired, until next June 16, that is, after the end of the National Assembly 2023 elections, sources said Membership Affairs and Publication of Cooperative Societies and Unions Department at the ministry is in the process of issuing decisions to appoint members (one or more) on the cooperative management boards, whose term of office will end during the aforementioned period, in order to avoid losing the quorum and disrupting the work of the cooperatives.

The sources indicated that there are 4 boards of directors whose legal term will expire soon out and elections to fill the vacant positions were scheduled to be held during the next two months, stressing that it is out of keenness to run the affairs of these corps and not be affected by the loss of a quorum for their boards of directors, which will negatively affect the buying and selling movement.

2 women among 104 hopefuls

Ex-Speaker denies link with campaign poster

By Saeed Mahmoud Saleh
Arab Times Staff and Agencies

KUWAIT CITY, May 8: A total of 18 men and one woman on Monday filed their candidacies for the upcoming National Assembly election as follows:

First Constituency:

- 1- Khalid Marzouq Al-Omaira
- 2- Adel Jassem Al-Damkhi
- 3- Ali Haidar
- 4- Fadhel Abdulkareem Al-Atram
- 5- Methley Rashed Al-Azmi,

Second Constituency:

- 1-Salman Khalid Al-Azmi
- 2-Abdullatif Adnan Al-Heraiji
- 3-Abdullah Turki Al-Anbaie
- 4-Huwaiddi Sahn Al-Hajri,

Third Constituency:

- 1-Jenan Muhsen Bu Shehri
- 2-Shamlan Essa Al-Herban
- 3-Abdullah Mustafa Ghadhanfar,

Fourth Constituency:

- 1-Jamal Saad Al-Anzi
- 2-Majed Musa Al-Mutairi
- 3-Muhammad Awad Al-Mutairi
- 4- Nasser Salama Al-Rashedi,

Fifth Constituency:

- 1- Khalid Sare'e Al-Hajri
- 2- Muhammad Nasser Al-Mehjan
- 3-Meshabeb Hamlan Al-Sahli,

This increases the number of candidates to 104 so far, including two women.

The Election Affairs General Department at the Ministry of Interior will continue receiving candidacies until May 14, 2023.

Meanwhile, former Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanim has vehemently denied having knowledge of his supposed campaign poster which shows him relaxing on an armchair. Some have interpreted this as a sign of his confidence in maintaining his Speaker seat, while others went to the extent of accusing him of narcissism.

Al-Ghanim stressed he is not responsible for the circulation of promotions or posters depicting him, except those posted on his official social media accounts.

Nod to lawyer B applicants: Minister of State for Municipal Affairs and Minister of State for Communications Affairs Fahd Al-Shula announced the acceptance of all reserve applicants for the position of lawyer "B" in the Legal Department of Kuwait Municipality, based on the directives of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmed Nawaf Al-Ahmad, and in implementation of his directives to support Kuwaiti youth and support state agencies with national competencies, reports Al-Jarida daily.

Al-Shula said all 410 applicants had been initially appointed as legal researchers, and subjected to a legal course at the Kuwait Institute for Judicial and Legal Studies for a period of 6 months.

He indicated that after successfully passing the course, the degree of appointment will be changed to the position of "Lawyer B".

He explained that special committees were formed in the Kuwait Municipality to receive all applicants and complete their appointment procedures immediately, headed by a consultant from the legal department in the municipality and the membership of employees from the Personnel Affairs Department and the Financial Department.

In turn, the head of the Municipal Council, Abdullah Al-Muhri, praised the step of accepting reserve citizens applying for the position of lawyer B in the municipality.

For his part, Deputy Chairman of the Municipal Council Khaled Al-Mutairi thanked the Prime Minister and Minister of Municipality for accepting the reserve applicants for the position of Lawyer B.

He added: "As we said previously, Kuwait Municipality and all state agencies need national legal competencies in light of a new approach based on supporting Kuwaiti youth.

A member of the Municipal Council, Fahd Al-Abd Al-Jader, appreciated the "Minister of Municipality's response to our demands regarding the admission of all national cadres who passed the test due to the legal administration's need for them after the hiring them had stopped for 18 years."

Other Voices

Bani Suwaif University degrees and fake PhDs

By Ahmad alsarraf

I often do not call people by the title (doctor) if they are not physicians. I really wonder about those who accept to be addressed as doctors although they are not among the PhD holders and those who insist on being addressed as doctors despite the fact that they are not capable of holding such degrees after the scandals of thousands of holders of these degrees have been exposed.

The distinguished TV presenter, Tony Khalifa, held an interview with Mr Talal Abu-Ghazaleh, who was a guest on the channels, because of his extraordinary predictions, and his funny expectations, of which nothing has been achieved for years, and the presenter reminded him of what he had previously predicted that a third world war would break out at the end of 2021.

He dodged, not even trying to apologize for his mistake and the unwarranted anxiety he had caused. He also asked him about depositors losing their money in Lebanese banks, and he is one of them, and I do not know why he did not predict the collapse, instead of devoting himself to predicting the World War III breaking out, and he replied that the depositors' money of the clients will definitely be restored!

He added that there is no country that follows the "bank secrecy" other than Lebanon. This is completely untrue, as many countries follow banking secrecy.

He also mentioned that the Human Rights Council in Geneva would "issue" a resolution calling on Lebanon to lift the banking secrecy, so that depositors would know where their money went. This is also empty talk that has nothing to do with the truth, and this is not the task of the Human Rights Council!

He said that the banking expression "Hair Cut", which means "shaving" or

deducting a percentage of the depositors' balances and giving them the rest, as a Lebanese invention is also empty talk, as it is a global expression, and it has been applied in several countries, and it works in both directions, as the bank may be forced to accept part of its debts from a debtor, or the depositor accepts part of his deposit in the bank, and this is called a Hair Cut.

I wonder how a person introduces himself as international accountant and accepts to be addressed as doctor while he is not aware about such primary information. Hair Cut was implemented by banks in Cyprus some years back where the Hair Cut average was almost 60 percent.

After the government's prosecution of holders of forged degrees, especially PhDs, stopped, we relied on chance to uncover them, and this is what led to the discovery that a female citizen, working as a teacher in one of the colleges of higher education, forged her Bachelor's, Master's and Doctorate degrees, in bulk, and admitted that she had obtained them with the help of an Egyptian after paying him huge sums of money and that he is the one who also helped her to acquire the three fake certificates by Kuwait Ministry of Higher Education and this is yet another bigger disaster.

It was also found that the forger had obtained 117,000 dinars in salaries, and was imprisoned for refusing to return the amount to the state.

A verdict was issued by the Court of Cassation in which it slapped a 2,000 dinars fine on a former association president for forging his university degree, which he used in the association elections, and his success enabled him to obtain 30,000 dinars as membership rewards!

Exposing the forgers of educational certificates, who manipulated the future of our children, and exposing the forgers of national identity, who changed the course of elections results, is not a difficult process, but it seems that some parties want to protect the suspects.

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Education confab to kick off May 9

KUWAIT CITY, May 8, (KUNA): Secretary-General of Sustainable Educational Development in Light of Kuwait Vision 2035 Conference, Dr. Munira Sharar, said Monday, that the conference to be kicked-off tomorrow, will discuss appropriate setups for drawing up a future vision in line with the requirements of Kuwait's future.

In a statement, Sharar said the two-day conference, under the auspices of the Minister of Education and Minister of Higher Education, Dr. Hamad Al-Adwani, aims to activate joint Arab

action by presenting the experiences of other countries in the field of education systems.

The organization of the conference comes from the necessity of promoting education to the highest levels of quality and improve educational outputs in line with the requirements of the labor market, she added.

The conference will include a number of scientific and educational sessions and workshops presented by lecturers from different countries, would tackle education crisis and sustainable development, she said.

diwaniya ديوانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

Nationality between sovereignty and national security

“THE observer of the structural situation of the Kuwaiti society notes an irrational and unnatural increase in the number of Kuwaitis,” columnist **Dr Muhammad Al-Maqati** wrote for **Al-Jarida** daily.

“Instead of their number being between 600 and 700,000, their number jumped to double that number, and this was caused by dangerous factors, massive falsification and tampering with nationality files, political naturalization and its pressures and exceptions, absurd naturalization and data change.

“In the face of the confusion of many papers, I became more careful and favored the necessity of preserving the national identity, through the laws related to it, such as the nationality law, the immigration law, and the election law in order to protect the state’s sovereignty and national security, and not to be lenient or to neglect a public proposal in the face of dangers of this change the composition of society that threatens its existence and identity.

“On the national level, it does not accept the logic of reason, or the logic of law or convenience, that the identity of society be changed from its foundations with its components, legacies, and political and sovereign powers, with the passage of time.

“This matter is not hidden from the first people of Kuwait, as it was adopted during the Legislative Council stage of 1938 to address the migrations that aimed to change Kuwaiti society, at a time when Kuwait’s resources were modest and the living environment repellent.

“Soon, this national understanding, with its dimensions, found its echo in the stage of establishing the modern legislative structure of Kuwait, 1950-1962, when the most important legislation for the modern transition of Kuwait was laid down, including the laws of nationality, residency, immigration and election, and the constitution itself, so the founding father was identified with those who were settlers of Kuwait before 1920, and considered the establishment of assets complementary to the establishment of the branches covered by this definition, to be an inclusive and preventive definition, and it was completed by the second article of the Nationality Law, which is linked to the correlation and complementarity of its ruling with the first article, so that this would be a solid wall that prevents the penetration or claim in any way of what goes beyond their scope and borders, with allegations or practices, and justifications.

“The son of a Kuwaiti who originally deserves citizenship is the son of the founder or his descendants in accordance with Article 1 only, and no one else whose origin or descendant was not a founder is described as such.

“And when the constitution was drawn up, it embraced that with its national aims and objectives, and this is what Article 82 stated by limiting the candidacy for the National Assembly to the Kuwaiti in an origi-



Dr Al-Maqati

nal capacity, which is an intended description.

“Sheikh Sa’ad Al-Abdullah and a group of members of the Constitution Committee and the Constituent Assembly expressed their final will in the explanatory memorandum of the constitution in its commentary on Article 82 of the constitution, and it was followed, and that the naturalized son joins his father and is also considered naturalized, as Sheikh Sa’ad confirmed that, and it cannot be proven to the branch a different or better adjective than the original, especially since naturalization began in 1962, after that definition was settled.

“With the start of naturalization, which was governed and subject to the rule set by the founders, the scramblers began to demand naturalization and claim Kuwaiti nationality, because of its advantages and privileges, and allegations and cases of fraud, forgery, tampering and random naturalization multiplied, but the sovereign basis and the dimension of national security have always been the protective fence from changing the identity of Kuwaiti society, until Law 44 of 1994 constituted a direct assault on the constitutional constants, and the associated legislation intended to protect the sovereignty and national security of Kuwait, which was wasted by that law, and it must be abolished to uphold those considerations and their constitutional pillars.

“As for the international level, we may find that all countries, with their various systems and trends, protect and preserve their identity, which is the reason for a country like Britain to stop acquiring citizenship by birth since 1984, and even to carry out the process of banning immigration, and expelling all applicants or applicants for citizenship, illegal residents and even political refugees forcibly from its lands.”

Also:

“The minister of interior must move quickly, and impose deterrent laws and strict penalties, on “checking and slashing” and not accepting any kind of mediation or for the ministry to take mercy in applying the most severe penalties to those who did not respect themselves or their families, and did not put in place traffic laws and lives people have no regard whatsoever,” columnist **Dr Sultan Majid Al-Salem** wrote for **Al-Jarida** daily.

“The Committee on Negative Phenomena in the National Assembly, over the course of successive years, worked on several matters that the honorable members of the committee considered, and over many years, to be important, and worthy of being on the discussion table, and as I personally disagree with many of these theses in the committee and I see that many of them are nothing but a waste of time.

“At the same time I see that many of the matters raised are also important and necessary, and they had their justifications and urgent needs in society.

“However, here lies the deadlock, I do not remember that recklessness in driving were on the discussion table in the committee, and according to my memory, if I am not mistaken, with the increase in deaths

and horrific accidents due to reckless driving and “showing off” racing skills but there has been no accountability and oversight.

“In view of the current political situation in which we live, the minister of interior must move quickly and work to impose deterrent laws and strict penalties, and not accept any kind of mediation or for the ministry to have mercy in applying the most severe penalties to those who did not respect themselves or their families, and they did not give any consideration to traffic laws and people’s lives, and most importantly of all, the names of those trying to cover up for them must be published because they are worse than those who violate the laws.

“All the way to the domestic worker who lost her life last week is the best evidence of the mentality of some. And before “some” get smart and demand racetracks and places designated for such actions, he must separate in his “great” mind the issue of sports and entertainment and stop recklessness on public roads, and the accompanying damage and loss of life, up to public property and noise.

“And from us to the minister of interior to take the most severe penalties, and legislate deterrent laws in this matter, which must stop by imposing the prestige of the law.”

“The current situation in Sudan is embarrassing for humanity and the right of Arabism. This is preceded by the war in Yemen, where human suffering continues because of hunger, poverty and destitution,” columnist **Iqbal Al-Ahmad** wrote for **Al-Qabas** daily.

“Incessant human suffering made Arabs, Muslims and other people fall. When the interest of the homeland is abandoned and narrow personal interests are on top of priorities, the taboo falls ... Thus, the brotherhood, humanity, Arabism and patriotism are trampled under the dirty shoes of selfishness, vanity and defiance.

“If the spending on wars in general is used in the interest of humanity, people would not have suffered, children would not have died, families would not have been orphaned, and women would not have been widowed.

“The wars in Sudan, Syria, Lebanon and Iraq have been going on for quite some time. This is a blatant example for us Arabs in our defiance of our humanity, Arabism and religion.

“We know that we, Arabs and Muslims, must catch up with progress and civilization in the scientific and health fields at all levels. Every penny we spend to fight against one another is a clear evidence that we are victims of our ignorance and the belittling of others.

“Do we need a catastrophe that eats everything in our Arab world, for us to realize the scale of the crime with which we burn our clothes day after day, until the facts are revealed and exposed us, and at that time regret will not work and grief will not bear fruit for our situation...?”

— Compiled by **Ahmed Al-Shazli**

Dr Bu-Qammaz to be guest of honour

ACI-Kuwait Chapter to hold its Annual Awards function May 9

KUWAIT CITY, May 8: The Kuwait Chapter of American Concrete Institute has announced that its Annual Awards function will be held on 9th May, 2023 at Palms Hotel and Spa. Her Excellency Dr. Amani Bu-Qammaz, Minister of Public Works, will be the guest of honour.

ACI-Kuwait Chapter is a non-profit professional organization, affiliated to American Concrete Institute International of USA. The Chapter’s essential objective is to develop and share technical knowledge and information for improving the quality of concrete and related construction practices in Kuwait. This is done through technical seminars, training courses, conferences, publications, webinars and other informative activities.

The President of ACI-Kuwait Chapter, Mr. Azizz Mamuji, said that two prestigious awards shall be bestowed during this year function. The Award of Excellence for the Year 2022 shall be presented to a local project of outstanding merit, in terms of its design, engineering quality and use of concrete technology. The award will be presented to the developer of the project. The design and engineering consultants, general contractor and main concrete supplier will also be recognized. The Award of Achievement 2022 shall be bestowed on an individual in recognition of his or her life-long contribution to the engineering profession and to development in the



Azizz Mamuji

State of Kuwait.

Mr. Mamuji noted that these awards, which the Chapter has been giving since 2001, are highly respected and appreciated in Kuwait’s engineering and construction fraternity.

He also expressed appreciation that Dr. Amani Bu-Qammaz will grace the function; as this clearly reflects her interest in the engineering profession, and her desire to promote construction standards and quality of construction in Kuwait.

The Awards Function will be held in the Nassima Ballroom at The Palms Beach Hotel & Spa, starting at 7.30 pm.

Korean Embassy, KTF co-host ‘Kuwait Taekwondo Spectacle 2023’ on May 11

KUWAIT CITY, May 8: The Embassy of the Republic of Korea and the Kuwait Taekwondo Federation (KTF) co-host the “Kuwait Taekwondo Spectacle 2023” on May 11 at 7 pm at the Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Sports Hall Complex (Volleyball Court), under the patronage of the Kuwait Korean Community Association and the Kukkiwon (the World Taekwondo Headquarters) in Korea, says a press release issued by the Korean Embassy.

Apart from the main event on May 11, a pop-up Taekwondo demonstration by the Kukkiwon masters is also planned for May 10 at 8 pm in the Avenue Mall.

For more information about the Kukkiwon Demonstration Team or the Kuwait Taekwondo Federation, please visit the official website at <https://overseas.mofa.go.kr/kw-en> and the Embassy’s official Instagram account: [Koreanembassykw](https://www.instagram.com/Koreanembassykw)

One of the most systematic and scientific Korean traditional martial arts that has been developing with the 5000-year-long history of Korea, Taekwondo is a kind of discipline that shows ways of enhancing our spirit and life through training our body and mind more than physical fighting skills.

Today, it has become a global sport with 150 million practitioners worldwide and has stood among the official Olympics games since Sydney Olympics in 2000.

It also holds special meaning for Kuwait

since it brought the first Olympic medal to Kuwait in the Barcelona Olympics in 1992, even though it was a demonstration sport then.

When we take a close look at the meaning of the word “Taekwondo”, the first syllable “Tae” means ‘foot’ and ‘step on’, Kwon is ‘fists and fight, and Do ‘way’ or ‘discipline’. So the meaning of Tae Kwon Do is “the right way of using parts of the body to help build a better and more peaceful world.”

This year’s Taekwondo event would be bigger and better than ever, with several exciting programs. One of the highlights of the coming events will be a Kukkiwon Taekwondo showcase by the world-best Taekwondo masters’ demonstration team, which has been renowned for advancing to the Championship Round of the U.S. CBS talent competition program “The World Best 2019”. The Kukkiwon’s showcase will provide a unique opportunity to witness the beauty and grace of Taekwondo, as well as an awe-inspiring display of speed, power, and precision that will leave spectators breathless.

Another highlight is the Korean Ambassador’s Cup Championship, which will feature some of the best Taekwondo athletes in Kuwait. The Korean Ambassador’s Cup Championship aims to promote the sport of Taekwondo in Kuwait and provide a platform for the country’s Taekwondo practitioners to compete and enjoy victory.

Public Prosecution refers new real estate fraud case to Criminal Court

Police arrest eight violators of public morals

KUWAIT CITY, May 8: The Public Funds Prosecution has referred a company specialized in organizing real estate exhibitions to the Criminal Court, on charges of cheating citizens and selling fake real estate to them inside and outside Kuwait, reports **Al-Qabas** daily.

The Public Prosecution had previously referred another company in a similar case that is currently in court. A source said that the accused in this new case is an expatriate working as a director of the company, and the Public Prosecution has charged him with money laundering and fraud.

He pointed out that the company practiced its business in accordance with the license of organizing real estate exhibitions Resolution No. 293 of 2013, which stipulates the responsibility of the company organizing the exhibition and the role of the Ministry of Commerce in ensuring the credibility of the companies participating in the exhibitions, and the integrity of the projects presented inside or outside Kuwait.

It was finally discovered that some of the projects that the companies promoted at the exhibition from 2013 to the end of 2017 were unreal and caused harm to many citizens and residents who fell into the traps and the criminal courts in 14 such cases issued verdicts in favor of the plaintiffs and charged the defendants with money laundering.

For his part, Attorney Ali Al-Attar from the office of Attorney Mashari Al-Osaimi praised the efforts of the concerned authorities to return the funds to their owners affected by the real estate fraud operations.

8 people arrested: The Protection of Public Morals Department affiliated to the General Department of Criminal have arrested eight people during a security campaign and charged them with violating public morals, reports **Al-Rai** daily.

The suspects were caught red-handed inside men’s massage parlors. They have been referred to the concerned authorities.

Fake recruitment offices raided: The Tripartite Committee at the Residency Affairs Investigation General Department in the Interior Ministry recently raided three bogus domestic labor recruitment offices in Mubarak Al-Kabeer, reports **Annahar** daily.

In a press statement, the ministry revealed that these offices have been harboring expatriates who violated the Residency and Labor laws; and then let them work for daily wage.

The ministry affirmed that all those involved were referred to the concerned authorities to take legal action against them.

Verdict set for June 18: The Court of Cassation has set June 18, 2023, to issue its verdict in the so-called Ministry of Interior Hospitality case, reports **Al-Qabas** daily.

During the first session before the Court of Cassation which was held on Sunday, all defendants – those who have been released and those behind bars – attended the proceedings with their lawyers. The defense lawyers representing those who are still behind bars demanded immediate acquittal of their clients.

Thus, the page of this famous case will be closed after nearly 1,550 days have passed before the courts, since the Ministry of Interior referred it to the Public Prosecution.

The Court of Appeal had sentenced the first defendant, Adel Al-Hashash, to 15 years in prison, instead of 30 years, and fined him 113 million dinars.

It also ruled to cancel the 10-year imprisonment sentence against the defendants and sentenced them to two years imprisonment with a stay of enforcement. The verdict upheld the convictions of others.

Higher Education signs deal on scholarships

‘No category of expats exempted over decision on driving licenses’

KUWAIT CITY, May 8: First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Interior and acting Minister of Defense Sheikh Talal Al-Khaled has appointed Assistant Undersecretary for Public Security Affairs Major General Abdullah Al-Rajeb to carry out the work of Assistant Undersecretary for Operations and Traffic Affairs Major General Jamal Al-Sayegh who was referred for retirement after reaching the legal retirement age, reports **Al-Anba** daily.

In another development, a security source said no category of expatriates is exempted from the decision to grant or renew driving licenses for a period of one year.

The source clarified the only exemptions are the children and spouses of Kuwaiti women married to non-Kuwaitis and Article 20 visa holders who are entitled to obtain a driving license valid for three years. The source added the driving license of an expatriate is issued or renewed for one year, as long as the job position remains the same.

The source added the decision also applies to the holders of driving licenses issued before 2013. He said the one-year validity decision was taken, because it is now easy to apply for a license online.

Scholarship plan: The Ministry of Higher Education has signed an agreement with the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland - Medical University of Bahrain or RCSI Bahrain to include the university in the annual scholarship plan of the ministry, reports **Al-Rai** daily.

Under the agreement, several Kuwaiti students can enroll in the undergraduate program of the School of Medicine at the university. This is within the framework of an existing agreement with the Royal College of Surgeons in Dublin, Ireland; which has been in effect since 2011.

Head of the Cultural Office at the Kuwaiti Embassy in Bahrain Dr Mohammed Al-Dughaim considers the signing of the agreement a remarkable achievement and the culmination of many years of work and cooperation with the Ministry of Higher Education in Kuwait. He added this is a testament to the strength of the relationship between the two institutions and the high level of education provided by the Medical University of Bahrain.



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LOCAL

ZHO and PADA 'team-up' in bid to provide accessibility for disabled

Strategic partnership through e-platform

KUWAIT CITY, May 8, (Agencies): Zayed Higher Organization for People of Determination (ZHO) and Public Authority for Disability Affairs (PADA) announced Monday the launch of a strategic partnership to serve disabled people through an electronic platform, in the presence of the UAE ambassador and several officials.

In a speech during the meeting, PADA's Director General Dr. Bibi Al-Amiri commended the strategic partnership and cooperation with ZHO, which aims to provide accessibility for the disabled people.

They are working to transfer experiences and benefit both sides while developing a joint strategy aimed at developing several areas, she said, including areas of education, employment, rehabilitation, culture, arts and social services.

She referred to the close ties between Kuwait and UAE, reflecting the remarkable development and continuous cooperation between them in various fields.

Meanwhile, Ambassador of UAE to Kuwait Dr. Matar Al-Neyadi said they hope to develop this

partnership to a broader extent by launching initiatives, projects and programs.

Al-Neyadi stressed the strength of the historical relations between both sides, extolling the strategic partnership that is in line with UAE's vision to work towards strengthening more cooperation that focuses on serving people with disabilities.

On his side, ZHO's Secretary General Abdullah Al-Humaidan confirmed that ZHO's goal is to provide services aimed at facilitating external mobility for disabled people and is working to expand its services through strategic partnership with institutions concerned with providing services.

Parking permits in Kuwait falls within the framework of building joint systems with PADA, he said, underlining that this is within a plan intended to provide services that support disabled people.

The parking permit covers all UAE cities and regions as well as Kuwait, including parking available in government buildings, public utilities, commercial centers, hospitals, airports and other places that may be frequented by disabled people in both countries, he explained.

Also:

KUWAIT CITY: The Public Authority for the Disabled Affairs (PADA) held its first monthly symposium in the Marafi House in Dasma area to discuss the issues of the disabled, with the cooperation of

the concerned authorities, reports Al-Rai daily.

The symposium, which was titled "Facilitating Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities", was held with the cooperation with the Kuwait Association for Parents of the Disabled and was attended by representatives of official bodies and a number of those interested in related issues.

The Director of PADA Dr. Bibi Al-Amiri said these seminars can be considered as a study to identify the shortcomings in the service provided to people with disabilities in terms of the ease of access, and work to solve them.

She stressed that the success of the first meeting was possible after meeting all the competent authorities, listening to the most important aspects, and discussing how to find ways to unite with the aim of harnessing the energies and capabilities to serve the cause of the disabled, which is a societal responsibility that requires cooperation.

Regarding the delay in the work of the committees and the long waiting lists, Dr. Al-Amiri said, "We started putting in place a new mechanism to facilitate people with disabilities two weeks ago.

This development has made it much easier for people, in addition to raising the period for renewing the disability certificate to 5 years and for life. This is easy and it reduced the waiting period to no more than three weeks. We hope that it will be without any waiting in the next stage."

Meanwhile, the Assistant Undersecretary for the Planning and Development Sector at the Ministry of Public Works Eng. Ahmad Al-Saleh explained that a team was formed to implement the articles of the People with Disabilities Law. Meetings were held with the officials of the authority to discuss the issue of design and the implementation of ease of access in all buildings belonging to the ministry.

He said, "People with disabilities have the same rights, because they are employees and all employees have the same right and access."

Furthermore, the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Kuwait Association for Parents of the Disabled Rehab Bouresli stressed that the symposium is aimed to find radical solutions to the issues of the disabled and ways to overcome the difficulties facing them.

She said the symposium witnessed a discussion on the "building code", which was approved by PADA, adding that ways to implement it with concerned state authorities were discussed in order to join efforts to achieve a decent life for the disabled people.



ZHO, PADA launch strategic partnership aimed at providing accessibility for disabled.

KUNA photo



Embassy of India in Kuwait organized the India-Kuwait Investment Conference under the title 'Unleashing Synergies', Monday at the Hotel Four Seasons.

'Immense potential for investments'

Indian Embassy in Kuwait kicks off 'Unleashing Synergies' Conference

KUWAIT CITY, May 8: Embassy of India, Kuwait, in association with Indian Business & Professional Council (IBPC), with the support of Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) and Union of Investment Companies (UIC), Kuwait organized an Investment Conference on May 8 (Monday) at the Al Murqab Ballroom of Hotel Four Seasons, Kuwait City.

Delegates from Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Invest India, National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) comprising of high-ranking officials participated in the Investment conference.

HE Ambassador of India to Kuwait, Dr. Adarsh Swaika spoke about the immense potential for investments from Kuwait to India building upon the traditional friendship and strong people to people contacts.

He underscored the need to explore the synergies of greater trade diversification and investment cooperation between the fastest growing major economy of the world and the country with Vision 2035.

HE Mohammad Aneizi, Undersecretary of Ministry of Commerce and Industry represented Minister of Commerce & Industry Muhammad Othman Muhammad Al-Aiban, as the Chief Guest and gave the key note address for the Investment conference.

HE Ghanem Al-Ghenaiman, Managing Director, Kuwait Investment Authority, Saleh Saleh Al-Selmi, Chairman, Union of Investment Companies (UIC) and Dirar Al Ghanem, Board Member, Kuwait Chamber of Commerce &

Industry (KCCI) addressed the gathering.

All the Kuwaiti speakers appreciated the opportunities that the Indian growth story offers for greater potential trade and investments from Kuwait.

MD, KIA specifically mentioned the close partnership which KIA has with Indian entities and re-emphasized the continued interest of KIA to further strengthen its relationship with India.

Padmanabh Sinha, Executive Director & CIO, NIIF, gave a presentation on potential investment cooperation with National Investment and Infrastructure Fund of India.

Ms Aastha Tyagi, Vice-President, Invest India gave an elaborate presentation on the Indian growth story with statistics and analysis of opportunities for FDI investments in India.

The seminar also saw sharing of very positive investment experience in India by Mr. Dari Al Bader, CEO, Asiya Investments in hospitality sector in India and Mr. Abdul Lateef Al Sharikh, Head of Corporate Communications, Alghanim Industries as part of their Kirby industries manufacturing plants in India.

The inaugural session was followed by a panel discussion between eminent speakers from the Indian side as well as the Kuwaiti side on unlocking the full potential of India - Kuwait Investment opportunities.

This high-visibility event was well-attended by around 200 eminent people from all major business houses of Kuwait, investment companies, senior government officials, media as well as members of Indian business and professional community.

To whom it

Continued from Page 1

It is true that modern states have become institutions concerned with managing people's affairs, but they are under the command of the leader, who does not leave matters to the officials, aides and bailiffs to act as they please. When that happens, chaos prevails and the top authority loses its battles in fighting corruption which spreads like wildfire.

In the Arab world, there are several examples of failed states because the ruler left everything in the hands of his aides and officials. This prompted the existence of multiple decision-makers. Due to this reason, some of those states fell into civil war, the capabilities of their people were plundered, and chaos engulfed them.

Neither parliaments worked because originally every parliamentarian was focused on side hustles, nor did the weak governments, as they chose to act timidly in a bid to distance themselves from accountability. They also indulged in corruption by empowering those who are not qualified to manage. What was worse was not having someone to hold them accountable.

If the dog was allowed to continue, the hyena would have eaten the whole herd. In fact, the matter would have reached the extent of the hyena even eating the owner of the house and the dog. However, the man's acumen pushed him to make the difficult choice.

In this regard, the guard (the dog) betrayed the trust that was entrusted to him. Disappointing performances are seen with some of those in power, who turn ministries into private farms and work to maximize the costs of projects in order to plunder whatever they can from them.

In such a situation, the infrastructure, education and health sectors deteriorate, and the economy lack stimulating engines. On the other hand, in countries where there is a decision and determination to follow up and implement it, security is firmly established, and the people do not live in a haphazard manner.

Here we ask - How many traitorous dogs in Kuwait deserve to be strangled and hanged?

Ties with

Continued from Page 1

Also:

BEIRUT: Airstrikes over southern Syria early Monday killed one of the country's most well-known drug dealers, an opposition war monitor and a pro-government radio station reported.

The rare attack came days after Jordan warned it would use force inside Syria to eliminate drug trafficking to its territories and from there to oil-rich Arab gulf nations.

The strikes also come a day after Arab governments reinstated Syria to the Arab League following the country's suspension for its crackdown on protests that ultimately led to a lengthy civil war. As Arab governments gradually rekindle ties with Damascus, one of the key topics of discussion has been Syria's illicit drug industry, which has flourished during the ongoing conflict - especially the illegal amphetamine Captagon.

Western governments estimate that Captagon has generated billions of dollars in revenue for President Bashar Assad, his Syrian associates and allies. Damascus has denied the accusations.

The first strike hit a home in the Syrian village of Shuab in Sweida province near the Jordanian border, killing Merhi al-Ramthan, his wife and six children, according to the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.

The opposition war monitor and Sham FM reported another strike in the southern province of Daraa that hit a building. The Observatory said the building housed a drug factory.

Ahmad al-Masalmeh, an opposition activist who covers developments in southern Syria, also said that one strike killed al-Ramthan and his family in Sweida province. He said the other hit a facility in Daraa province used by Iran-backed groups to produce and store drugs before smuggling them to Jordan. He said the strikes happened before dawn Monday, igniting a fire at the drug facility in Daraa province.



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What's On



Photos from the event.

School inculcates democratic values in students

ICSK, Khaitan organizes grandiose Investiture Ceremony

KUWAIT CITY, May 8: ICSK, Khaitan believes in inculcating democratic values among its students. In order to give them the practice of democratic procedure of election and develop leadership qualities and imbibe a sense of responsibility, the school conducts election for students representative every year, and the Investiture Ceremony is organised to invest these leaders to officially bestow responsibilities upon them to discharge their duties as student leaders for the entire academic year.

This year this most ceremonial function was organised on 4th May to formally acknowledge the mantle of leadership donned

by the School Senate for the academic year 2023-24 for CBSE and IGCSE sections. The Chief Guest, Mr Muath Al Rashdi, Founder of Shooting Masters Academy Kuwait and an international shooting champion in clay sporting, was given a reverential salute and guard of honour by the Core Senate Members, Captains and Vice Captains of various houses. The throbbing march past of the young leaders reverberated throughout the whole campus.

The magnificent ceremony commenced with the recitation of the verse from the Holy Quran, and it was followed by the national anthems of Kuwait and India. Ms Sharanya

Devi, Senior Secondary Supervisor, introduced the Chief Guest with a short video snippet highlighting the great personality and achievements of the shooting maestro. The lighting of the lamp was done conjointly by Muath Al Rashdi and K Gangadhar Shirsath, Principal, ICSK, Khaitan. The gracious dancers of the school made the occasion auspicious with a divine invocation dance. Shirsath congenially welcomed the august gathering and spoke elaborately on the importance of being an inclusive leader with a selfless mission.

The much-awaited and prime segment of the event was the investiture of Core Sen-

ate, Junior Senate, House Captains and Vice Captains.

The Chief Guest honoured the elected Student Senate by pinning the badges on their left lapel in the presence of their dear and near ones. The oath of office for the newly elected leaders was administered by Ms Sushmeeta Prakash, Vice Principal, ICSK, Khaitan.

The student leaders chorused a motivational song on stage and later had a group photograph session with the dignitaries, including the Senate Advisors and House Mentors.

As a token of love and appreciation,

Muath Al Rashdi was gifted a memento by the Principal. The energetic Chief Guest addressed the audience with an affable greeting. His rhetoric resulted in sowing the seeds of sportsmanship in young minds. The house prefects and class monitors from various classes received the badges.

The meritorious students received the Principal's Academic Awards for the academic year 2022-23.

The program culminated with the vote of thanks proposed by Sidharth Sudeep, Senate President, Anamika Kathik, Mohammad Yousuf Khan and Prardhana Seraphin were emcees for the day.

Student athletes display exceptional skills and teamwork

AUK excels at Kuwait's Education Sports Federation

KUWAIT CITY, May 8: The American University of Kuwait (AUK) student athletes recently participated in the Kuwait's School and High Education Sports Federation, competing in soccer, volleyball, futsal, padel, and basketball.

The women's futsal team secured first place, displaying exceptional skills and teamwork. Having also secured first place in the Universities Athletic Association of Kuwait (UAAK) tournament, the women's futsal team reached a significant milestone by winning two consecutive gold medals in one year.

The student athletes' dedication paid off, as they also reached the finals in four sports and secured second place in the women's basketball and men's padel teams.

Mohammad Al Saleh, senior sports coordinator, praised the student athletes, "I think this generation of student athletes has set a great example on how students can enjoy their journey by managing their time to gain the best academic knowledge and sports experience."

The success of AUK's student athletes is a testament to their hard work and highlights the University's commitment to fostering a well-rounded student experience that encourages both academic and athletic excellence.

The American University of Kuwait (AUK) is an independent, private, equal opportunity, and co-educational liberal arts institution of



AUK winners

higher education. The educational, cultural and administrative structure, methods and standards of AUK are

based on the American model of higher learning. The language of instruction is English. More informa-

tion on the American University of Kuwait can be found at www.auk.edu.kw

Prominent leaders participate

IWA conducts women's conference on 'liberalism'

KUWAIT CITY, May 8: Islamic Women's Association (IWA - The ladies wing of Kerala Islamic group KIG) conducted Kuwait Women's conference on "Liberalism: A social menace", on May 5 at the main auditorium of Indian Central School Abbasiya.

Freedom is our right but liberalism without boundaries has proven dangerous to the society, during the press meet IWA leaders stressed through the press release which was distributed to the media personals, that Liberalism is the product of consumerism, which has emerged as the epitome of freedom and equality, but has been ebbing away from the basic social fabric and family structure. Liberalism has destroyed the sanctity and moral values of the basic unit of the society, which is the family. Most of the European countries that promoted liberalism have faced many setbacks as liberalism promotes free sex and facilitate sexual relations without boundaries which in turn

lead the society into anarchy, the press release continued.

Prominent social activist Fathima Shabarimala, Muslim Students Federation Former National Vice President Adv. Fathima Tahliya, Mahila Congress Secretary Dr.

Soya Joseph and Jama'athe Islami Hind Women's Wing State Council Member CV Jameela participated in the conference along with prominent leaders from the leading Socio-cultural organizations actively working in Kuwait.

IWA conducted similar women's conferences earlier with distinguished guests like Sara Joseph, Justice Sridevi and Deepa Nishanth. The women's conference was a benchmark for women's conferences in Kuwait, said the leaders. IWA President Mahbooba Anees, General Secretary Asha Doulath, Treasurer Sabeena Razak, Assistant program convener Samiya Faisal, Vice Presidents Warda Anwar, Najma Shareef and Media Convener Simi Akbar attended the press conference.

Anil K Nambiar (Amrita Tv), SaleemKottayil (Media one), Hikmath (Kairali Kuwait), Krishnan Kadalundi (Veekshanam), NijasKasim (Vibjyor), Sathar-Kunnil (E jalakam), Aslam (Gulf Madyamam), Abdulla Vadakara (Deepika Daily), HabeebMuttichur (Midline), SunojNambiar (Indians Kuwait) and RejiBasker (colours of Kuwait) were among the media personnels who attended the press meet.



A photo from the event.



A flyer of the exhibition.

AUK to collaborate

CAP exhibitions to display Arab world's 'visual culture'

KUWAIT CITY, May 8: The Contemporary Art Platform (CAP) will hold four exhibitions: 'Hundred Best Arabic Posters,' 'Voices from the Occupation: The Unearthing of Memory & History of Storytelling,' 'I Am Every Woman' and 'An Oasis in the Desert of my Soul,' which will open from May 9.

'Hundred Best Arabic Posters', a dynamic platform that aims at documenting the Arab world's visual culture through selecting and highlighting the best Arabic posters of the region. This is the fourth round of the best Arabic posters competition. All submissions will be showcased at the exhibition.

'Voices from the Occupation: The Unearthing of Memory & History through Storytelling', a collaborative exhibition with The American University of Kuwait seeking to document the personal histories of individuals who lived in Kuwait, and lived through various personal experiences and public events. In this exhibition, snippets of recorded interviews from the project's archives are showcased; the personal stories of narrators who witnessed the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait are shared, accompanied by visuals that represent different aspects of the narrators' lives.

'I Am Every Woman', capturing the depth and versatility of female nature and emotions- from selfless love, mystical intuition to internal harmony and joy. In every woman, there lives a little girl, a powerful goddess, a graceful coquette, a loving mother and even a dignified



A photo of the artwork

huntress. My paintings are reflections of my own different states at various periods of my life, yet they are also expressions of every woman's fluid transformation as she discovers and plays with the natural powers of her feminine essence.

'An Oasis in the Desert of my Soul', a joint exhibition for poet Dina Bseisu & Tunisian-Swiss calligrapher Abderrazak Hamouda. A connection between the artist's letters and the poet's reflections and how they embrace one single Arab identity through the lens of diverse cultures and personal experiences. This heartfelt unique work of art reflects the fusion of the pen and the word. Abderrazak innovatively finds ways to represent the depth of Dina's poetry in beautiful calligraphic forms.

CBK allocates issuance of bonds

The Central Bank of Kuwait announced on Monday the allocation of issuance of bonds and tawarruq valued at KD 320 mln (about USD 1.05 billion).

In a statement carried by Kuwait News Agency (KUNA), the bank said that the value of the first issuance amounted to KD 160 mln (about USD 528 mln) for three months with a return rate of 4.250 percent.

The value of the second issuance amounted to KD 160 mln for six months with a return rate of 4.375 percent.

On May 1, the Central Bank of Kuwait announced the allocation of issuing bonds and securitization of 200 million Kuwaiti Dinars (about USD 660 million) for three months term. (KUNA)

German industrial sector suffers 3.4 decline in March

The German Federal Statistics Office announced Monday a significant and unexpected decline in performance of the industrial sector, the very backbone of Europe's largest economy.

According to the Wiesbaden-based office, production in industry decreased by 3.4 percent in last March compared to preceding February.

This development, stated the office was unexpected as it comes after a period of rejuvenation during months of January and

February.

The office did not attribute much significance to the one-month decrease compared to the performance of the first quarter as a whole, however, the German Commerce and Industry Chamber considered this development a significant blow to German economy.

The chamber mentioned that these numbers indicate a recession-threatened economy rather than the sought after stability. Stability of energy prices is not sufficient

to enhance disrupted global economy conditions, nor can it address demands on German industries, expounded the Chamber.

The federal ministry of economy had recently raised economic growth data for this current year from 0.2 percent to 0.4 percent.

The German economy is weathering the toll of Ukraine-Russia crisis as it struggles to ensure reasonably priced energy supply. (KUNA)

Market Movements

08-05-2023

	Change	Closing pts		Change	Closing pts
EGYPT	-	EGX 30	+2.37	17,642.97	
UAE	-	DFM	-0.01	3,582.84	
JAPAN	-	Nikkei	-0.71	28,949.88	
PAKISTAN	-	KSE 100	-0.98	41,829.49	
PHILIPPINES	-	PSEi	-1.27	6,600.74	
SAUDI	-	Tadawul	-0.26	11,256.39	

Business

Democrats and Republicans at loggerheads

Yellen: 'No good options' if Congress fails to act on debt

WASHINGTON, May 8, (AP): Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said Sunday that there are "no good options" for the United States to avoid an economic "calamity" if Congress fails to raise the nation's borrowing limit of \$31.381 trillion in the coming weeks. She did not rule out President Joe Biden bypassing lawmakers and acting on his own to try to avert a first-ever federal default.

Her comments added even more urgency to a high-stakes meeting Tues-

day between Biden and congressional leaders from both parties.

Democrats and Republicans are at loggerheads over whether the debt limit should even be the subject of negotiation. GOP lawmakers, led by House Speaker Kevin McCarthy of California, are demanding spending cuts in return for raising the borrowing limit, while Biden has said the threat of default shouldn't be used as leverage in budget talks.

Yellen, interviewed on ABC's "This

Week," painted a dire picture of what might happen if the borrowing limit is not increased before the Treasury Department runs out of what it calls "extraordinary measures" to operate under the current cap. That time, she said, is expected to come in early June, perhaps as soon as June 1.

"Whether it's defaulting on interest payments that are due on the debt or payments due for Social Security recipients or Medicare providers, we would simply not have enough cash to

meet all of our obligations," she said. "And it's widely agreed that financial and economic chaos would ensue."

An increase in the debt limit would not authorize new federal spending. It would only allow borrowing to pay for what Congress has already approved.

Biden's White House meeting with McCarthy, House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries, D-N.Y., Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., and Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., will be the first

substantive talks between Biden and McCarthy in months.

House Republicans on April 26 passed a bill that would raise the debt limit but impose significant federal spending cuts. But those cuts are unlikely to win the support of all Republicans in the Democratic-controlled Senate, and Biden has said he will only negotiate about government spending once Congress takes the risk of default off the table.

Arizona Sen. Kyrsten Sinema, an

independent who left the Democratic Party in December, encouraged Biden and McCarthy to meet each other half way.

"There's not going to be just a simple clean debt limit - the votes don't exist for that," she told CBS's "Face the Nation." "So the sooner these two guys get in the room and listen to what the other one needs, the more likely they are to solve this challenge and protect the full faith and credit of the United States of America."



Currency traders watch computer monitors near the screens showing the Korean Securities Dealers Automated Quotations (KOSDAQ), left, and the foreign exchange rates at a foreign exchange dealing room in Seoul, South Korea, Monday, May 8, 2023. Asian shares were mostly higher Monday after a widespread rally on Wall Street partly spurred by Apple's report of better profit than expected. (AP)

WS drifts as banks stabilize; Asian shares mostly higher

S&P 500 0.1% lower in afternoon trading

NEW YORK, May 8, (AP): Wall Street is drifting Monday ahead of a week full of reports on some of the market's biggest worries, including how stubbornly high inflation remains across the economy.

The S&P 500 was 0.1% lower in afternoon trading, coming off its worst week in nearly two months. The Dow Jones Industrial Average was down by 93 points, or 0.3%, at 33,580, as of 12:57 p.m. Eastern time, while the Nasdaq composite was less than 0.1% lower.

Besides a strong reading on U.S. jobs, which calmed worries about a possible recession but raised concerns about high inflation, last week was dominated by fears about smaller and mid-sized banks. They were stabilizing Monday.

PacWest Bancorp rose 2.7% to recover some of its steep 43% plunge last week. It said on Friday night that it's cutting its dividend to help it build its financial strength. Several other smaller- and mid-sized banks also rose. Western Alliance Bancorp was 1.4% higher after drifting down from a bigger morning gain.

They've been under heavy pressure as Wall Street hunts for the next weak link following the failures of three U.S. banks since March. Weighed down by much higher interest rates, banks are scrambling to assure Wall Street their deposits are secure and not at threat of seeing a sudden exodus, similar to the runs that toppled Silicon Valley Bank and others.

The larger concern for markets is that all the turmoil for banks could cause them to pull back on their lending. That in turn could mean businesses get fewer opportunities to grow and households face more financial pressure, raising the risk of a recession that many investors already see as highly likely.

The Federal Reserve later on Monday will offer more details on the banking system when it releases the results of its quarterly survey of sen-



A currency trader stands near the screens at a foreign exchange dealing room in Seoul, South Korea, Monday, May 8, 2023. Asian shares were mostly higher Monday after a widespread rally on Wall Street partly spurred by Apple's report of better profit than expected. (AP)

ior loan officers. It will show whether banks are indeed making it tougher for borrowers to get loans.

Weighing down on Wall Street were stocks of companies that turned in worse results for the latest quarter than expected.

Tyson Foods tumbled 15.5% after it reported a loss, instead of the profit that analysts had forecast. Its revenue also fell short of expectations.

Catalent dropped 26.3% after it delayed the release of its results for the latest quarter. The company said it had found some "potential non-cash adjustments" related to one of its facilities in Bloomington, Indiana, which needs more time to review.

So far this earnings reporting season, the trend has been to beat analysts' forecasts. Apple was last week's highlight, and its better-than-expected report helped the market immensely because its stock is Wall Street's largest and packs the most weight on the S&P 500 and other indexes.

Six Flags Entertainment jumped 21% Monday after it reported a loss

that wasn't as bad as analysts expected. It also said attendance was improving.

Expectations were broadly quite low, though, given high interest rates and a slowing economy. Like Apple, companies across the S&P 500 are on track to report a drop in profit for the latest quarter versus a year earlier. Nearly 80% of companies in the index have reported, and they're on pace for a 2.2% decline, versus expectations for a 6.7% drop, according to FactSet.

In an encouraging signal, more companies than usual have been offering forecasts for upcoming results above Wall Street's expectations. The ratio of such pre-announcements is at its strongest level in two years, equity strategist Savita Subramanian said in a BofA Global Research report, and analysts expect earnings growth to resume in the third quarter of this year.

That's helped to steady stocks despite all the worries about much higher interest rates. The S&P 500 has been roughly churning in place since early April. It hasn't had a weekly gain or loss of at least 1% since March, its

longest stretch in nearly two years, said Chris Larkin, managing director, trading and investing, at E-Trade from Morgan Stanley.

In Tokyo, the Nikkei 225 shed 0.6% to 28,981.63.

Reopening after a weeklong holiday, Hong Kong's Hang Seng index added 0.7% to 20,195.37 and the Shanghai Composite index surged 1.7% to 3,392.26. South Korea's KOSPI climbed 0.6% to 2,514.58, while the S&P/ASX 200 gained 0.7% in Sydney to 7,271.60.

Friday on Wall Street, the S&P 500 jumped 1.8% to 4,136.25, though it still turned in a modest loss for the week that was its worst in nearly two months.

The next possible weak link in the system and driving down stock prices for those seen at risk of a sudden exodus by customers. Several of the hardest hit recovered some of their steep losses Friday, with PacWest Bancorp, soaring 81.7%. It was still down 43.3% for the week. Western Alliance Bancorp, jumped 49.2% to trim its loss last week to 26.8%.

The U.S. banking industry's turmoil has raised uncertainty. If banks pull back on their lending, that could act like rate increases and further stifle the economy.

Apple, the most valuable stock on Wall Street, gained 4.7% on Friday, helping to lift the S&P 500. The iPhone maker's earnings and revenue fell but still exceeded analysts' muted expectations.

Oil

In other trading Monday, benchmark U.S. crude oil picked up 42 cents to \$71.76 per barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. It jumped \$2.78 on Friday to \$71.34 per barrel.

Brent crude, the international pricing standard, added 41 cents to \$75.71 per barrel.

Currencies

The dollar slipped to 134.75 Japanese yen from 134.88 yen. The euro rose to \$1.1043 from \$1.1023.

Compensations to passengers eyed

US to propose new rules for airline cancellations, delays

WASHINGTON, May 8, (AP): The Biden administration is working on new regulations that would require airlines to compensate passengers and cover their meals and hotel rooms if they are stranded for reasons within the airline's control.

The White House said President Joe Biden and Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg would announce the start of the rulemaking process Monday.

The rulemaking pledge continues a push by the Democratic administration to require airlines to improve customer service, and it comes just weeks before the start of the peak summer travel season.

The aim of the rules would be, for the first time, to require airlines to pay compensation beyond a ticket refund and to cover expenses that consumers incur, including rebooking on another flight, if the airline causes a cancellation or significant delay.

"When an airline causes a flight cancellation or delay, passengers should not foot the bill," Buttigieg said in a statement.

Airline-caused cancellations include flights scrubbed for mechanical issues with the plane or lack of a crew.

Airlines for America, which represents the biggest carriers, said in a statement that airlines have no incentive to delay or cancel flights. The trade group said more than half of cancellations in 2022 and 2023 have been caused by "extreme weather" or air traffic control outages.

"Carriers have taken responsibility for challenges within their control and continue working diligently to improve operational reliability," including hiring more workers and reducing their schedules, the group said.

After the pandemic hit, airlines paid tens of thousands of workers to quit or retire early, but they have added about 118,000 workers since November 2020 and now have 5% more employees than before the pandemic, according to Transportation Department figures.

There is no certainty if or when the Transportation Department might pub-

lish final rules around new compensation for travelers. The rule-making process can take months or years.

Currently, when an airline cancels a flight for any reason, consumers can demand a refund of the unused part of their ticket and certain extras that they might have paid to the airline, such as fees for checking a bag or getting a seat assignment. Airlines often try to persuade consumers to accept a travel voucher instead of a refund.

After widespread flight disruptions last summer, the Transportation Department posted an online dashboard that was designed to pressure the airlines to improve customer service. The site lets consumers check each airline's policy on refunds and compensation when flights are canceled or delayed.

Each of the 10 largest U.S. airlines quickly promised to provide cash or vouchers for meals when a cancellation forces passengers to wait at least three hours for another flight. Nine of the 10 - all but Frontier Airlines - also promised to pay for accommodations for passengers stranded overnight.

Questions arose again around reimbursing consumers for out-of-pocket costs after Southwest Airlines canceled nearly 17,000 flights during a December meltdown in service. The Transportation and Justice departments are investigating whether Southwest scheduled more flights than it realistically could handle.

The Transportation Department says it is working with the airlines to reduce cancellations and delays this summer, when air travel could exceed pre-coronavirus pandemic records.

A report last month from the congressional Government Accountability Office blamed airlines for a surge in cancellations as air travel began to recover in 2021 and early 2022. The Federal Aviation Administration has also created disruptions due to technology outages and staffing shortages. The FAA recently encouraged airlines to reduce flights to and from major New York airports this summer because it doesn't have enough air traffic controllers at a key facility.

Al Tijari earns KD 25.1 million for Q1 '23; Mezzan posts KD 6.1m in profits

KUWAIT CITY, May 8, (KUNA): Commercial Bank of Kuwait on Monday announced a net profit of KD 25.1 million for the quarter that ended 31 March 2023 compared to KD 22.2 million for the same period of last year.

The growth of KD 2.8 million in net profit during current quarter was mainly attributed to increase in all business segments and high interest rate regime.

Robust regulatory ratios comfortably exceeded the Central Banks statutory requirements, Capital adequacy ratio is at 17.2%. Similarly, liquidity coverage ratio 295.7%, net stable funding ratio 109.8% and Leverage ratio 11.2%, all are well above the target set by the Central Bank.

The Bank's strong capital base and stable liquidity is reflected in these ratios, which offer a robust capital and liquidity buffer to facilitate potential loan growth in alignment with the Bank's strategic plan.

Sheikh Ahmad Duaij Al Sabah, the Banks Chairman, is pleased to present the Banks results for the first quarter of 2023 that are much higher than same period of the year 2022, due to growth in net interest income, fees and commission income and FX income. Loans and advances grew by KD 200 million compared to Q1 2022.

Sheikh Ahmad added that the Bank is equipped with the latest technology and digital services, enabling it to continue its successful digital transformation journey by improving its digital platforms and introducing new customer services.

Also

KUWAIT CITY: Mezzan Holding Company announced on Monday profits of KD 6.1 million in the first quarter of this year, 57 percent over the same period last year.

Mezzan Holding Vice Chairman **Mohammad Al Wazzan** said in a press release that the company was able to adapt to the market changing conditions and supply chains challenges, with revenues amounting KD 79 million in the first quarter of 2023, an increase of 8.9 percent over the first quarter of 2022.

He added that the first quarter witnessed a remarkable improvement in the company's performance, as its earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortization (EBITD) increased by KD 8.3 million.

Mezzan Holding, established in 1940, is one of the largest manufacturers and distributors of food, beverage, fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG) and pharmaceutical products in the Gulf, operating in six regional countries with more than 8,800 employees.

Warba makes KD 4.293m operating profit in Q1

KD 4.592 billion total assets, an increase of 9.3%.

KUWAIT CITY, May 8: Warba Bank announced its financial results for the three-month period ending on March 31, 2023, as the results showed that the Bank achieved net profits amounting to KD 4.293 million, equivalent to 2.08 fils earnings per share.

The Bank said in a press statement that the total assets as at the end of March 2023 grew by 9.3% to reach KD 4.592 billion, compared to KD 4.201 billion at the end of 2022, while the total financing portfolio amounted to KD 3.302 billion, compared to KD 3.130 billion as of December 31, 2022. The total accounts of depositors amounted to KD 2.785 billion at the end of the first quarter of this year 2023, compared to KD 2.674 billion as at the end of December 2022. Total operating revenues for the first quarter amounted to KD 55.7 million, with a growth rate of 70%, compared to the same period last year.

The balance of investment in sukuk for the first quarter of 2023 amounted to KD 315.6 million, an increase of KD 30.7 million, or 11% from the end of the previous year 2022. The total shareholders' equity amounted to KD 299.2 million at the end of March 2023. The capital adequacy ratio reached 16.1%, exceeding the minimum required by the regulatory authorities, a ratio that confirms the solid financial position of "Warba".

Commenting on the Bank's quarterly financial results, Chairman of the Board at Warba Bank Hamad M. Al-Sayer said during the first quarter of 2023, we recorded strong quarterly earnings and continued to build on the operating momentum we recorded during the past year, to continue achieving another quarter of strong earnings driven by continued growth across all of our business segments. Al-Sayer added that Warba Bank's performance is based on strong risk management and excellent credit quality, as the non-performing financing ratio improved to 0.9% compared to 1.1% at the end of 2022, and the coverage ratio increased to 317% compared to



Hamad Al Sayer - Chariman

275% at the end of 2022. In addition, financing provisions drop to 0.2% in March 2023 compared to 0.8% at the end of the first quarter of 2022.

The Bank's investments in talent and technology also support achieving stronger revenue growth, improving the efficiency of "Warba" operations, and maximizing returns for its shareholders. Al-Sayer stressed that the Bank witnessed good growth in deposits and financing portfolio, stressing that the Bank recorded strong performance in the strategic pillars that included banking services in addition to wealth management.

He pointed out that the continuous improvement in the operating environment will be reflected on the growth of the corporate financing rate, while the Bank's fee and commission revenues have increased, benefiting from the strong relationships that the Bank has established with its clients over many years. Al-Sayer added that the Bank continues to make further progress in its strategic plans and agenda towards digital transformation and in its technological projects, the latest of which was the launch of Warba Digital World within the augmented reality

technology, which was well received by the participants, in addition to what Warba Bank offers of an integrated package of advanced products and services to meet the requirements of the youth segment.

He stressed that "Warba" enters the second quarter of this year 2023, with stronger momentum thanks to its strong financial position that enables it to achieve added and long-term value for its clients, shareholders and employees.

Al-Sayer stressed that "Warba" will continue in 2023 to invest heavily in its employees and work to unleash their potential for additional dimensions, and focus on its approach based on providing the best products and services that its clients need in the midst of this changing world, while accelerating its commitments aimed at achieving strategic growth for a sustainable future.

He noted that Warba Bank prioritizes attracting and employing distinguished national talents, providing them with all elements of success, and paving the way for developing their abilities and skills. "Warba" presents the ideal model in this field, and is keen to support and promote national



Shaheen Al Ghanem CEO

employment, and its prominent role in supporting the development process in the country, which comes within the process of developing human capital at the top of its priorities and success factors, pointing out that the recruitment and development of Kuwaiti youth is a continuous strategy in "Warba", strengthened by growth opportunities and its large market share, which requires providing national manpower and the preparation of successive generations capable of continuing to achieve the foundations of banking success.

Al-Sayer expressed his conviction that the current stage in the banking process is the most important and sensitive since the inception of banks, due to the large scale of challenges associated with it, the most important of which is that the opportunity for banking services in its traditional concept of structuring and delivery is diminishing, pointing out that "Warba"'s strategy in adopting digital performance and modern technology is based on following the latest developments in the world in this field, extrapolating the latest and most important aspirations of clients, and then creating services and products that are

appropriate to their needs. Thus, technical development contributes to the improvement of products, the quality of service, the addition of new innovative dimensions, and the reduction of expenses.

For his part, Chief Executive Officer of Warba Bank Shaheen Hamad Al-Ghanem said that Warba Bank achieved strong financial results in the first quarter of this year 2023, thanks to the flexibility of its diversified business model, and its prudent management of both risks and capital, in addition to strategic investments in technology and in preparing and attracting the best talents, stressing that efforts are focused on maintaining the growth of the profit rate, the return on credit, and other financial indicators, applying the best banking practices, and fully adhering to the regulatory and Sharia controls and instructions, and the determinants of optimal operation, while continuing to improve the standard of operational efficiency, and benefiting from modern developments, most notably new digital financial technologies, and reliable administrative and organizational plans, especially those concerned with enhancing employee efficiency, innovation, operational

quality and customer care, achieving the interest of shareholders and depositors, and developing their investment returns in a manner that enhances their trust in "Warba".

Al-Ghanem said that thanks to the disciplined implementation of our strategy, we are steadily moving towards implementing our digital agenda and launching more products and services that enhance our strong position in the Kuwaiti banking sector.

He continued, saying: "The Bank's strategy has led to continuous improvement in the growth of budget numbers, strengthening the quality of assets, and enhancing the capital position," explaining that Warba Bank continues to invest intensively in its innovative banking offers and the development of its employees to ensure sustainable and profitable growth.

Al-Ghanem stated that by focusing on clients-centric products, partnerships and strategic initiatives, we are strengthening our core business, and ensuring that we stand on solid foundations to take advantage of available opportunities and develop them in the future. Al-Ghanem expressed his pride in the inclusion of Warba Bank in the list of the 50 largest banks in the Middle East in terms of market value for the year 2023 from Forbes magazine, which is truly a strong testimony confirming the Bank's great position in the Kuwaiti banking sector.

Al-Ghanem explained that, during the first quarter of this year 2023, Warba Bank implemented many initiatives to simplify and enhance its services and raise customer satisfaction levels.

Al-Ghanem stressed that social responsibility is deeply rooted in the operational spirit of Warba Bank, as the Bank always cooperates with non-profit institutions, government agencies, and groups interested in community service to make a positive impact in all areas in which it operates. The Bank provided its support and sponsorship for many sports and entertainment events during the first quarter of this year 2023. Al-Ghanem stated that Warba Bank continues its support for the comprehensive banking awareness campaign "Let's Be Aware" at the initiative of the Central Bank of Kuwait and the Kuwait Banking Association, and uses all its channels to promote financial awareness to highlight the rights and duties of clients and how to protect themselves with regard to dealing with banking products and services.

Social media app says it is not dead

Facebook has 3 bln users and many of them are old

Facebook says it is not dead. Facebook also wants you to know that it is not just for "old people," as young people have been saying for years.

Now, with the biggest thorn in its side - TikTok - facing heightened government scrutiny amid growing tensions between the U.S. and China, Facebook could, perhaps, position itself as a viable, domestic-bred alternative.

There's just one problem: young adults like Devin Walsh have moved on.

"I don't even remember the last time I logged in. It must have been years ago," said Walsh, 24, who lives in Manhattan and works in public relations.

Instead, she checks Instagram, which is also owned by Facebook parent company Meta, about five or six times a day. Then there's TikTok, of course, where she spends about an hour each day scrolling, letting the algorithm find things "I didn't even know I was interested in."

Walsh can't imagine a world in which Facebook, which she joined when she was in 6th grade, becomes a regular part of her life again.

"It's the branding, right? When I think of Facebook, I think ugh, like cheugy, older people, like parents posting pictures of their kids, random status updates and also people fighting about political issues," Walsh said, using the Gen Z term for things that are definitely not cool.

The once-cool social media platform born before the iPhone is approaching two decades in existence. For those who came of age around the time Mark Zuckerberg launched thefacebook.com from his Harvard dorm room in 2004, it's been inextricably baked into daily life - even if it's somewhat faded into the background over the years.

Facebook faces a particularly odd challenge. Today, 3 billion people check it each month. That's more than a third of the world's population. And 2 billion log in every day. Yet it still finds itself in a battle for relevancy, and its future, after two decades of existence.

For younger generations - those who signed up in middle school, or those who are now in middle school, it's decidedly not the place to be. Without this trend-setting demographic, Facebook, still the main source of revenue for parent company Meta, risks fading into the background - utilitarian but boring, like email.

It wasn't always like this. For nearly a decade, Facebook was the place to be, the cultural touchstone, the thing constantly referenced in daily conversations and late-night TV, its founding even the subject of a Hollywood movie. Rival MySpace, which launched only a year earlier, quickly became outdated as the cool kids flocked to Facebook. It didn't help MySpace's fate that it was sold to stodgy old News Corp. in 2005.

"It was this weird combination...no one knew how technology worked,

but in order to have a MySpace, we all needed to become mini coders. It was so stressful," said Moira Gaynor, 28. "Maybe that's even why Facebook took off. Because compared to MySpace it was this beautiful, integrated, wonderful engagement area that we didn't have before and we really craved after struggling with MySpace for so long."

Positioning himself a visionary, Zuckerberg refused to sell Facebook and pushed his company through the mobile revolution. While some rivals emerged - remember Orkut? - they generally petered out as Facebook soared, seemingly unstoppable despite scandals over user privacy and a failure to address hate speech and misinformation adequately. It reached a billion daily users in 2015.

Debra Aho Williamson, an analyst with Insider Intelligence who's followed Facebook since its early days, notes that the site's younger users have been dwindling but doesn't see Facebook going anywhere, at least not any time soon.

"The fact that we are talking about Facebook being 20 years old, I think that is a testament of what Mark developed when he was in college. It's pretty incredible," she said. "It is still a very powerful platform around the world."

AOL was once powerful too, but its user base has aged and now an aol.com email address is little more than a punchline in a joke about technologically illiterate people of a certain age.

Tom Alison, who serves as the head of Facebook (Zuckerberg's title is now Meta CEO), sounded optimistic when he outlined the platform's plans to lure in young adults in an interview with The Associated Press.

"We used to have a team at Facebook that was focused on younger cohorts, or maybe there was a project or two that was dedicated to coming up with new ideas," Alison said. "And about two years ago we said no - our entire product line needs to change and evolve and adapt to the needs of the young adults."

He calls it the era of "social discovery." "It's very much motivated by what we see the next generation wanting from social media. The simple way that I like to describe it is we want Facebook to be the place where you can connect with the people you know, the people you want to know and the people that you should know," Alison said.

Artificial intelligence is central to this plan. Just as TikTok uses its AI algorithm to show people videos they didn't know they wanted to see Facebook is hoping to harness its powerful technology to win back the hearts and eyeballs of young adults. Reels, the TikTok-like videos Facebook and Instagram users are bombarded with when they log into both apps, are also key. And, of course, private messaging.



From left: Sen. Tom Cotton, R-Ark., Sen. Christopher Murphy, D-Conn., Sen. Katie Britt, R-Ala., and Sen. Brian Schatz, D-Hawaii, who have introduced legislation to protect kids on social media, are interviewed by The Associated Press, Wednesday, May 3, 2023, on Capitol Hill in Washington. (AP)

What's under consideration

Congress eyes new rules for tech companies

WASHINGTON, May 8, (AP) - Most Democrats and Republicans agree that the federal government should better regulate the biggest technology companies, particularly social media platforms. But there is very little consensus on how it should be done.

Should TikTok be banned? Should younger children be kept off social media? Can the government make sure private information is secure? What about brand new artificial intelligence interfaces? Or should users be regulating themselves, leaving the government out of it?

Tech regulation is gathering momentum on Capitol Hill as concerns skyrocket about China's ownership of TikTok and as parents navigating a post-pandemic mental health crisis have grown increasingly worried about what their children are seeing online. Lawmakers have introduced a slew of bipartisan bills, boosting hopes of compromise. But any effort to regulate the mammoth industry would face major obstacles as technology companies have fought interference.

Noting that many young people are struggling, President Joe Biden said in his February State of the Union speech that "it's time" to pass bipartisan legislation to impose stricter limits on the collection of personal data and ban targeted advertising to children.

"We must finally hold social media companies accountable for the experiment they are running on our children for profit," Biden said.

Tech companies have aggressively fought any federal interference, and they have operated for decades now without strict federal oversight, making any new rules or guidelines that much more complicated.

A look at some of the areas of potential regulation:

Children's safety

Several House and Senate bills would try to make social media, and the internet in general, safer for children who will inevitably be online. Lawmakers cite numerous examples of teenagers who have taken their own lives after cyberbullying or died engaging in dangerous behavior encouraged on social media.

In the Senate, at least two competing bills are focused on children's online safety. Legislation by Sens. Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn., and Marsha Blackburn, R-Tenn., approved by the Senate Commerce Committee last year would require social media companies to be more transparent about their operations and enable child safety settings by default. Minors would have the option to disable addictive product features and algorithms that push cer-

tain content.

The idea, the senators say, is that platforms should be "safe by design." The legislation, which Blumenthal and Blackburn reintroduced last week, would also obligate social media companies to prevent certain dangers to minors - including promotion of suicide, disordered eating, substance abuse, sexual exploitation and other illegal behaviors.

A second bill introduced last month by four senators - Democratic Sens. Brian Schatz of Hawaii and Chris Murphy of Connecticut and Republican Sens. Tom Cotton of Arkansas and Katie Britt of Alabama - would take a more aggressive approach, prohibiting children under the age of 13 from using social media platforms and requiring parental consent for teenagers. It would also prohibit the companies from recommending content through algorithms for users under the age of 18.

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., has not weighed in on specific legislation but told reporters last week, "I believe we need some kind of child protections" on the internet.

Critics of the bills, including some civil rights groups and advocacy groups aligned with tech companies, say the proposals could threaten teens' online privacy and prevent them from accessing content that could help them,

such as resources for those considering suicide or grappling with their sexual and gender identity.

"Lawmakers should focus on educating and empowering families to control their online experience," said Carl Szabo of NetChoice, a group aligned with Meta, TikTok, Google and Amazon, among other companies.

Data privacy

Biden's State of the Union remarks appeared to be a nod toward legislation by Sens. Ed Markey, D-Mass., and Bill Cassidy, R-La., that would expand child privacy protections online, prohibiting companies from collecting personal data from younger teenagers and banning targeted advertising to children and teens. The bill, also reintroduced last week, would create a so-called "eraser button" allowing parents and kids to eliminate personal data, when possible.

A broader House effort would attempt to give adults as well as children more control over their data with what lawmakers call a "national privacy standard." Legislation that passed the House Energy and Commerce Committee with wide bipartisan support last year would try to minimize data collected and make it illegal to target ads to children, usurping state laws that have tried to put privacy restrictions in place.

INVESTMENT STRATEGY & RESEARCH

KAMCO INVEST

Natural Gas Market Update May 2023

Natural gas prices fall to pre Russia-Ukraine conflict levels...

Natural gas prices have been plummeting since the start of the year. Moderate winter demand and negative sentiment towards industrial consumption fueled by the US Federal Reserve's aggressive rate increases adversely impacted demand outlook. The monthly World Bank Natural Gas Index dropped 59.1% in the last six months, underscoring the commodity's weaker global sentiment.

Last winter, European countries for the first time faced winter gas shortages as a result of Russia-Ukraine conflict crisis. However, the winter gas shortages have not materialized for European countries because of mild winter and EU states securing alternatives to Russian gas. This eased negative gas market sentiment towards European countries' ability to obtain alternative gas supplies thereby pushing down global natural gas prices.

According to the World Bank, US natural gas prices for April-2023 decreased by 66.9% y-o-y to reach USD 2.16/MMBtu. Similarly, European natural gas prices for April-2023 declined by 58.0% y-o-y averaging the month at USD 13.52/MMBtu, while average monthly Japanese LNG price for April-2023 witnessed 3.4% y-o-y drop at USD 15.73/MMBtu. Natural gas and LNG spot prices in Europe and Asia witnessed three consecutive monthly declines between December-2022 to March-2023. In March-2023, NEA LNG spot prices averaged USD13.35/MMBtu while the TTF average monthly spot prices hovered around USD13.87/MMBtu.

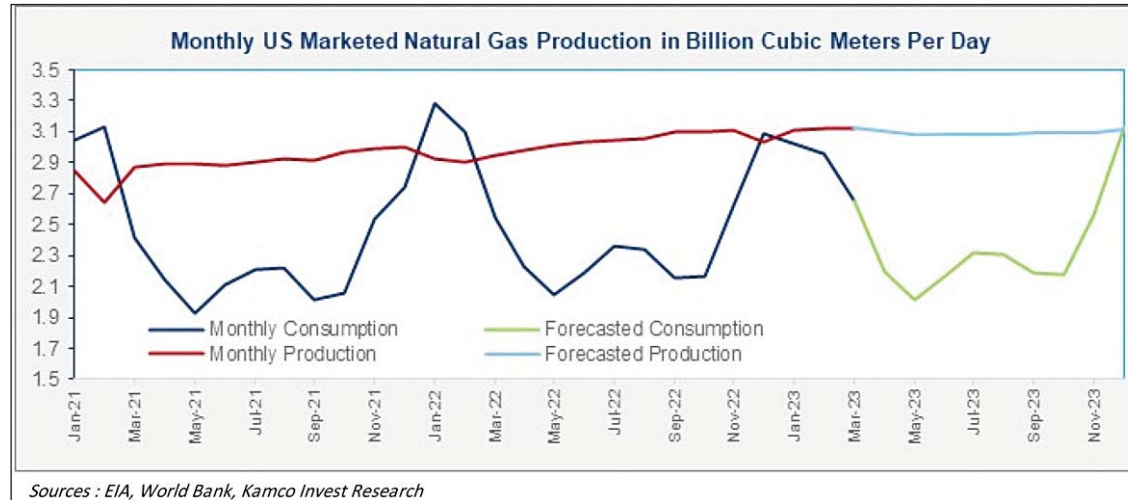
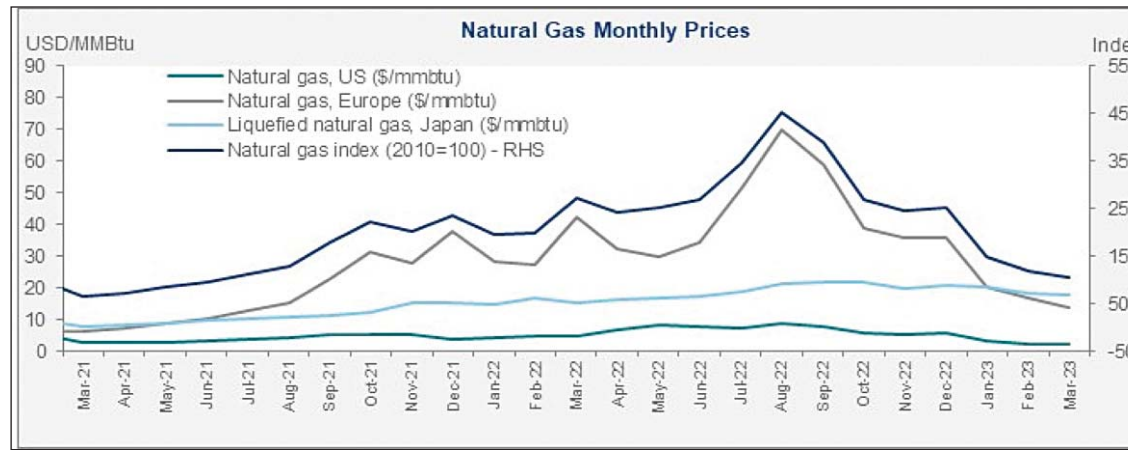
In terms of consumption, global natural gas consumption is forecasted to grow around 1% in 2023 driven by the US, China, and certain emerging markets especially in the Asia Pacific region, according to Gas Exporting Countries Forum. EU gas consumption has been falling throughout the last three months of the year. EU gas consumption fell 19% y-o-y to 40 bcm in January-2023 mainly driven by above average temperatures which impacted demand for heating in the residential sector as well as gas consumption reduction measures.

Comparatively, US gas consumption declined by 8.8% y-o-y mainly due to deceleration of industrial activity as well as warmer temperatures. For February-2023, EU gas consumption recorded a marginal drop of 0.1% y-o-y to reach 38.5 bcm while natural gas consumption in the US witnessed a 5.9% y-o-y decrease during the same period. The European Union's natural gas consumption continued to decrease during March-2023 as the bloc recorded a 13% y-o-y decline to 34.1 bcm.

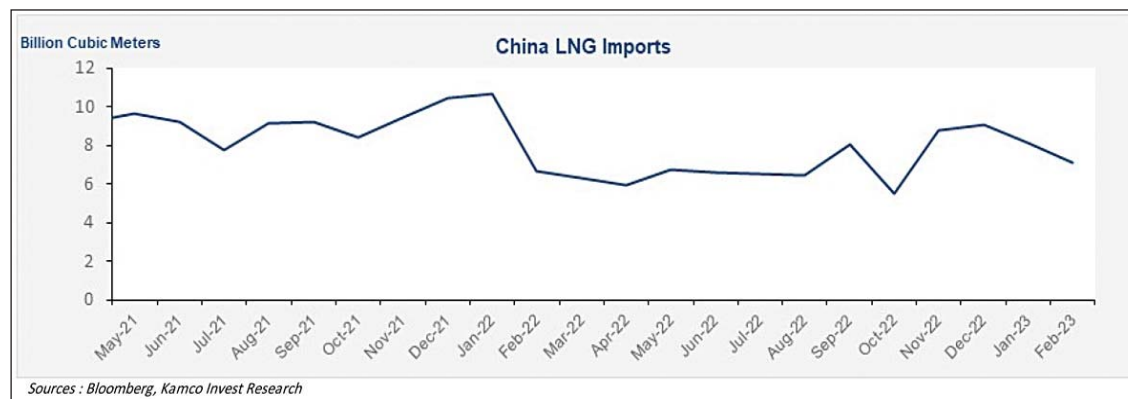
As natural gas demand in Europe and the US waned, China's natural gas consumption has increased since the start of 2023. In February-2023 natural gas demand in China increased by 4.6% y-o-y to 31 bcm, mainly due to the relaxation of the pandemic measures and the bite of colder than expected weather. China's natural gas demand is expected to grow by 19 bcm or 5.1% in 2023 to reach 386.5 bcm, according to the CNPC Research Institute. Growth in China's industrial sector especially by the steel and glass is forecasted to drive the lion's share of the country's consumption growth during the year. Japan's gas consumption dropped by 1.9% y-o-y during March-2023 to 9 bcm, mostly driven by the bite of energy saving policies and the impact of mild winter weather. In contrast, India's natural gas consumption recorded 4.2% y-o-y growth in both January-2023 and February-2023 to reach 4.5 bcm in February-2023. Growth in India's natural gas consumption was mainly propped up by the revival of the country's fertilizer sector which witnessed a 31% y-o-y increase in February-2023.

In its latest short-term energy outlook, the US EIA forecasted that US natural gas consumption in 2023 would reach 1.3% lower than the amount of consumption in 2022 at 87.37 bcf/d (12.47 bcm/d) reflecting expected consumption decline in the industrial sector.

Global natural gas supply is expected to rise by



	2021	2022	2023-e	2024-e
Marketed Production	94.57	98.11	100.87	101.58
Consumption	83.90	88.53	87.37	86.12
LNG Exports	9.76	10.59	12.08	12.73
Henry Hub Spot Prices (\$/thousand cubic feet)	3.91	6.42	2.94	3.71



4% in 2023 according to the IEA. Although this production increase will not be evenly distributed in the world's gas producing regions. Overall, global gas supply is forecasted to remain tight in 2023 weighed down by expected lower Russian pipeline natural gas supplies to Europe. Moreover, global LNG supply is

set to grow by only 20 bcm or 4% in 2023 mainly driven by an increase in US LNG exports. However, the growth in global LNG supplies are expected to fall short to fill the expected reduction of Russia's natural gas pipeline supplies to Europe.

According to the IEA, Russia's pipeline natural gas supply to OECD Europe dropped by an anticipated 70% (50bcm) y-o-y during 2022/2023 heating season. The share of OECD Europe's natural gas consumption that was met by Russian pipeline natural gas supplies plummeted to below 10% during the 2022/2023 heating season. As a result, this drastic reduction of Russian gas to Europe remains a major uncertainty for global gas supplies in 2023. Already, Europe's net LNG imports increased by 8% y-o-y for the first three months of 2023 as European countries hustle to take advantage of low gas prices not seen since August 2021. Overall, global LNG supplies rose by 2% y-o-y in Q1-2023 primarily driven by the Middle East and Asia Pacific regions which witnessed 2% and 5.5% y-o-y growth in their LNG production, according to the IEA. Qatar, Indonesia, Australia, and Malaysia were the main countries that contributed to the growth in global LNG supplies during the period. Comparatively, the US witnessed a 4% y-o-y decline in its LNG exports during Q1-2023 mainly attributed to the delayed and only limited restart of the Freeport LNG facility which was out of service for eight months due to fire damage in the past year.

The EIA also estimates that US natural gas marketed production to reach 100.87 bcf/d (2.86bcm/d) in 2023 witnessing an increase of 2.8% from 2022 to 2023. In terms of sectors, the EIA forecasts that the US natural gas share of electricity generation to remain flat at 39% for both 2022 and 2023 and then drop to 37% in 2024. In terms of natural gas prices in the US, the EIA forecasts the Henry Hub natural gas spot price to average at around USD 2.94/MMBtu during 2023 and then increase to USD 3.71/MMBtu in 2024 due to expected rising demand LNG exports as Freeport LNG export terminal returns to full operations combined with expected rise in natural gas consumption in the Electric Power sector.

The GCC region has been one of the key regions eyed by the EU countries for LNG supplies in their bid to diversify away from Russian energy. State oil companies in the region such as UAE's flagship state-owned energy company ADNOC are taking advantage of the Russia-Ukraine conflict to expand their natural gas production and simultaneously increase their investment commitments to target Europe's gas market. ADNOC (Abu Dhabi National Oil Company) is currently constructing additional LNG capacity and increasing its international natural gas production footprint in other states in the Middle East region. The company has announced it has taken a strategic stake in Israel's offshore gas company NewMed Energy. Moreover, the energy company has also reported that its subsidiary, ADNOC Logistics & Services deployed five new Very Large Gas Carriers (VLGCs) which were built in China. The ships are intended to ship LPG further developing ADNOC's ability to meet the growing worldwide gas demand. On the other hand, Qatar regained its position as the world's largest LNG exporter in 2022 according to Gas Exporting Countries Forum (GECF). Qatar has exported an estimated 80 million tonnes of LNG during 2022 followed by Australia 179 million tonnes), USA 178 million tonnes) and Russia 132 million tonnes).

In 2022, the US was the primary driver in global LNG exports with other gas exporting countries such as Qatar, Russia and Norway contributing little to the rise in LNG exports. In contrast to 2022 things look different so far. In March-2023, Qatar was the driving force of LNG exports in GECF member states. Total growth in LNG exports by GECF states rose 6.7% (1.11 million tonnes) y-o-y during March-2023 to reach 17.66 million tonnes. Qatar represented 0.62 million tonnes or 56% of the total LNG export increases by the GECF member countries. The rise in Qatar's LNG exports was attributed to lower maintenance activity in 2023 as compared to 2022.

Media and distributors invited

GWM holds event to put on display new energy strategy

BAODING, China, May 8, (AP): Recently, GWM held a global media experience event on its new energy products in Baoding, China. The event demonstrated its commitment to electrification as well as its brand value of "Go With More" with series of new energy intelligent products to be launched.

GWM invited hundreds of media and distributors from over 60 countries and regions to experience its intelligent new energy vehicles and technologies. GWM's testing ground, as one of the most advanced automotive testing grounds in Asia, boasts hundreds of high-standard pavements, including high-speed rings, dynamic squares, and test hills. This allows the testing ground to fulfill the rigorous testing requirements for all types of vehicle models.

GWM provided media and distributors with models from different sub-brands, including HAVAL's new medium new energy SUV, HAVAL H6 PHEV, GWM TANK500 PHEV, POER Shanghai HEV, and ORA 07.

GWM HAVAL's new medium new energy SUV (internal code B07, dubbed "Fierce Dragon MAX in Chinese market"), is launched as a new energy intelligent family SUV. With a wheelbase of 2.8 meters, the model features a superb space expansion capability, which can fulfill users' needs for family trips. In terms of power, it is GWM's first model equipped with Hi4 (Hybrid intelligent 4WD) technology, reaching a balance between high performance and low fuel consumption.

ORA 07, positioned as a super-streamlined pure electric coupe, boasts a fastback design. The super stream-lined

aesthetic design showcases a modernized gracefulness combining sporty and fashionable styles. As for the interior details, a great number of eco-friendly materials are used for the model, bringing an impressive coziness and a sense of delicacy to the driver and riders.

After the activity, the media and distributors hailed GWM's technological innovation, product quality, and vehicle performance. A participant commented that GWM has showcased exceptional performance in the development of electrification and the activity showed the strength and advanced technologies of GWM.

The event presented a unique opportunity to manifest GWM's dedication to electrification and sustainable development in the automotive industry. GWM has been rolling out new technologies and models, marking its full-speed advancement toward the new energy transformation. This is aligned with its R&D concept of "precise input in pursuit of industry leadership".

Last year, GWM invested CNY 12.181 billion in R&D, up 34.34% on a year-on-year basis. By 2025, GWM's total R&D expense will exceed CNY 100 billion. These figures are a testament to GWM's persistence in driving intelligent new energy transformation through innovative technology.

GWM has established a comprehensive matrix of new energy products with varied power forms, including HEV, PHEV, and EV, across the globe. Moving forward, GWM remains dedicated to updating its line of new energy products worldwide with the vision of providing users with even more high-quality and intelligent options.

Elite Robots to globally premiere new CS620 Cobot with 20 kg payload/5A power output

Trade shows in the US, Asia and Europe to host event

NAGOYA, Japan, May 8, (AP): Elite Robots, a leading supplier of collaborative robots, will unveil CS620, its new 20 kg payload model, at a series of upcoming trade shows in United States (Eastec, Massachusetts, May 16-18), Vietnam (Vietnam Industrial and Manufacturing Fair, Binh Duong, June 21-23) and Germany (Automatica, Munich, June 27-30).

CS620 is going to enrich Elite Robots' next generation of collaborative robots, the CS series. Released in 2022, this cutting-edge cobot range has joined the EC series and stands out for its remarkable ease of use, safety, and expandability.

The CS series is based on an advanced software infrastructure, with an intuitive and

modular graphical user interface that supports the Python scripting language and self-developed plug-ins, offering a high level of customization for programmers.

With 24 digital I/O (8 configurable) and 4 configurable tool I/O, and extensive connectivity options, it provides the highest expandability, while safety is ensured by compliance with ISO 10218-1 and ISO 13849-1 standards.

The CS series currently includes models with payloads of 3, 6, and 12 kg, and CS620 further expands its already wide range of applications with a 20 kg payload and 1800 mm reach.

Perfect

Combined with an industry-leading speed of up to 3.9 m/s (that exceeds counterparts by up to 35%), it is perfect for effectively performing medium-to-high payload tasks such as handling heavy parts or palletizing.

Equipped with a dual tool

connector (8-pin and 4-pin), the CS620 is the world's first cobot to supply end effectors through a 5A tool I/O.

This ensures that the cobot always has enough power to perform demanding tasks, such as machine tending and welding, and to handle multiple devices simultaneously.

Like all other models in the CS series, the CS620 robotic arm features an IP65 degree of protection, upgradeable to IP68. The ISO class 5 clean-rooms also make the CS Series suitable for industries that require the highest level of hygiene, such as pharmaceutical and electronics.

Elite Robots will premiere the CS620 in the United States at the upcoming EASTEC Tradeshow (May 16-18, Building 1, Booth No. 1648). This will be followed by the Vietnam Industrial & Manufacturing Fair (June 21-23, booth 71), concluding with Automatica (June 27-30, Hall B4, booth 311).

The company will also par-

ticipate through its local partners at the following Asian trade shows: INTERMACH 2023 in Bangkok, Thailand (May 10-13, Booth J12 - local partner: TWT Enterprise) and Metaltech 2023 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia (May 31-June 3, Hall 2, Level 1, Booth No. 3180 - local partner: FLEXACON Automation System).

Elite Robots is a global automation solutions provider specializing in collaborative robots.

Reputation

With over 10,000 units deployed across more than 30 countries, the company has quickly gained a growing reputation in the robotic industry thanks to the reliability, ease of use, and cost-effectiveness of its cobots.

Businesses of all sizes, including Fortune 500 companies, have placed their trust in Elite Robots.

For more information, visit eliterobots.com, and follow Elite Robots on LinkedIn.



Photos from the event.



Partnership promotes bicycle culture for health, active lifestyle

ALSAYER joins 'Ride For Wellness' campaign in Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, May 8: To engage community towards a positive change to achieve endurance, health, and wellness overall, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed by ALSAYER Holding, Kuwait Cycling Club (KCC), Corniche Cycling Club (CCC), and Velo to highlight the potential value of cycling as a sport and healthy mobility option for our society.

The signing ceremony was attended by Mubarak Al Sayer CEO ALSAYER Holding and Othman Al Mutairi Board Member KCC, in the presence of Bengt Kurt Schultz COO ALSAYER, Munir Salous Senior GM of ALSAYER Car

Rental, Nehad Al Haj Ali GM ALSAYER Corporate Excellence, Pierre Moreau GM CCC, Mohamad Al Ateeqi CEO VELO, and Eissa Al Gabandi of KCC.

This alliance brings a value-added partnership by all parties with specific roles to play. For the coming three months until July 2023, around 30 professional cyclists ride 120 KM on every Friday morning at Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah causeway, and to invite new cycling enthusiasts to join, learn, and practice riding techniques.

According to Mubarak Al Sayer "It's a gear change that such collaborations address health, culture, and lo-

cal communities, from a perspective of UN Sustainable Development Goals '3 - Good Health and Wellbeing and 17 - Partnership for the Goals. We are glad to collaborate with experts internally and externally to address areas of opportunities at the same time the concerns of society."

Munir Salous, of ALSAYER Car Rental explained "we will be providing a car with a trained driver to ensure safety and comfort of cyclists for a confident ride. It's crucial as a campaign car we are alert on the road and Car Rental team is highly excited to deliver it based on our history of service excellence".

Othman Al Mutairi of KCC praises this opportunity to attract, train and refine professional cycling experts to build qualified teams who can make cycling a sports career. It will also encourage people of all ages and fitness levels to take up cycling and lead a healthier lifestyle.

Pierre Moreau at CCC informed "we engage professional riders with training and high safety & security gadgets. It is essential to avoid any fatality on the road and they are trained on the dos and don'ts for a safe trip every time. We aim this partnership to make cycling a popular sport".



The stars of the 'Abracadabra' play

'Largest theatrical production in 2023'

Burgan Bank marks success of play 'Abracadabra' held during Eid Al-Fitr

KUWAIT CITY, May 8: Burgan Bank is celebrating the success of its sponsorship of the play, "Abracadabra", which kicked off on the first day of Eid Al-Fitr on the stage of the Handball Hall in Daiya. As one of the most prominent theatrical productions for children in 2023, the play featured educational messages for children, in addition to singing and big performances.

engaging educational messages targeting both children and youth. The messages highlighted that ambition has no limits and that dreams can come true through persistence and determination. By supporting this theatrical work, we continue our mission to encourage and develop the capabilities of the Kuwaiti youth, and highlight their talents."

Interaction

Ms. Al-Najadah added: "As a continuation of the success of our Ramadan riddle-themed advertising campaign, which achieved 14 million engagements and views on TV and the Bank's various social media platforms, we resumed our series of entertaining videos that required solving mysteries about the 'Abracadabra' play. The videos generated high interaction among our customers and the fans of the theatrical performers, as we held special prize draws that enabled each winner to receive four VIP tickets to attend the play and enjoy a unique, exceptional experience both during the show and behind the scenes with their favorite stars."

The "Abracadabra" play was produced by Trend Production, in cooperation with playwright Mariam Naseer, and was directed by artist Bader Al Shuaibi. It starred Yaqoub Abdullah, Bader Al Shuaibi, Nasser Abbas, Farah Al-Sarraf, Fahad Al-Saleh, and Nasser Al Dossary. The music was composed and arranged by Rabie Al Saydawi and harmonized by Bader Al Shuaibi and Hadi Khamis, while the lyrics were written by Mohammad Al Sheridah. Abdul Rahman Al-Yahyouth, meanwhile, acted as the general supervisor of the play.

Ms. Hessa Hussain Al-Najadah, Senior Manager of Corporate and CSR Communications at Burgan Bank, said: "We are proud of the remarkable success of the 'Abracadabra' play and are equally pleased with the public interaction it achieved. The play featured singing and theatrical performances with distinctive,

ous sponsorship and trust in our talent. Our partnership with the Bank allowed us to witness their great support for young talent and readiness to invest in theater for children, which has long been spearheaded by Kuwait. Through the play, we sought to simplify the dialogue with an easy and familiar approach that resonated with both children and their parents. We also applied great efforts to attract children's attention through the decorations, the distinctive shape of the theater, the change in lighting, and the various performances that reflected the events and sequence of the play in a simplified manner. Due to the unprecedented public turnout since the inauguration of the play, the show was extended to reach three showings per day during the Eid Al-Fitr period and beyond. We hope to continue this partnership and cooperation with Burgan Bank in the future with more successful works of art."

In conclusion, Burgan Bank would like to thank all those who contributed to the success of this play, including the producing company, the writer, the director and all the stars. Burgan also thanks Senyar Group, a strategic partner, for its efforts to highlight and support this theatrical production.

Oud Fashion Talks on May 11 & 12

Gulf Bank 'provides' Kuwaiti fashion designers a global reach opportunity

KUWAIT CITY, May 8: Gulf Bank, in partnership with Oud - one of the region's leading fashion and beauty Platform - is launching the second edition of Oud Fashion Talks Conference on May 11, 2023. The conference is set to happen across two days, at the Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Cultural Centre, and is sponsored by Tamdeen Group, Maserati Kuwait, Yeprem Jewelry and Beidoun Company.



A photo from the event.

The second edition of the conference will witness the participation of international and Kuwaiti experts and designers, as well as a large number of investors and journalists specialized in fashion - who will discuss all issues related to the fashion industry both locally and globally, through discussion sessions and workshops.

The first day will witness five panel discussions with the participation of a group of experts and specialists, on a number of topics such as: The Evolution of Luxury Retail in the GCC, Making Kuwaiti Fashion Firms an Attractive Investment, Shaping a New Era of Arab Style for the New Generation, Creating the Future of Fashion and Fashion in the Middle East. In addition to a special session on Gulf Bank's role in supporting SMEs, designers and young talents in the fashion industry.

Gulf Bank

During the press conference held yesterday, the Deputy General Manager of Corporate Communications at the Gulf, Mr. Ahmed Al-Amir said: "Last year, we have witnessed great success and interaction from various parties interested in the fashion industry in the first edition of the Oud Fashion Talk conference. And this year, we were keen to develop the second edition, to further support young designers and help provide them with a global reach opportunity."

He added: "During the first edition, we sought to provide a platform that brings together young designers in Kuwait, with international experts and designers, due to the importance of this sector and the increasing interest and demand from entrepreneurs and youth in Kuwait. The aim was to help them gain new experiences and showcase their talents and innovations to international designers and investors. This also helps them follow the latest developments in the fashion industry."

Furthermore, Al-Amir indicated that the first edition shed light on sustainable fashion and has already received a great deal of attention due to the presence of a large number of experts. Additionally, he stated that the Bank was keen to develop the second edition by adding interactive workshops that create the necessary environment for young Kuwaiti designers to interact with international experts.

Al-Amir mentioned that Gulf Bank will spare no effort in financing entrepreneurs in the fashion industry who meet the SMEs criteria, in order to help them grow and expand. He also referred to Gulf Bank's role in support-

ing various initiatives, aimed at consolidating the principles of sustainability in society; especially those related to youth, entrepreneurs and SMEs. Al-Amir noted that such initiatives aid in enhancing the Bank's role in developing the national economy and support Gulf Bank's 2025 strategy and Kuwait Vision 2035.

He further mentioned that this conference is a wonderful opportunity to delve deeper into the fashion industry and highlight the challenges facing young designers and creators in Kuwait, and across the region, as it also encourages investment in local creators and designers.

Al-Amir stressed that Kuwait is full of creative youth who possess creative energies and ideas in various fields - and that it is Gulf Bank's role to provide the required support to develop their talents and ideas and help them achieve their dreams and lead their future.

In his final statement, Al-Amir expressed his best wishes to the participants in the conference - including young designers, international experts and the general public - in achieving the desired goals, so that the second edition will be a strong addition to build on next year.

Tamdeen Group

For his part, the General Manager of Marketing at Tamdeen Group, Mr. Muath Al-Roumi, said: "We are pleased to be a supporter and partner of the second edition Oud Fashion Talk conference, which adopts the concept of sustainability in fashion world locally and regionally, and creates links between local talents and international designers."

He added, "During the last few years, we have seen significant growth in the fashion industry in Kuwait and across the region; hence, we would like to take this opportunity to create a space to learn more about these designers and influencers in this industry, and the most prominent challenges they face."

He continued: "As part of our social responsibility, we, at Tamdeen Group, support such initiatives and participate

in this dialogue. We support forming institutional and community partnerships to develop the concept of sustainable fashion; with the aim of consolidating this culture amongst members of society, and to bring about the required change in this sector."

Maserati Kuwait

On this occasion, the Public Relations Manager at Maserati Kuwait, Alaa Al-Failakawi, commented saying: "We are pleased with your participation today in announcing the launch of the second edition of Oud Fashion Talks, and in expressing our belief in the importance of community participation to support young talents in Kuwait."

He added: These sponsorships reflect our vision and social responsibility towards society by investing in youth, which helps build a creative generation and leads to positive, long-term results for the benefit of youth and the national economy."

Oud.com

The Creative Director of Oud.com, Asma Al-Mulla, expressed her thoughts stating: "The first edition of the conference was a unique experience in Kuwait to support local designers and Kuwaiti talents in the fashion industry. The second edition will be the most prominent event that brings together the most important personalities, fashion experts and major influencers in the fashion world locally and globally. The conference will discuss the idea of sustainable fashion, and the challenges faced by creators in the fashion industry across the region."

She added: "We believe in the necessity of connecting Kuwait with the world of fashion at a global level, in order to shed light on the challenges facing the fashion industry and creativity in the region. Hence, we were keen to introduce Kuwaiti creators and designers, and encourage their talents - as Kuwait has become the center for art and creativity, especially in the field of fashion. And with the changes and openness that the region is witnessing, the time has come to unveil new initiatives to keep pace with the latest developments in the fashion industry."

Fun activities and valuable prizes

Zain invites fans to H.H. the Amir's Cup Final at Jaber Al Ahmad Int'l Stadium

KUWAIT CITY, May 8: Zain, Kuwait's leading digital service provider, invites fans and football enthusiasts to attend the special event to be held on Tuesday, 9 May at 3:30 PM, to celebrate H.H. the Amir's Cup Final at Jaber Al Ahmad International Stadium. The event, which comes in partnership with the Kuwait Football Association, the Ministry of Information, and the Public Authority for Sports, celebrates the final match of the most cherished local cup between title holders Kazima SC and Kuwait SC.

The special celebration is set to

kick-off with many fun activities and competitions in the Fans Zone, opposite Gate 6, at Jaber Al Ahmad International Stadium. The packed program

includes up to 200 valuable prizes like smartphones, smart watches, and headphones, along with special prizes for social media followers. The event

will also feature a unique performance prior to the match start whistle.

Zain participates in H.H. the Amir's Cup as part of the company's official sponsorship of the KFA's competitions for the 2022-2026 seasons, including the Kuwaiti Premier League (Dawri Zain), the First Division League, H.H. the Crown Prince's Cup, and the KFA Cup (Zain Cup).

As the Official Sponsor, Zain offers KD 50,000 worth of prizes for athletes and fans per season, which is the biggest prize pool ever to be distributed in the Kuwaiti League's history. By

dedicating cash prizes for athletes, the company seeks to encourage players to pursue excellence and elevate the league's performance.

Zain's role centers around three main areas; supporting athletes with cash prizes, launching social events and interacting with fans at stadiums, and an all-new surprise: the first-ever Fantasy Football League in Kuwaiti football's history. These contributions and more go in line with the KFA's vision to further enrich the local football scene, given that it is the most beloved sports among Kuwaitis.

Zain firmly believe that the private sector has a vital and active role in developing the local sports and youth sectors, and it makes this belief a reality by sponsoring and supporting some of the biggest sports programs in the nation.

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





The GHC recommends four pillars for improving and sustaining the adoption of appropriate hygiene practices to reduce the global burden of common infectious diseases.

A new report launched recently by the Global Hygiene Council (GHC), an independent council of leading experts in hygiene and infection prevention, calls for urgent action to prioritise hygiene in home and community settings in pandemic preparedness plans beyond COVID-19. The GHC urges governments and policymakers to elevate hygiene's importance to protect millions of lives.

As the COVID-19 pandemic shows signs of ending, the 'silent pandemic' of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is ongoing, with AMR recognised as one of the largest threats to human

health. In 2019, 4.95 million deaths were associated with AMR, highlighting its status as one of the largest threats to human health. Without action, this figure could rise to 10 million deaths annually by 2050. The GHC report, titled Making Hygiene Matter, highlights the importance of home and community hygiene in mitigating the incidence of infections and prevalence of AMR.

The report identifies four pillars for change, including sustaining hygiene awareness in everyday settings, reducing the need for antibiotics through hygiene practices, recognising the economic benefits of effective hygiene, and driving behaviour

change to establish strong hygiene habits.

Microbiologist and Professor Emerita, Simmons University, Boston, USA & GHC Chair, Elizabeth Scott comments: "The new report from the GHC is timely and provides tangible hygiene recommendations for change. We need to act now to safeguard public health - good hygiene is one of the most cost effective, easy and accessible solutions to prevent infections and save lives."

The beneficial secondary effects of increased hygiene practices during the COVID-19 pandemic are now evident.

The Conversation

By Nichole Barta
Gonzaga University

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

Stress is stopping students from enrolling in and staying in college.

According to a recent survey of over 12,000 adults in the US, 63% of those 18 to 24 who had never attended college said emotional stress is one of the biggest reasons why they are not currently enrolled.

And among those who do enroll, 41% thought about withdrawing for at least one term, the survey found, and more than half of the time, emotional stress was the main reason. The figure was even higher - 69% - among those pursuing a bachelor's degree.

While there may be some aspects of college that are inherently stressful, there are also steps that college instructors can take to make the experience less stressful than it would otherwise be. I know this because as director of the Center for Teaching & Advising at Gonzaga University, I teach faculty how to design their courses in ways that use practical, evidence-based strategies to reduce student stress. I believe these strategies have broad application for colleges and universities in general. Here are four practices that I often recommend:

The language used in a course syllabus affects how approachable and supportive students perceive their instructor to be. By offering outside help and using a friendly tone in syllabuses, faculty can positively influence students' decisions to seek assistance.

Penalties

Conversely, using punitive language, such as threatening penalties for not completing certain tasks, may create an impression that an instructor is unapproachable. This could in turn discourage students from seeking help when needed.

I encourage instructors to review their syllabuses and modify the tone to be as friendly and supportive as possible.

An overwhelming workload is a significant cause of stress, as students may feel unable to effectively manage the demands of their coursework. To prevent overwhelming students, instructors could assign a workload aligned with the course credit hours. One rule of thumb is to only assign two hours of homework for every hour of class. While this guideline is flexible, instructors could consider the potential burden on students if they exceed it. If every instructor assigns more homework than the guideline recommends, it could become a significant challenge for students to keep up with their coursework.

Rice University offers a workload calculator that faculty can use to estimate the workload in their courses based on the different kinds of work they assign. I recommend that instruc-

tors use this resource to evaluate the time their readings and assignments take. If the quantity or complexity of assignments becomes too much for students, instructors can make adjustments to ensure a more manageable load.

Student anxiety increases when it is unclear how they will be assessed.

A rubric is a scoring tool that spells out criteria and levels of performance for an assignment. Its purpose is to make clear how student work will be judged. Students have reported that rubrics help them identify key aspects of an assignment. This in turn reduces uncertainty about what qualifies as quality work. Rubrics also allow students to monitor their progress and make changes before they turn in an assignment. Additionally, rubrics are perceived as a way to make grades more transparent and fair.

Rubrics should be provided well ahead of the assessment deadline so that students can use them to judge their own work. This allows students to ask for clarification about the criteria. Rubrics also provide a way for instructors to efficiently provide feedback. I recommend that instructors require students to use rubrics as part of an assignment to reflect on their understanding of the expectations.

Effective

Test anxiety is a common stress response for college students. Around 40% of students report experiencing some degree of test anxiety, with 15% indicating levels that are debilitating during assessments. Research has revealed that test anxiety may stem from students' realization that they haven't learned the course material, rather than their ability to recall information during exams.

I recommend instructors integrate effective study skills into their courses and provide guidance to help students apply these methods. Strategies that have been shown to improve academic performance and reduce anxiety include:

- Pre-lecture quizzes: online quizzes taken before a lecture to help students identify concepts they don't understand. Instructors can also detect patterns in misunderstandings.
- How-to-learn assignments: assignments that teach students effective study strategies.
- Frequent in-class quizzes with real-time feedback: in-class quizzes that are not graded, taken multiple times throughout a course, and provide students with immediate feedback on how well they understand the material. This strategy can help students identify any misconceptions and correct them quickly.

The stress of college may never be eliminated, but it can be alleviated. It just requires a modest amount of effort to design courses in evidence-based ways that make the experience of going to college less stressful than it would otherwise be. (AP)

'Use friendly tone in syllabuses'

Is college stressing you out? It could be your courses

Seres and Nestlé present study data at DDW meeting

Study shows positive result for therapy against recurrent C. difficile infection

CAMBRIDGE, Mass., May 8: Seres Therapeutics, Inc (Nasdaq: MCRB), and Nestlé Health Science have announced the presentation of data from the Phase 3 open-label ECOSPOR IV study evaluating VOWST (fecal microbiota spores, live-brpk) - the first and only US Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-approved orally administered microbiota-based therapeutic for the prevention of recurrence in adults with recurrent C. difficile (rCDI) following antibacterial treatment. VOWST is not indicated for the treatment of CDI. These data are shared as oral and poster presentations at the 2023 Digestive Disease Week® (DDW 2023) Annual Meeting being held in Chicago, Ill. on May 6-9.

"In the ECOSPOR IV Phase 3 open-label single-arm study, high clinical response rates were achieved at week 8 and continued into week 24 following VOWST treatment, regardless of the number of prior CDI infections," said Lisa von Moltke, M.D., Chief Medical Officer at Seres. "These results add to previous positive data from the randomized, placebo-controlled ECOSPOR III Phase 3 study. We are excited that VOWST is now approved by the FDA for the prevention of recurrent CDI following antibacterial treatment for rCDI, including in first recurrence patients."

Approved

On April 26, VOWST was approved by the FDA for the prevention of recurrence of C. difficile infection in adults with rCDI following antibacterial treatment. The FDA approval of VOWST was supported by a robust Phase 3 development program that included the ECOSPOR III (NCT03183128) and ECOSPOR IV (NCT03183141) studies. VOWST was previously granted Breakthrough Therapy and Orphan Drug Designations by the FDA.

The data being presented at DDW include safety and efficacy data from the ECOSPOR IV study, an open-label extension study of ECOSPOR III and an open-label program evaluating VOWST in 263 adults with rCDI. ECOSPOR IV study enrolled participants with characteristics commonly seen in routine clinical practice. ECOSPOR IV results were published in JAMA Network Open in February 2023. Results from ECOSPOR III were published in the New England Journal of Medicine in January 2022.

In the overall population of the ECOSPOR IV study (n=263), 91.3%

of participants who received VOWST achieved clinical response at Week 8 and 94.6% of those participants maintained a response through Week 24. In participants with a first recurrence, response rates to VOWST were similar to the overall population with 93.5% of participants achieving a clinical response at Week 8 and 94.4% of those participants maintaining the response through Week 24. Further, in participants with two or more recurrences, 90.3% achieved a clinical response at Week 8 and 94.6% of those participants maintained that response through Week 24. These response rates were observed through Week 24, regardless of number of prior CDI recurrences.

Study populations included participants with multiple comorbidities. The most common adverse events were

Hope for targeted cancer therapy options

Mythic presents preclinical data on investigational cMET-targeting ADC

WALTHAM, Mass., May 8: Mythic Therapeutics, a clinical-stage biotechnology company focused on the development of next-generation antibody-drug conjugate therapies for the treatment of a wide range of cancers, has announced preclinical data highlighting the potential of MYTX-011, its investigational cMET-targeting ADC, for treating a broader range of cMET+ cancers than other cMET-targeting ADCs in development. These data were presented as a poster at the American Association for Cancer Research Annual Meeting.

"We are excited by the findings of this study, which demonstrate the potential of MYTX-011 to not only expand the use of ADCs to patients who have not been eligible for treatment due to their level of target expression or tumor type, but also increase ADC efficacy as compared to current cMET-targeting ADCs in development," said Gilles Gallant, BPharm, PhD, FOPQ, Chief Development Officer at Mythic Therapeutics. "These data reinforce the continued evaluation of MYTX-

011, not only through our ongoing Phase 1 KisMET-01 clinical trial in NSCLC, where cMET overexpression occurs in up to 70% of cases, but also for patients with other cMET-expressing cancers who are still in need of targeted treatment options."

MYTX-011 was designed using Mythic's FateControl™ platform by introducing an optimized set of mutations into an anti-cMET antibody. This engineering is designed to allow MYTX-011 to bind cMET on the surface of cancer cells and be selectively freed once inside of cancer cells, increasing the delivery of a potent chemotherapy, MMAE, inside of cancer cells.

Efficacy

In this study, the efficacy of MYTX-011 was evaluated on 62 different cancer cell lines grown in vitro, including NSCLC, head and neck, gastric, pancreatic and other cancer types which are known to express cMET. The efficacy of MYTX-011 was also evaluated in mouse models of NSCLC that

expressed moderate and high levels of cMET, as measured by an immunohistochemistry (IHC) test.

MYTX-011 demonstrated higher internalization in cMET+ tumor cells and broader, more potent efficacy, including a greater than 3-fold increase in efficacy in mouse models of NSCLC, as compared to other cMET-targeting ADCs. MYTX-011 also exhibited favorable pharmacokinetics in monkeys including increased half-life, reduced target-mediated drug disposition, and reduced release of free MMAE payload, as compared to other cMET-targeting ADCs. The toxicity profile of MYTX-011 in monkeys was consistent with other vMMAE-based ADCs. No MYTX-011-related clinical toxicities were found, and the only findings included MMAE-related neutropenia and mild bone marrow toxicity, both of which were reversible.

Mythic recently announced that the first subject was dosed with MYTX-011 in its Phase 1 KisMET-01 multi-center, dose escalation and dose expansion clinical trial in subjects with NSCLC.

and is associated with increased morbidity and mortality. CDI has been characterized as an Urgent Health Threat by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). rCDI results in a substantial burden on the healthcare system with the average rCDI-related annual costs per patient at approximately \$43K.

Seres Therapeutics, Inc. (Nasdaq: MCRB) is a commercial-stage company developing novel microbiome therapeutics for serious diseases. Seres' lead program, VOWST™ obtained US FDA approval in April 2023 as the first orally administered microbiota-based therapeutic to prevent recurrence of C. difficile infection (CDI) in adults following antibacterial treatment for recurrent CDI and is being commercialized in collaboration with Nestlé Health Science.

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'Scream VI' wins best movie

Not live, MTV Movie & TV Awards rely on plenty of old clips

NEW YORK, May 8, (AP) — A host-less, pre-taped and muted MTV Movie & TV Awards on Sunday became the first big awards show to air during the screenwriters' strike, offering a commercial-heavy broadcast featuring lots of past recycled live clips.

"Scream VI" won the trophy for best movie, holding back competition from "Avatar: The Way of Water," "Black Panther: Wakanda Forever," "Elvis," "Nope," "Smile" and "Top Gun: Maverick." In a pre-taped response, the killer Ghostface was humble: "To all the fans that voted, you finally answered my question: What's your favorite scary movie?"

"The Last of Us" was crowned best TV show, beating the likes of "Stranger Things," "The White Lotus," "Wednesday" and "Yellowjackets." Pedro Pascal accepted the award and said he and the cast and creators were standing in solidarity with the striking writers.

Tom Cruise took home the best performance in a movie for "Top Gun: Maverick," beating Austin Butler, Florence Pugh, Michael B. Jordan and Keke Palmer. In a pre-taped response, Cruise was seen piloting a jet and thanking the fans, while also plugging his next "Mission: Impossible" film.

Jenna Ortega won best performance in a TV show for "Wednesday," beating Aubrey Plaza, Christina Ricci, Riley Keough, Sadie Sink and Selena Gomez. "Stranger Things" won for best kick-ass cast.

"The Kardashians" won best docu-reality show, the best breakthrough performance went to Joseph Quinn of "Stranger Things," and Pascal won for best hero for "The Last of Us." Pascal also won half the best duo prize with co-star Bella Ramsey.

Best comedic performance went to Adam Sandler, for "Murder Mystery 2," and "Scream VI" won for best fight, with Ghostface again thanking the voters: "It's about time someone finally appreciated my work."

Writers

Host Drew Barrymore had dropped out in solidarity with the Writers Guild of America - later winning best host - and the show's red carpet was rolled up. Faced with a picket from the guild, MTV scrapped the live event entirely.

While Barrymore wasn't there, she left plenty of sponsored bits, one with Cheetos popcorn and another pretending to play younger sister Skipper in the upcoming movie "Barbie." She was also in a commercial for Pluto TV and a spoof of "Wednesday." She kicked off the show reprising her role as Josie Gossie from "Never Been Kissed," trying to smooch several nominees in carefully edited comedic moments.

Jennifer Coolidge received the Comedic Genius Award on tape and

gave a shoutout to striking writers, saying almost all great comedy starts with great writers.

"I stand here before you tonight side by side with my sisters and brothers from the WGA," she said. Coolidge also later won for best frightened performance for "The White Lotus."

"RuPaul's Drag Race All Stars" won for best competition series, and the recipients urged protection for drag acts, while the best kiss award went to Madison Bailey and Rudy Pankow from "Outer Banks." Many awards produced no winner's response.

MTV filled the show with dozens of old clips, like an all-star 2001 performance of "Lady Marmalade," Lizzo belting out her hit "Juice" in 2019 or Rihanna in 2002 singing "Umbrella," as well as other genius award speeches from previous winners like Melissa McCarthy, Kevin Hart and Jack Black. There was also a sneak peek from an upcoming episode of "Yellowjackets" and a clip from "Transformers: Rise of the Beasts." It was sometimes hard to determine what was new and what was old.

"Selena Gomez: My Mind & Me" was named best music documentary, "Come Back Home" in "Purple Hearts" was voted best musical moment, and Taylor Swift's "Carolina" won best song. Elizabeth Olsen in "Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness" was named best villain.

Variety



This image released by Shout! Studios shows Shazad Latif, (left), and Lily James in a scene from 'What's Love Got to Do With It.' (AP)

Film

Film shines warm spotlight on Pakistani culture

James, Latif anchor charming rom-com

By Lindsey Bahr

The romantic comedy may be on the endangered genres list in Hollywood, but thankfully our friends in England have continued to concoct and export enjoyable confections at a steady clip. Earlier this year, we were treated to the delightful "Rye Lane," a vibrant and fresh take on the meet cute that's currently streaming on Hulu. And now we have "What's Love Got to Do With It?" starring Lily James as a documentary filmmaker, Zoe, who turns her lens to the arranged marriage of her childhood friend, Kaz (Shazad Latif).

Within a conventional rom-com package, the ending of which isn't the slightest of mysteries, tropes are subverted, big questions are asked about marriage and love, and a warm spotlight is shined on Pakistani culture. Also Emma Thompson gets to drink and dance and say mildly offensive things to her daughter (James' Zoe) and her best friends next door.

The film, directed by Shekhar Kapur ("Elizabeth"), was written by Jemima Khan, a noted documentary filmmaker and editor at publications like The New Statesman and Vanity Fair. She is also a generally glamorous woman about town who counted Princess Diana among her friends and had a high-profile marriage to Pakistani politician Imran Khan, with whom she shares two children. If not ripped from her own experiences, the film is a thoughtful distillation of her observations about arranged marriages and the common misconception that they are akin to "a medieval chatel swap" or a forced marriage, as Zoe pitches to some bro-executives in an attempt to get the greenlight for her next project.

Zoe is straight from the rom-com playbook: Good at what she does professionally, bad at choosing boyfriends and partners. The filmmakers do give her the dignity of making her own choices and not requiring her to be adorably clumsy as a character trait.

But her mom is getting anxious about the ticking clock and, meanwhile Kaz, who was born in England to Pakistani immigrants, has thrown her for a loop when he decides to go the traditional route and have his parents involved in choosing a life partner who he doesn't meet in person until the wedding. While making the film, she starts to see some benefits in not starting with love but ending with it, especially as she sees some of the "love marriages" around her crumbling under af-

fairs and disappointment. Latif and James have a subtle, but not insignificant, will-they-won't-they chemistry that is fun to follow.

Importantly, the script is self-aware about its "white lens." Also ample time is given to Kaz's mother (Shabana Azmi), who gets her own journey and arc with her children, one of whom is estranged for choosing a love marriage to a Caucasian.

The biggest liability is the film's name, which is a straightforward question about marriage but also a very famous Tina Turner song (which is not used) and name of a 1993 biopic starring Angela Bassett. At the very least, it's a little confusing.

And the conclusion is a kind of shrug, at least when it comes to arranged versus "love marriages." I guess it amounts to something along the lines of "follow your heart" and "don't push people away" but that's the sort of frustratingly vague advice that most have been trying to adhere to all along. The real takeaway, probably, is that no one should be turning to romantic comedies for life advice, just comfort and amusement, which this one has plenty of.

"What's Love Got to Do With It?," a Shout! Studios release in theaters Friday, is rated PG-13 by the Motion Picture Association for "some suggestive material, brief drug material, a sexual reference, strong language." Running time: 108 minutes. Two and a half stars out of four. MPA Definition of PG-13: Parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

Also:

LAS VEGAS: The words "impressive" and "awesome" were common refrains from a group of entertainment reporters who were among the first to see the upcoming DC superhero movie "The Flash."

Warner Bros. screened the film for the first time at CinemaCon recently for theater owners, exhibitors and reporters attending the annual trade show and industry conference.

Reviews are embargoed until a later date - the film, the studio said, is not completely finished - but viewers were able to post reactions on social media as soon as the credits rolled.

Brian Welk of Indiewire wrote that "it played very well," pointing out that there were more than a few screams and gasps in the packed theater.

LOS ANGELES: There is nothing like the promise of a chapter closing to draw people to the movie theater, especially when tied to the Marvel Cinematic Universe. This weekend, "Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 3," which says goodbye to this iteration of the space misfits and its driving creative voice, director **James Gunn**, earned \$114 million in ticket sales from 4,450 locations in North America, according to studio estimates Sunday.

Internationally, where the film opened in 52 territories including **China**, "Vol. 3" earned \$168 million, giving it a \$282 million global debut.

Domestically, it's both an impressive sum for any movie and slightly less than what we've come to expect from a Marvel opening. Last year on the same weekend, "Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness," riding on the success of "Spider-Man: No Way Home," raked in \$187.4 million in its first three days in North America. And in November, "Black Panther: Wakanda Forever" also opened over \$181.3 million.

But things have come back to earth this year, at least by high-flying superhero standards. "Ant-Man and the Wasp: Quantumania" debuted just over \$106 million on its way to \$474 million worldwide. At rival studio DC/Warner Bros., "Shazam! Fury of the Gods" only made \$133.4 million total. The question on some analysts' minds this weekend is whether it's because of the specific character or a bigger issue of "superhero fatigue."

"Guardians Vol. 3" bumped "The Super Mario Bros. Movie" out of first place after four weekends atop the charts and kicked off the summer movie season, a vital and usually profitable corridor for Hollywood that runs through Labor Day and often accounts for 40% of a year's box office.

For Comscore senior media analyst **Paul Dergarabedian**, it's still a solid opening for the summer season, which he said is poised to deliver the most robust profits since 2019.

The next major superhero mov-

ie on the schedule is DC's "The Flash," set for June 16, which has its own flurry of intrigue around it because of star **Ezra Miller's** legal and personal troubles.

"Guardians Vol. 3" sees the return of actors **Chris Pratt**, **Zoe Saldana**, **Dave Bautista**, **Karen Gillan**, **Pom Klementieff**, **Bradley Cooper** and **Vin**



Saldana

Pratt

Diesel. Reviews have been mostly positive, but a little more divided than previous installments. And it remains difficult to compare a pre-pandemic opening such as Vol. 2's \$146 million debut (May 2017) with a post-pandemic one.

"Vol. 3" is Gunn's last Guardians/Marvel movie as he turns his focus to leading DC Studios.

"The Super Mario Bros. Movie" added \$18.6 million in its fifth weekend to take second place, bringing its domestic total to \$518.1 million. Globally, it has now surpassed \$1.1 billion.

Third place went to "Evil Dead Rise" with \$5.7 million, and in fourth place was "Are You There ...? It's Me, Margaret," with \$3.4

million - both were holdovers.

Studios left the weekend mostly clear for the superhero behemoth, but Screen Gems and Sony did debut their new **Priyanka Chopra Jonas** romantic comedy "Love Again" (featuring **Celine Dion** and some new songs) in 2703 locations. It made a modest \$2.4 million to take the fifth place spot. (AP)

People & Places

Music

Celebrate Ukraine

Set to host, UK taking 'Eurovision' seriously

LONDON, May 8, (AP) — There's nothing like nearly winning to wake people up. And the UK's second-place position at last year's Eurovision Song Contest has helped kickstart widespread enthusiasm for 2023's edition — taking place in Liverpool this week.

Sam Ryder's "Space Man" restored the nation's interest last year with his smiling enthusiasm, soaring vocals and great song despite coming on the heels of James Newman in 2021, who received no points at all, and 2019's Michael Rice, who also came in last.

Normally the winner of the previous contest would host the next one, but that winner was Ukraine, and the ongoing war there has made that impossible. So the UK, as runnerup, is hosting instead.



Ora

Singer **Rita Ora** says Eurovision — the semifinals begin Tuesday and the final is Saturday — has received another lease on life in the UK.

"The Eurovision is suddenly just (becoming) huge again and I'm really here for it," she said.

She's performing during the interval at a semifinal in Liverpool, but her connection to the event goes back much further:

Ora was lined up to represent the UK in 2009, but decided not to.

After all, until Ryder, competing in Eurovision was no guarantee of a sparkling career for a Brit.

The last time the UK won the contest was 1997, thanks to Katrina and the Waves and "Love Shine A Light."

The intervening years have seen five last-place results for the UK.

That could add up to a lot of pressure on this year's UK entry, Mae Muller, but she seems to welcome it.

"The energy feels different," Muller said.

The London singer-songwriter is representing the UK with "I Wrote a Song," and says Ryder helped change the way people inside and outside the UK view its participation in Eurovision.

Disheartened

"I feel like with the UK, we have the tendency to be quite like self-deprecating," Muller said. "We don't take ourselves too seriously and I feel like that might have been like half our problem maybe with Eurovision. And I feel like now we're like, 'Let's take this seriously. Like, let's do this.'"

Liverpool singer Rebecca Ferguson is performing in her hometown alongside Ukrainian singer Aloysha in a duet during the semifinals interval.

Ferguson thinks that the UK had become disheartened with the scores, but that being "so close" in 2022 changed things.

"The UK were like, yeah, OK then ... I can get into this," she said. "We like winning, basically."

Ukrainian rock star Julia Sanina, the frontwoman of The Hardkiss, is one of this year's Eurovision hosts and a lifelong fan of the competition.

She agrees that the UK is taking it more seriously in 2023 "because of Sam Ryder and his musicality." But in addition to last year's success, there is added enthusiasm because Liverpool is hosting on behalf of Ukraine.

The Ukrainian entry Kalush Orchestra won in 2022. When the UK agreed to host in Ukraine's place, it promised to celebrate Ukraine's culture and people in every way.

Sanina says she has felt that warm welcome in Liverpool.

"Beautiful city, super friendly people. And what was heartwarming for me that I saw lots of Ukrainian flags and Ukrainian blue and yellow colors all over the city," she said.

After all, the UK does like a party. "Eurovision, in my culture and when I grew up, was everything," Ora said.

The Kosovo-born singer grew up with Albanian parents in London.

"It was like getting around the TV, all the music, like, 'Everyone shut up,' when there's like a song on. There's drinks flowing, everyone's having a good time because it's like, it was almost like rooting for your country or like where you're from," she added. "It's just a cool way of everyone getting together," she said.

Since 1956, the Eurovision Song Contest has provided catchy tunes, cheesy pop and bombastic anthems — but also some eye-catching fashion.

One of the most memorable competitors in Eurovision history was heavy metal band Lordi, who donned monster prosthetics and won for Finland in 2006 with "Hard Rock Hallelujah."

"It was a blessed victory on so many levels," said lead singer Mr. Lordi (aka Tomi Petteri Putaansuu), "and of course it was the first time that some really pretty people won."

Also:

MOSCOW: The commuter trains that take wearily workers out of Moscow every day can be difficult — a long and slow trip in close quarters with strangers, some of them drinking alcohol or sprawled sleeping across the seats.

But a few days a week, riders might get a lift when **Oksana** comes aboard to soothe them with her violin artistry. Classics, jazz, Russian folk music and children's songs all flow as she glides her bow across the strings.

It's not just her repertoire that raises the passengers' spirits, but her instruments themselves. She makes her own violins from kits and decorates them with intricate, colorful paintings of flowers and winding vines.

The 49-year-old Oksana, who did not want her surname reported out of safety concerns, once worked at a cultural center in the southern city of **Rostov-on-Don** but moved to Moscow after she lost that job. There was a house loan to pay off along with support for her two children, who live with their father.

At first she worked as a dishwasher. One day she fell into conversation with a street musician after giving him some money and he encouraged her to follow his example, saying it would likely pay more than her scullery job.

She took his advice, except that she chose the trains known as elektrichki as her venue rather than the street. They have been her stage for the past four years.

It's not lucrative. In a good month she can take in 80,000 rubles (\$750), but that's enough to pay for her room on the Moscow outskirts and to send some money to her kids.

She could make more, but standing for hours on the swaying trains while playing is hard on her legs and she plays only two or three times a week.



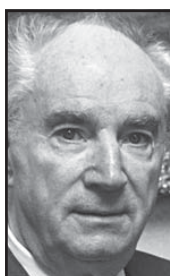
Katy Perry performs during the concert at Windsor Castle in Windsor, England, Sunday, May 7, celebrating the coronation of King Charles III. It is one of several events over a three-day weekend of celebrations. (AP)



Britain's Prince William speaks on stage during the concert at Windsor Castle in Windsor, England, Sunday, May 7, celebrating the coronation of King Charles III. (AP)



Červená



Kubelík

Variety

PRAGUE: Soňa Červená, a Czech opera singer who became known for playing Carmen and more than 110 roles in **San Francisco** and other opera houses behind the Iron Curtain, has died. She was 97.

Červená died Sunday at a hospital in the Czech capital where she was being treated for an unspecified illness, the National Theater in Prague said.

Born Sept. 9, 1925 in Prague, Červená was as a guest singer at the Unter den Linden opera and the Berlin State Opera in the Soviet-controlled part of **Berlin** when she emigrated to West Berlin in January 1962 through the last opened crossing in the newly built Berlin Wall.

"I couldn't live and sing without freedom," she once told the Czech public radio.

The Iron Curtain kept her outside her country for 30 years.

In the West, Červená was based at the Frankfurt Opera, but she became known for her guest performances in numerous opera houses in Europe and the **United States**, including in **Vienna, Milan, Paris, Amsterdam, Los Angeles, Chicago** and festivals at **Bayreuth** and **Glyndebourne** and many others.

She performed with conductors such as **Rafael Kubelík, Herbert von Karajan, Pierre Boulez, Charles Mackerras** and **Francesco Molinari Pradelli**.

In 1962, Červená started her 11-year regular cooperation with the San Francisco Opera in the title role of **Georges Bizet's Carmen**, her trademark character.

Others followed, including Azucena in "Il trovatore" and Dame Quickly in "Falstaff" by **Giuseppe Verdi**, Herodias in "Salome" by **Richard Strauss**, **Mother Goose** in "The Rake's Progress" by **Igor Stravinsky** and many others. She returned again to San Francisco in 1980.

After she retired from opera, she moved to the Thalia Theater in **Hamburg, Germany**, where she worked with U.S. director **Robert Wilson** as an actress. (AP)

MANASSAS, Va: A large snake brought traffic to a stop at an intersection in **Prince William County**, Virginia.

The snake was in an electrical panel at the intersection of Prince William Parkway and Sudley Manor Drive and caused a power outage, the Prince William County Police Department said in a statement. A police officer and an

Coronation

Prince William pays tribute to his father

Richie, Perry perform at royal concert

LONDON, May 8, (AP) — A day after a gilded coronation ceremony watched by millions, King Charles III and Queen Camilla let others take the center stage Sunday as they took in a star-studded concert featuring Katy Perry, Lionel Richie and others at Windsor Castle.

The newly crowned monarch and his wife appeared to enjoy the show as Richie performed "All Night Long," at one point getting up on their feet and swaying to the music. Other members of the royal family, including 8-year-old Princess Charlotte and Prince George, 9, waved Union flags along with a crowd of some 20,000 gathered on the castle's east terrace.

Charlotte and her mother, Kate, the Princess of Wales, sang along as Perry, dressed in a gold foil ball gown, performed her pop hit "Roar."

"Top Gun" star Tom Cruise appeared in a recorded video message, saying: "Pilot to pilot. Your Majesty, you can be my wingman any time." The mixed program also saw performances by the Royal Ballet, Nicole Scherzinger from the Pussycat Dolls, opera singer Andrea Bocelli and British band Take That.

Even Miss Piggy and Kermit the Frog made an appearance, joking with host Hugh Bonneville.

The entertainment was interspersed with more serious moments. A message from Charles on the importance of environmental conservation was played, and the show was accompanied by a light and drone display with a nature theme.

Prince William, heir to the throne, took to the stage to pay tribute to his father's dedication to service. "Pa, we are all so proud of you," he said.

Concert goers sang "God Save the King" as landmarks around the UK were lit up in colorful lights.

Earlier Sunday, thousands of picnics and street parties were held across the UK in Charles' honor. The community get-togethers, part of a British tradition known as the Big Lunch, provided a down-to-earth counterpart to the gilded spectacle of the king's crowning Saturday.

The events were intended to bring neighbors together to celebrate the crowning even as support for the mon-

archy wanes. Critics complained about the coronation's cost at a time of exorbitant living expenses amid double-digit inflation.

But plenty others took the opportunity to enjoy a party with friends and family. In Regent's Park in London, Valent Cheung and his girlfriend showed up to cheer the new king with the neighbors who embraced them when they moved from Hong Kong. They dolled up their loyal and "royal" fluffy white dog, Tino, with a tiny purple crown for the occasion.

"This is a new era for UK," Cheung said. "We didn't have these things in Hong Kong. Now, we are embracing the culture. We want to enjoy it, we want to celebrate it."

Party

Charles and Camilla didn't drop in on any of the picnics, leaving that duty to other members of the royal family.

William and his wife, Kate, surprised people picnicking outside the castle before the concert. Dressed far more casually than the day before, they shook hands and Kate embraced a crying girl in a hug.

The king's siblings, Prince Edward and Princess Anne and their spouses took on lunch duty for the royal family at events across England. The king's nieces, Princess Beatrice and Princess Eugenie, the daughters of Prince Andrew, joined a lunch in Windsor.

Prime Minister Rishi Sunak hosted US first lady Jill Biden and her granddaughter Finnegan Biden at the Big Lunch party held in front of his office. Other guests included Ukrainian refugees and community activists.

Like the picnic in the park, Downing Street and Sunak's spread — even his teapot — were festooned in the nation's colors of blue, white and red.

Sausage rolls and salmon were served along with coronation chicken — a dish cooked up for Queen Elizabeth II's coronation 70 years ago — and coronation quiche, which was picked to suit Charles' taste and has been the buzz of social media, often for the wrong reasons.

The lower-key events followed regalia-laden pageantry that saw the king and queen crowned together in Westminster Abbey. They were presented

with centuries-old swords, scepters and a jewel-encrusted golden orb symbolizing the monarch's power in a medieval tradition celebrated with liturgy, song and hearty cheers of "God save the king."

The couple then paraded through the streets in a gilded horse-drawn carriage led by the largest ceremonial military procession since the coronation of Charles' mother. Some 4,000 troops marched in formation through the streets, their scarlet sleeves and white gloves swinging in unison to the sound of drums and bugles from marching bands, including one group of musicians on horseback.

Hundreds of thousands of spectators lined the route in the rain to see it in person. Nearly 19 million more watched on television in the UK, according to ratings released by Barb, a research organization. That's about 40% fewer viewers than had watched the funeral of Queen Elizabeth II in September.

Charles and Camilla said Sunday in a statement that they were "deeply touched" by the celebration and "profoundly grateful both to all those who helped to make it such a glorious occasion — and to the very many who turned out to show their support."

Not everyone was there to celebrate, though, and criticism continued Sunday over arrests of more than 50 protesters, including members of a republican group shouting "Not my king" and environmentalists aiming to end the use of fossil fuels.

The Metropolitan Police said officers detained 64 people Saturday, with four suspects charged with offenses including a religiously aggravated public order offense and drug possession.

Graham Smith, leader of Republic, a group advocating for abolishing the monarchy, said he was arrested as he planned a peaceful protest and spent 16 hours in police custody.

"These arrests are a direct attack on our democracy and the fundamental rights of every person in the country," Smith said. "Each and every police officer involved on the ground should hang their heads in shame."

The Metropolitan Police acknowledged concerns over the arrests, but defended the force's actions.

animal control officer worked together to remove the snake from the panel and release it unharmed in the area, authorities said.

The snake was so large that it flipped a breaker switch that shut off the signal, but it didn't damage anything inside the box, officials told news outlets. It's

believed that the snake had been living in the box for a while due to molten skin found inside. □ □ □

BOSTON: An airline passenger was arrested for carrying a self-defense weapon known as a vampire straw through security at Boston's Logan International Airport, authorities said.

Arman Achuthan Nair was detained and charged with carrying a dangerous weapon, **Massachusetts** State Police said in a statement. A trooper was alerted after the 10-inch-long (25-centimeter-long) titanium straw with a beveled end was found in Nair's backpack.

The Transportation Security Administration doesn't allow vampire straws to be carried onto a flight. The company that makes the straw bills it as a self-defense weapon since it can be used like a dagger. It also can be used as a straw to slurp down smoothies and other drinks.

"These items are not allowed in passenger carry-on bags," the TSA said in a tweet that included a photo of the straw. "A passenger found that out yesterday."

Nair, 26, of **Chicago**, posted bail and is scheduled to be arraigned May 30 in East Boston Municipal Court. (AP)



Lionel Richie performs during the concert at Windsor Castle in Windsor, England, Sunday, May 7, celebrating the coronation of King Charles III. (AP)

Climate

Deforestation up

Amazon projects risk 'green goals' of Lula

RIO DE JANEIRO, May 8, (AP) — After his swearing-in ceremony on Jan. 1, Brazil's **Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva** walked up the ramp to the presidential palace arm in arm with Indigenous leader Raoni Metuktire, instantly recognizable by his yellow headdress and wooden lip plate.

But a major railway that would accelerate deforestation in Metuktire's ancestral land risks souring relations between the leftist leader and the chief of the Kayapó people. And it's just one of several mega-projects that activists and experts say would devastate the natural world - and seriously dent Lula's newfound image as a defender of the environment - if they proceed.

Others include an oil drilling project near the mouth of the Amazon River; a highway that would slice through some of the Amazon rainforest's most protected areas; and renewal of a giant hydroelectric dam's license.



Lula

"Lula is talking about the environment, showing preoccupation with illegal mining, demarcating Indigenous territories. He's already learned a lot, but needs to learn more. We're still very worried," said Alessandra Korap, an Indigenous leader of the Mundurucu people who recently won the Goldman Environmental Prize for work that included battling illegal mining.

Under Lula's predecessor, Jair Bolsonaro, deforestation soared to a 15-year high and environmental restrictions were weakened. The far-right leader filled key positions in environmental agencies with agribusiness allies and military officers. Indigenous peoples' rights were trampled.

After narrowly defeating Bolsonaro in last year's election, Lula has strived to put environmental protection and respect for Indigenous peoples' rights at the heart of his third term. He resumed successful pursuit of international donations for the Amazon Fund that combats deforestation, launched a military campaign to eject illegal miners from Yanomami territory, committed to ending all illegal deforestation by 2030 and restarted the demarcation of Indigenous areas.

But Lula faces difficult tests in the large infrastructure projects. While opponents regard them as catastrophic, some in Lula's Workers' Party continue to view them as essential for providing jobs and promoting growth. And Brazil, a developing nation, has heavy demand for socioeconomic benefits.

Oil-drilling

Ibama, Brazil's environmental agency, will decide in coming months whether to license drilling in one sector near the mouth of the Amazon. Approval would surely lead to drilling in the whole region, said Suely Araújo, a former Ibama head now a public policy specialist with the Climate Observatory, a network of non-profits.

"It's a matter of coherence. Lula's speeches on environmental protection and the climate crisis are bang on point. But if oil exploration is intensified, it will mean expanding fossil fuels. There would be an inconsistency," Araújo said.

During Lula's first terms, huge offshore discoveries became a means of financing health, education and social welfare programs.

"To a large extent, this vision remains, meaning it will be very difficult to persuade the government to give up strategic projects, even when there are significant social environmental risks," said Maiara Folly, director of CIPO, a think tank focused on climate and international relations.

With existing production set to peak in coming years, there's sharp interest in securing more off Brazil's northern coast. It's a unique and biodiverse location, home to little-studied swaths of mangroves and a coral reef.

Araújo said the project risks leaks that would be carried elsewhere by strong tides.

State-run oil giant Petrobras has earmarked almost half its five-year, \$6 billion exploration budget for the area. CEO Jean Paul Prates said the first well would be temporary, and that the company has never recorded a leak in offshore drilling.

Hydroelectric dam

The Belo Monte hydroelectric dam, a concrete colossus on the Xingu River, was planned under Lula and built by his successor, Dilma Rousseff. Supporters saw it as a way to generate jobs and add power to Brazil's grid.

Indigenous populations and environmental campaigners fiercely opposed it, and studies show its impacts have been disastrous. Civil society organizations estimate tens of thousands of people were displaced, and experts attribute a local surge of violence to lost jobs. One area of concern is the Xingu's Volta Grande, or Big Bend, which has lost much of its water. That caused the disappearance of fish -- the basis of many Indigenous populations' subsistence.

Belo Monte is back on Lula's agenda, with Ibama weighing whether to renew its license. The agency reported last summer that Norte Energia, the dam's owner, hadn't respected many of the conditions for its original license.

Local media said Norte Energia proposed to distribute 20,000 reais (about \$4,000) in compensation to nearly 2,000 fishermen.

In January, researchers in the region published a letter environmental journalism website Sumauma calling on Lula and his administration to investigate and punish crimes and injustices surrounding the dam.

"Any government really committed to conserving the Amazon and fighting the climate crisis is obliged to recognize the problems caused by Belo Monte and to fix the damage and impacts caused," the letter said.

Local populations are demanding the license be renewed only if Norte Energia agrees to use the water in a way that allows life in and around the river to be sustained.

The license was originally issued under heavy pressure from Rousseff's government, said Folly. In a March interview with Sumauma, Lula's environment minister, Marina Silva, promised that this time, "nobody is going to be coerced, as they were before, and this represents a total change."

Highway

The BR-319 highway connects Porto Velho to Manaus. It was abandoned in the 1980s after falling into disuse, but the government has shown signs of wanting to repave it to facilitate the export of commodities.

Environmentalists and scientists warn that could lead to uncontrolled deforestation in the region by increasing land speculation and giving easy access to land grabbers. After Bolsonaro announced that a section of the road would be repaved, deforestation in nearby areas quickly surged, according to Brazil's national space agency.

Lula told Radio Difusora last June that he favored reconstruction, calling it important for the economies of Amazonas and Rondonia states. Ibama's president Rodrigo Agostinho told the AP in March that the agency has slowed the permitting process in order to analyze carefully.

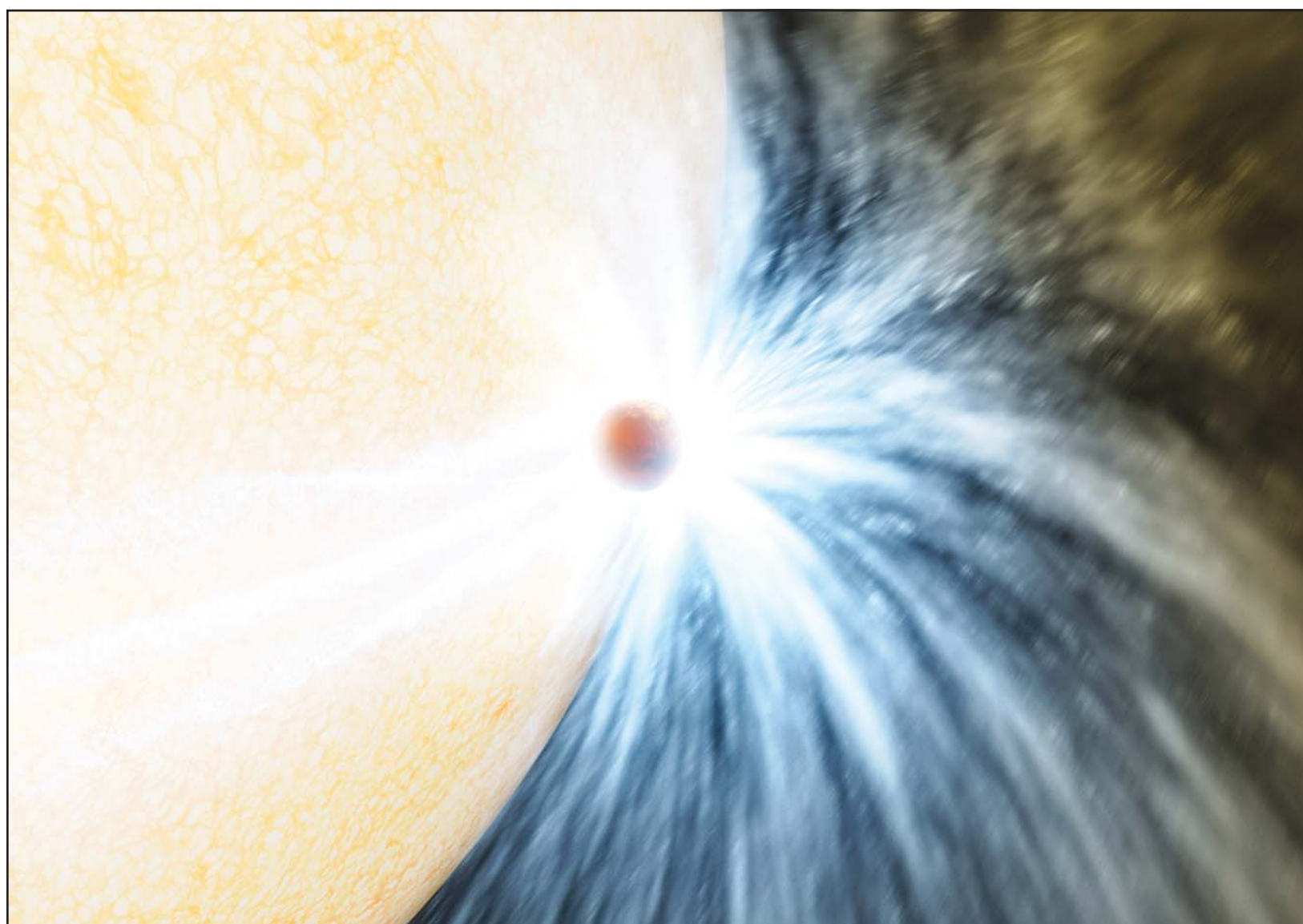
Railway

Similar concerns surround a 933-kilometer (around 580 miles) railway known as Ferrograo that would move grains from the heartland toward the Tapajós River for eventual shipping abroad.

The project would mean fewer trucks moving soy and corn, and thus reduced carbon emissions. But it might also mean rising deforestation. A 2021 study from the Federal University of Minas Gerais projected deforestation of more than 230,000 hectares in Indigenous lands in Mato Grosso state by 2035 if it is completed.

The railway is on hold pending a court's ruling on the constitutionality of a law that permitted felling forest in the Jamanxim National Park to make way for its crossing.

In January, Lula's transport minister, Renan Filho, placed Ferrograo among top priority projects.



This illustration provided by Caltech/IPAC depicts a planet skimming the surface of its star. Astronomers reported their observations Wednesday, May 3, of what appears to be a gas giant at least the size of Jupiter being eaten by its star. The sun-like star had been puffing up with old age for eons and finally got so big that it engulfed the close-orbiting planet. (AP)

The Conversation

Astronomers learn about universe faster than before

AI helps in new space discoveries

By Chris Impey
University of Arizona

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

The famous first image of a black hole just got two times sharper. A research team used artificial intelligence to dramatically improve upon its first image from 2019, which now shows the black hole at the center of the M87 galaxy as darker and bigger than the first image depicted.

I'm an astronomer who studies and has written about cosmology, black holes and exoplanets. Astronomers have been using AI for decades. In fact, in 1990, astronomers from the University of Arizona, where I am a professor, were among the first to use a type of AI called a neural network to study the shapes of galaxies.

Since then, AI has spread into every field of astronomy. As the technology has become more powerful, AI algorithms have begun helping astronomers tame massive data sets and discover new knowledge about the universe.

As long as astronomy has been a science, it has involved trying to make sense of the multitude of objects in the night sky. That was relatively simple when the only tools were the naked eye or a simple telescope, and all that could be seen were a few thousand stars and a handful of planets.

A hundred years ago, Edwin Hubble used newly built telescopes to show that the universe is filled with not just stars and clouds of gas, but countless galaxies. As telescopes have continued to improve, the sheer number of celestial objects humans can see and the amount of data astronomers need to sort through have both grown exponentially, too.

For example, the soon-to-be-completed Vera Rubin Observatory in Chile will make images so large that it would take 1,500 high-definition TV screens to view each one in its entirety. Over 10 years it is expected to generate 0.5 exabytes of data - about 50,000 times the amount of information held in all of the books contained within the Library of Congress.

There are 20 telescopes with mirrors larger than 20 feet (6 meters) in

operation. AI algorithms are the only way astronomers could ever hope to work through all of the data available to them today. There are a number of ways AI is proving useful in processing this data.

Astronomy often involves looking for needles in a haystack. About 99% of the pixels in an astronomical image contain background radiation, light from other sources or the blackness of space - only 1% have the subtle shapes of faint galaxies.

AI algorithms - in particular, neural networks that use many interconnected nodes and are able to learn to recognize patterns - are perfectly suited for picking out the patterns of galaxies. Astronomers began using neural networks to classify galaxies in the early 2010s. Now the algorithms are so effective that they can classify galaxies with an accuracy of 98%.

Telescopes

This story has been repeated in other areas of astronomy. Astronomers working on SETI, the Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence, use radio telescopes to look for signals from distant civilizations. Early on, radio astronomers scanned charts by eye to look for anomalies that couldn't be explained. More recently, researchers harnessed 150,000 personal computers and 1.8 million citizen scientists to look for artificial radio signals. Now, researchers are using AI to sift through reams of data much more quickly and thoroughly than people can. This has allowed SETI efforts to cover more ground while also greatly reducing the number of false positive signals.

Another example is the search for exoplanets. Astronomers discovered most of the 5,300 known exoplanets by measuring a dip in the amount of light coming from a star when a planet passes in front of it. AI tools can now pick out the signs of an exoplanet with 96% accuracy.

AI has proved itself to be excellent at identifying known objects - like galaxies or exoplanets - that astronomers tell it to look for. But it is also quite powerful at finding objects or phenomena that are theorized but have not yet been discovered in the real world.

Teams have used this approach to

detect new exoplanets, learn about the ancestral stars that led to the formation and growth of the Milky Way, and predict the signatures of new types of gravitational waves.

To do this, astronomers first use AI to convert theoretical models into observational signatures - including realistic levels of noise. They then use machine learning to sharpen the ability of AI to detect the predicted phenomena.

Finally, radio astronomers have also been using AI algorithms to sift through signals that don't correspond to known phenomena. Recently a team from South Africa found a unique object that may be a remnant of the explosive merging of two supermassive black holes. If this proves to be true, the data will allow a new test of general relativity - Albert Einstein's description of space-time.

As in many areas of life recently, generative AI and large language models like ChatGPT are also making waves in the astronomy world.

The team that created the first image of a black hole in 2019 used a generative AI to produce its new image. To do so, it first taught an AI how to recognize black holes by feeding it simulations of many kinds of black holes. Then, the team used the AI model it had built to fill in gaps in the massive amount of data collected by the radio telescopes on the black hole M87.

Using this simulated data, the team was able to create a new image that is two times sharper than the original and is fully consistent with the predictions of general relativity.

Astronomers are also turning to AI to help tame the complexity of modern research. A team from the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics created a language model called astroBERT to read and organize 15 million scientific papers on astronomy. Another team, based at NASA, has even proposed using AI to prioritize astronomy projects, a process that astronomers engage in every 10 years.

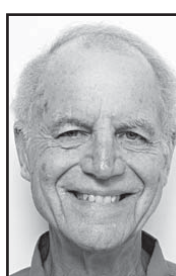
As AI has progressed, it has become an essential tool for astronomers. As telescopes get better, as data sets get larger and as AIs continue to improve, it is likely that this technology will play a central role in future discoveries about the universe. (AP)



Winston, a French bulldog, competes for Best in Show at the 146th Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show, Wednesday, June 22, 2022, in Tarzantown, N.Y. French bulldogs are ranked as the United States' favorite dog breed, yet none has ever won the nation's pre-eminent dog show. This year, Winston is a strong contender to take the trophy at the Westminster Kennel Club dog show. (AP)



Granholm



Herzog

Discovery

'Puerto Rico should go solar': A US government study has determined that with little room on the island for large-scale solar farms or wind generators, Puerto Rico should aim to reach its clean-energy goals by installing solar panels on all suitable rooftops, along with airports, brownfields and industrial areas.

The two-year study began last year after the US pledged to help modernize Puerto Rico's disintegrating power grid by looking at wind and solar resources on the island, land availability and power consumption. Government officials vowed to ramp up from 3% to 40% renewable energy by 2025, and 60% by 2040.

"This is so utterly important," said Jennifer Granholm, US Energy Secretary, during a webinar to talk about the study's preliminary results. "We have set out to cut through bureaucracy and get federal funding moving."

Amid the threat of powerful hurricanes, Puerto Rico has suffered from chronic power outages blamed on a disintegrating power grid following decades of neglect and lack of maintenance. The island's current power generation system is 97% based on fossil fuels.

More than 600 participants joined the webinar, including solar companies eager to secure a stake in upcoming projects and disgruntled Puerto Ricans who questioned the reality of implementing solar panels on an island where more than 40% of the population lives below the poverty line.

"These systems are too costly, and truly hardly anyone can afford them because it's a debt impossible to pay over many years," wrote one participant named Wanda Trinidad in the chat.

Another, Wanda Rios, said that while the government has helped some businesses transition to renewable energy, she hasn't been able to get a response about how communities might be able to obtain financial help. (AP)

Frenchie favorite dog breed: The United States' new favorite dog breed - the comical, controversial French bulldog - has never won the nation's pre-eminent dog show.

Yet here, at an ambling trot, comes Winston. The Frenchie with NFL connections is a strong contender at this week's

Westminster Kennel Club dog show, less than two months after the release of rankings showing that his kind has become the country's most prevalent dog breed.

Frenchies' rise has been stunning: from 83rd most popular to No. 1 in three dec-

ades. It also has been dogged by concerns about their health, debate over the ethics of breeding, denunciations of a gold-rush-like market with ever more "exotic" variations, and a recent spate of high-profile and sometimes fatal robberies.



Solar panels on Germany's biggest floating photovoltaic plant produce energy under a blue sky on a lake in Haltern, Germany, on May 3. Germany's energy minister announced plans Friday, May 5, to ease bureaucratic hurdles for solar power as the country set a new record for photovoltaic installations during the first quarter. Europe's biggest economy added 2.7 Gigawatts of solar power capacity during the first three months of 2023, putting it on course to beat the target of 9 GW this year, up from 7 GW in 2022. (AP)

If all that says something about these stumpy-snouted, pointy-eared, deep-chested, quizzical little bulldogs, what does it say about the culture that loves them?

"Just like humans, dogs get characterized for what they can do, but more importantly what they can symbolize," says Cameron Whitley, a Western Washington University sociology professor and the chair-elect of the American Sociological Association's Animals and Society section. Whitley argues that breeds' popularity depends less on their traits than on their portrayal in media and pop culture.

Indeed, a 2013 study found no indication that longer lifespans, better behavior or other desirable characteristics make a dog breed more sought-after. One of the authors, Western Carolina University psychology professor Hal Herzog, also has observed that parabolic spikes in dog breeds resemble those in baby names, hit songs and other boom-and-bust commodities of pop culture. In short, they're canine memes.

"The dogs have become a form of fashion," says Herzog, who wrote a book about human attitudes and conduct toward animals.

French bulldogs have a colorful, centuries-long history involving English lacemakers, the Parisian demimonde and Gilded Age American tourists who brought the dogs home. (AP)

Spaniard beats lucky loser Struff

Alcaraz set to return to No. 1 after retaining Madrid title



Carlos Alcaraz of Spain holds the winner's trophy after defeating Jan-Lennard Struff of Germany, in the men's final at the Madrid Open tennis tournament in Madrid, Spain. (AP)

MADRID, May 8, (AP) — Carlos Alcaraz is paving his way back to the top of the world rankings after a second-straight Madrid Open title.

Alcaraz beat lucky loser Jan-Lennard Struff 6-4, 3-6, 6-3 in the Spanish capital on Sunday to guarantee his return to the No. 1 spot by playing at least one match at the upcoming Italian Open in Rome.

The 20-year-old Spaniard converted on his first match point after a hard-fought battle against Struff to secure his fourth title of the year and 10th of his impressive young career. He had also successfully defended his title in Barcelona two weeks ago.

"To defend the title here in Madrid, on the verge of regaining the No. 1 ranking, these are very big achievements for me," Alcaraz said. "I feel very proud of the work that I've put in and of what I've been achieving. I'm an ambitious guy and I'm going for more in Rome."

It was Alcaraz's 29th win of the

season, and 21st straight in Spain going back to a loss to Rafael Nadal in Madrid on his 18th birthday two years ago.

He joined Nadal as the only consecutive Madrid champion in tournament history, and is the youngest player to successfully defend a Masters 1000 title since Nadal at Monte Carlo and Rome in 2005-06.

TENNIS

"For me it is so, so special," Alcaraz said. "To lift the trophy here in Madrid. In my country. In front of my home crowd, my family, my friends. Everyone close to me. For me it is a special feeling that I will never forget."

Alcaraz's other titles this year came in Buenos Aires and Indian Wells. He is the first player to win two Masters 1000 trophies this season. It was the fourth Masters 1000 title overall for last year's U.S.

Open champion.

"It was a really tough match," Alcaraz said. "Jan was playing great, really aggressive. In the second set I had a lot of chances to break his serve and I didn't take it and it was tough for me to lose it. I told myself that I had to be positive all the time and that I would have my chances and I think I did it in the third set."

The big-serving Struff was the first lucky loser to reach an ATP Masters 1000 final, having earned an unexpected spot in the main draw after another player had to drop out.

The 33-year-old German, ranked 65th in the world, was playing in his second four-level final and trying to become just the fourth player and first in more than 20 years to win his first four-level trophy at a Masters 1000.

He called it "a best-career achievement so far."

"Of course I wanted to go all the way to win today, but I would defi-

nately say if someone told me two weeks ago 'You're gonna play the finals,' I would take it, definitely," he said. "I was in the game. Had my chances. But he was too good at the end and congrats to him."

Struff had lost in the final round of qualifying to Aslan Karatsev, the player he eventually beat in the semifinals after upsetting fourth-seeded Stefanos Tsitsipas in the quarterfinals. The final was his ninth match at the clay-court tournament in Madrid, compared to six for the top-seeded Alcaraz.

Struff beat Alcaraz on clay at the French Open in 2021, while Alcaraz needed five sets to down Struff at Wimbledon last year.

Victoria Azarenka and Beatriz Haddad Maia won the women's doubles title by defeating top-seeded Americans Coco Gauff and Jessica Pegula 6-1, 6-4.

The unseeded winning duo upset two of the top-three seeds in Madrid.

Nearly 36 years in charge

End of era: Jean-Michel leaves French club Lyon

PARIS, May 8, (AP) — Lyon's iconic president Jean-Michel Aulas is stepping down after nearly 36 years in charge of the French soccer club, handing over duties to American investor John Textor, who became the main shareholder last year.

Lyon won seven league titles under Aulas' tenure, while the women's team established itself as a major European force. The 74-year-old Aulas was initially set to remain in his position for three more years following Textor's takeover in December. But the club issued a statement Monday saying he will instead serve as honorary chairman from now on, with Textor appointed as chief executive officer of OL Group.

Textor's Eagle Football acquired a stake of 77.49% in the club, pledging to provide a capital increase of 86 million euros (\$90 million). The American businessman made his fortune in digital media. He also has stakes in Crystal Palace, Belgian second-division club RWD Molenbeek, and Brazilian team Botafogo.

Aulas took over Lyon back in 1987, when the club was in debt and played in the second tier of French football. By making astute player signings and developing one of the most renowned youth academies in Europe, Aulas grew the club into a financially successful entity owning its 59,000-seat stadium.

Lyon's run of titles from 2001-08 made it the powerhouse of French soccer as players like Real Madrid great Karim Benzema emerged from its academy. Others like free-scoring Brazil midfielder Juninho and Ghana's ball-winning

Michael Essien made their name at the club at the time.

On the European stage, Lyon twice reached the Champions League semifinals. In contrast, Lyon's women's team became the dominant force in Europe, winning a record eight Champions League titles.

"OL Group sincerely thanks Mr. Jean-Michel Aulas for his commitment and unreserved dedication to Olympique Lyonnais for more than three decades, during which both the men's and women's teams won more than 50 titles," Lyon said.

Lyon striker Ada Hegerberg, who won the 2018 women's Ballon d'Or, paid tribute to Aulas in a message on Twitter.

SOCCER

"Thank you Jean-Michel. Thank you very, very much," she wrote.

In the years since the last title in 2008, Lyon's men's team has faded as Paris Saint-Germain imposed its dominance under its cash-rich Qatari ownership. Since QSI's takeover in June 2011, PSG has won eight titles and Lyon has finished runner-up only twice.

After Bordeaux ended Lyon's run in 2009, the club's fortunes dipped - despite a continuous flow of young talent.

The club finished in a dismal eighth place last season and 25 points behind PSG. Ten league losses and 51 goals conceded - the most goals allowed by any club in the top 10 - made for grim statistics.

Under coach Laurent Blanc, the club has been going through another mediocre campaign and is struggling to qualify for European competition next season, standing seventh with four games left to play in the French league.

According to L'Equipe newspaper, which broke the news of Aulas' departure, tensions between Textor and the Lyon president have mounted recently, with the new owners determined to change the club's sporting structure.

"The priority of the new Chairman and CEO and the Board of Directors will be to strengthen Olympique Lyonnais' place on the world soccer stage, in line with the highest ambitions of its illustrious history," the club said.

L'Equipe reported that Aulas, who still owns 9% percent of the club through his holding company Holnest, will receive an exit compensation of 10 million euros (\$11 million).

Cardinals stop 8-game skid

Royals avoid sweep

ST. LOUIS, May 8, (AP) — Paul Goldschmidt homered three times, and the St. Louis Cardinals stopped an eight-game losing streak with a 12-6 win over the Detroit Tigers on Sunday.

Goldschmidt, had four hits and four RBIs in his third three-homer game, the first since March 29, 2019, against Milwaukee. He hit solo homers in the first and third innings off Alex Faedo and a two-run drive in the eighth against Tyler Holton.

Brendan Donovan hit a three-run homer off Mason Englert (1-2) for an 8-6 lead in a seven-run sixth.

Jake Rogers hit a grand slam in a five-run sixth for the Tigers, whose five-game winning streak was stopped. Spencer Torkelson also homered for Detroit.

Drew VerHagen (2-0) pitched two perfect innings.

Rockies 13, Mets 6

In New York, Brenton Doyle's first big league home run capped a seven-run fifth inning and the Mets lost for the 11th time in 14 games to fall to 17-18 - dropping under .500 for the first time since they were 3-4.

Jurickson Profar and Kris Bryant had RBI hits in the third, and Bryant's two-run homer sparked the big fifth inning against Jimmy Yacabonis (1-2), who allowed five runs while recording one out. Tovar had a two-run double and Austin Wynns delivered an RBI single before Doyle's two-run shot.

Brent Suter (1-0) allowed one run in 1 2/3 innings.

Rays 8, Yankees 7, 10 innings

In New York, Gerrit Cole failed to hold a six-run lead, allowing his first two home runs of the season, and Isaac Paredes' 10th-inning single off Albert Abreu (1-1) gave Tampa Bay two wins in the three-game series.

Anthony Rizzo and Harrison Bader homered for the Yankees (18-17), who led 6-0 before Tampa Bay scored twice in the fifth and five times in the sixth to take an 7-6 lead.

Jose Siri and Christian Bethancourt homered as the major league-best Rays (28-7) improved to 19-3 home. Last-place New York has lost 10 of its last 16 games and trails the Rays by 10 games.

Jalen Beeks (1-2) won before 32,142, the largest crowd at Tropicana Field since 2016.

BASEBALL

Cole's ERA rose to 2.09 from 1.35, which had been tied for the major league lead.

Braves 3, Orioles 2, 12 innings

In Atlanta, Michael Harris II hit a game-ending double off Cionel Pérez (1-1) as Atlanta won two of three from Baltimore, which lost consecutive games for the first time since April 8-9.

Braves right fielder Ronald Acuña Jr. brought a roar from the sellout crowd of 40,800 at Truist Park in the 11th when he caught Adam Frazier's 322-foot flyout and made a one-hop throw to third baseman Austin Riley, who tagged Austin Hays for a double play.

Michael Tonkin (3-1) pitched two perfect innings.

Dodgers 5, Padres 2, 10 innings

In San Diego, Mookie Betts hit a game-tying homer with two outs in the ninth inning and James Outman hit a two-run shot in the 10th to lead Los Angeles over San Diego.

Dodgers reliever Caleb Ferguson (2-0) earned the win and Evan Phillips earned his fifth save with a scoreless 10th inning. Brent Honeywell (2-1), who pitched the 10th inning for San Diego, took the loss.

Manny Machado had three hits and an RBI for the Padres. Fernando Tatis Jr. had a double and made a spectacular sliding catch in the second inning to rob Max Muncy of a hit.



Philadelphia Phillies' Trea Turner, (right), hits a single during the fourth inning of a baseball game against the Boston Red Sox in Philadelphia. (AP)

Phillies 6, Red Sox 1

In Philadelphia, Kyle Schwarber homered after being dropped from leadoff to fifth in the batting order, and Philadelphia stopped a six-game skid and ended Boston's eight-game winning streak.

J.T. Realmuto singled twice and drove in two runs for the defending NL champions who won for the first time since Bryce Harper's return to the lineup on Tuesday.

Taijuan Walker (3-2) allowed one run and three hits in six innings with six strikeouts.

Nick Castellanos hit a go-ahead grounder off Tanner Houck (3-2).

Guardians 2, Twins 0

In Cleveland, Cleveland's Cal Quantrill had a no-hit bid broken up by Alex Kirilloff's two-out single in seventh.

Quantrill (2-2) allowed one hit in seven innings, and James Karinchak and Emmanuel Clase finished with hitless relief. Clase got his 12th save.

José Ramírez and Josh Bell had RBI singles in the first off Joe Ryan (5-1).

Royals 5, Athletics 1

In Kansas City, Salvador Perez went 3 for 4 with a 462-foot homer over the left-field fountains and Kansas City avoided being swept in the series between teams with the worst records in the major leagues. The Royals (9-26) lost two of three to the A's (8-27).

Ryan Yarbrough (1-4) pitched 5 2/3 innings and allowed one run and three hits. He left getting hit on the face by a liner that was 106.2 mph off the bat of Ryan Noda.

Mason Miller (0-2) gave up two runs and five hits in six innings.

Blue Jays 10, Pirates 1

In Pittsburgh, Whit Merrifield had four RBIs, three on his first home run this season, and Toronto finished a three-game sweep that extended the Pirates' losing streak to seven following a 20-8 start.

Merrifield put the Blue Jays ahead with a run-scoring infield single in the first following a 95-minute rain delay and opened a 4-0 lead in the third when he sent a hanging curveball from Roansy Contreras (3-3) into the left-field bleachers. T

Yusei Kikuchi (5-0) allowed four hits in 6 1/3 scoreless innings after giving up five runs in just 4 1/3 innings to the Boston Red Sox on May 2.

Cubs 5, Marlins 4, 14 innings

In Chicago, Garrett Hampson scored on a 14th-inning balk by Adbert Alzolay (1-2), ending the longest game in the major leagues this season and stopping Miami's five-game losing streak.

Steven Okert (1-0) got three outs for the win, and Andrew Nardi pitched the 14th for his first career save.

Yuli Gurriel hit his third homer for Miami, which was outscored 34-12 during its losing streak.

White Sox 11, Reds 4

In Cincinnati, Hanser Alberto had four hits with a career-high four RBIs and Chicago opened a big lead with an 11-run second, its biggest inning since an 11-run fifth at Kansas City on Sept. 17, 2007.

Alberto and Gavin Sheets homered in the second. Graham Ashcraft (2-1) gave up eight runs and six hits in 1 1/3 innings. The Reds had not allowed that many runs in an inning since a 13-run fourth inning on April 13, 2003.

Michael Kopec (1-3) gave up eight hits in six innings, allowing his runs on solo homers by Jonathan India, Jose Barreiro, Tyler Stephenson and Wil Myers.

Mariners 3, Astros 1

In Seattle, Bryce Miller (1-0) gave up two hits over six shutout innings for his first major league win, Justin Topa worked around a leadoff single in the ninth for his first big league save and Seattle took two of three from the World Series champions.

First baseman José Abreu made a run-scoring error in a two-run third inning and Matt Gage committed a bases-loaded balk when he relieved Brandon Bielak (0-1) in the fifth. The Astros have lost three straight series and are 17-17.

Julio Rodríguez, in a 1-for-18 slide, hit a career-long, 454-foot homer for the Mariners, who have won six of seven.

Brewers 7, Giants 3

In San Francisco, Willy Adames and William Contreras hit two-run homers, and Milwaukee ended a six-game losing streak while stopping San Francisco's four-game winning streak.

Joel Payamps (1-0) struck out three in 1 2/3 innings. Ross Stripling (0-2) allowed five runs and seven hits in five innings.

Rangers 16, Angels 8

In Anaheim, Leody Taveras had a career-high four hits along with four RBIs and Adolis García hit his team-leading ninth homer as Texas overcame a 3-0 deficit and won its second straight after losing the series opener. García leads the major leagues with 36 RBIs.

Ezequiel Duran and Josh H. Smith also went deep. Taveras drove in four runs for the Rangers, who scored 26

MLB Results/Standings

WASHINGTON, May 8, (AP): Results and standings from the MLB games on Sunday.				
Atlanta	3	Baltimore	12	inn 2
Cleveland	2	Minnesota	4	0
Philadelphia	6	Boston	1	1
Toronto	10	Pittsburgh	1	1
Kansas City	5	Oakland	1	1
Tampa Bay	8	NY Yankees	10	inn 7
St. Louis	12	Detroit	6	6
Seattle	3	Houston	1	1
Chicago W. Sox	17	Cincinnati	4	4
Texas	16	LA Angels	6	6
Colorado	13	NY Mets	8	8
Miami	5	Chicago Cubs	14	inn 4
Milwaukee	7	San Francisco	3	3
Washington	9	Arizona	8	8
LA Dodgers	5	San Diego	10	inn 2

American League				
East Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Tampa Bay	28	7	.800	—
Baltimore	22	12	.647	5-1/2
Toronto	21	14	.600	7
Boston	21	15	.583	7-1/2
New York	18	17	.514	10

Central Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Minnesota	19	16	.543	—
Cleveland	16	18	.471	2-1/2
Detroit	15	18	.455	3
Chicago	12	23	.343	7
Kansas City	9	26	.257	10

West Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Texas	20	13	.606	—
Los Angeles	19	16	.543	2
Houston	17	17	.500	3-1/2
Seattle	17	17	.500	3-1/2
Oakland	8	27	.229	13

National League				
East Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Atlanta	24	11	.686	—
Miami	17	18	.486	7
New York	17	18	.486	7
Philadelphia	16	19	.457	8
Washington	14	20	.412	9-1/2

Central Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Pittsburgh	20	15	.571	—
Milwaukee	19	15	.559	-1/2
Chicago	17	17	.500	2-1/2
Cincinnati	14	20	.412	5-1/2
St. Louis	11	24	.314	9

West Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Los Angeles	21	14	.600	—
Arizona	19	15	.559	1-1/2
San Diego	18	17	.514	3
San Francisco	15	18	.455	5
Colorado	14	21	.400	7

runs in the last two games after losing Friday's series opener 5-4 in 10 innings.

Josh Sborz (1-1) pitched two scoreless innings. José Suarez (1-2) gave up seven runs, six hits and three walks in 2 2/3 innings.

Nationals 9, Diamondbacks 8

In Phoenix, Joey Meneses hit a three-run homer in the ninth inning off Miguel Castro (1-1) and had four RBIs after Washington rallied from a four-run deficit to take an 8-6 lead.

Erasmus Ramírez (2-1) didn't allow a baserunner in 1 1/3 innings and Hunter Harvey worked around a walk in ninth for his first save since 2019 at Double-A Bowie to prevent Arizona's first sweep of the Nationals since 2009.

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SPORTS

Panthers take 3-0 series lead

New Jersey trims deficit

SUNRISE, Fla., May 8, (AP): Florida briefly limited ticket sales for their series against Toronto to fans with U.S. credit cards, a decision that some Maple Leafs fans thought was designed keep them from coming to Games 3 and 4.

The Panthers might be able to keep them from a Game 5 in Toronto, too.

Sam Reinhart scored 3:02 into overtime and the Panthers - who had to fight just to squeak into the playoffs, then stunned Boston in Round 1 - are on the brink of their first conference finals appearance since 1996. Florida topped Toronto 3-2 on Sunday night, taking a 3-0 lead in their Eastern Conference semifinal series.

None bigger than he did to win it. Reinhart dumped the puck off the boards behind the net to set up his game-winner, then headed behind the goal to take a pass back from Anton Lundell. Reinhart twirled his way to the front, tapped the puck home and just like that, Florida had its first series lead in 27 years.

Anthony Duclair and Carter Verhaeghe scored for Florida. Sam Lafferty and Erik Gustafsson scored for Toronto, which had plenty of fans there - ticket sales for all opened 24 hours after the online purchasing window opened last week. They left disappointed; Florida's left thrilled.

Sergei Bobrovsky stopped 22 shots for the Panthers. Joseph Woll stopped 18 of the 21 he faced for the Maple Leafs after he relieved starter Ilya Samsonov, who stopped all eight shots he saw before leaving early in the second period with an injury.

Game 4 is Wednesday night, with Florida in position for a sweep and a spot in the conference finals against Carolina or New

Jersey. Reinhart's goal for that 3-0 lead means it's time for the Maple Leafs to spend the next three days hearing about the most dreaded of stats three games into a best-of-seven - the one about how only four clubs have erased such a deficit in hockey history. Toronto is one of those four, coming from 3-0 down to beat Detroit in the 1942 Cup final.

And they may have a new starting goalie as well. Samsonov left the ice 37 seconds into the second period with an undisclosed injury. He was ruled out before the third period started and Keefe had no postgame update on his condition.

The play started with Samsonov stopping a shot by Duclair, as Verhaeghe came down the slot chasing the rebound.

Verhaeghe got tripped by Toronto's Luke Schenn, and Schenn also crashed into Samsonov on the same play. Samsonov remained down for more than a minute, eventually got to his feet and skated to the Toronto bench - going directly down the tunnel to the Maple Leafs' locker room.

Woll replaced Samsonov, coming in cold to face the Florida power play. Woll stopped the first shot he faced, but Duclair scored with 1 second left on the power play to tie the game at 1-1.

Toronto led 1-0 and 2-1, only to see Florida come back with the tying goal each time.

Lafferty one-timed a pass from David Kampf home just 2:26 into the contest to finish off a 2-on-1 and open the scoring. Gustafsson's wristed made it 2-1 when it caromed in off Marc Staal's stick midway through the second. Verhaeghe tied it 5 minutes later and to the third they went, tied at 2-2.

It stayed that way until Reinhart decided they'd played enough.

Devils 8, Hurricanes 4

In Newark, Jack Hughes had two goals and two assists to help New Jersey cut their series deficit to 2-1.

Nico Hischier and Ondrej Palat each had a goal and an assist, and Timo Meier, Damon Severson, Michael McCleod and Miles Wood also scored for the Devils. Dawson Mercer had three assists, and Jesper Bratt, John Marino and Luke Hughes each added two. Vitek Vanecek returned to the net and made 26 saves.

ICE HOCKEY

The eight goals were the most for the Devils in a playoff game since they beat Washington 10-4 on April 22, 1988.

Carolina set an NHL record, scoring three short-handed goals in the game. Jordan Martinook scored on a penalty shot in the second period with the Canes down a man and Jordan Staal and Seth Jarvis scored 50 seconds apart on the same penalty kill in the third. Sebastian Aho had other goal for the Hurricanes.

Frederik Andersen, who allowed two goals on 48 shots in the first two games of the series, gave up four on 12 shots before being replaced by Pyotr Kochetkov early in the second period. Kochetkov finished with 18 saves.

Kraken 7, Stars 2

In Seattle, Jordan Eberle sparked a five-goal outburst in the second period outburst with his fourth goal of the playoffs. Philipp Grubauer made 24 saves and Seattle took a 2-1 series lead in the Western Conference semifinal.

Alex Wennberg, Matty Beniers, Eeli Tolvanen and Justin Schultz each had a goal and an assist, and Carson Soucy and Yann Gourde also scored for the second-year Kraken. Soucy became Seattle's 16th different goal scorer this postseason.

Mason Marchment and Jani Hakanpää scored for Dallas. Jake Oettinger had 12 saves on 17 shots and was replaced for the third period by backup Scott Wedgewood, who finished with six saves.

Game 4 is Tuesday night.



Team Thailand celebrates on the 15th green after winning the finals at the International Crown match play golf tournament in San Francisco. (AP)

Clark wins Wells Fargo

Thailand take International Crown

CHARLOTTE, N.C., May 8, (AP): Wyndham Clark shot 68 on Sunday for a four-shot victory over Xander Schauffele at the Wells Fargo Championship to earn his first career win on the PGA Tour.

The 29-year-old Clark struggled to hold back tears as he sank a bogey putt on the 18th hole to seal the win.

Clark finished at 19-under 265, the second-lowest score to par in tournament history. Rory McIlroy shot 21-under 267 in 2015 when Quail Hollow played as a par 72.

Schauffele had accuracy issues with his driver on Sunday and shot 70, finishing at 15 under.

Clark opened the final round with a two-shot lead, surrendered it to Schauffele after seven holes and then stormed back to win after playing the final 11 holes in 4 under.

Clark moved from No. 80 to No. 31 in the world ranking. He also earned a spot in the British Open, along with Michael Kim and Denny McCarthy.

Atthaya Thitikul birdied the 16th hole to cap a dominating week that carried Thailand to a victory over Australia on Sunday for the country's first International Crown team match play title.

Thitikul beat Stephanie Kyriacou 4 and 2 to improve to 5-0 on the week and earn the clinching point in the final. Patty Tavatanakit had already beaten Hannah Green 4 and 3 in the other singles match.

Sisters Ariya and Moriya Jutanugarn won their match over Minjee Lee and Sarah Kemp 4 and 3 when Ariya Jutanugarn holed out a chip shot from the edge of the green on the 15th hole as sixth-seeded Thailand finished the week winning 11 of 12 matches.

The United States beat Sweden in the consolation match to finish third.

It was a breakthrough weekend for Thailand, which had never finished better than fourth in the first three editions of this tournament.

But the Thai team was dominant at Harding Park as the only country to win every match in pool play and then delivering a dominating championship match after surviving a tight semifinal against the United States earlier in the day.

Adrian Meronk closed with a 2-under 69 for a one-shot victory Sunday in the Italian Open, strengthening the Polish player's case to return to Marco Simone as part of Europe's Ryder Cup team.

Meronk finished at 13-under 271 to defeat Romain Langasque (70). Julien Guerrier, who held the 54-hole lead, shot 73 and finished alone in third, three shots behind.

Meronk won for the third time on the European tour and moved to No. 4 in the Race to Dubai

standings.

He took the lead with a 3-wood just short of the green on the par-4 16th. Meronk then saved par on the 17th after missing the green to the right, and then effectively sealed it by making a 7-foot birdie putt on the final hole.

Marco Simone hosts the Ryder Cup the last week in September.

Stephen Ames capped off his dominant week on the TPC Sugarloaf with a 4-under 68 on Sunday that gave him the tournament scoring record and a four-shot victory in the Mitsubishi Electric Classic.

Ames joined David Toms as the only multiple winners on the PGA Tour Champions this year. He previously won the Trophy Hassan II in Morocco.

Ames had a three-shot lead going into the final and was never seriously challenged. He drove into the water on the final hole and

still made a 30-foot par putt to finish at 19-under 197. Ames broke his own 54-hole record at Sugarloaf by four shots. He also won in 2017.

Miguel Angel Jimenez birdied the final hole for a 68 to finish alone in second. Brett Quigley tried to make a run at Ames and got within three shots until a bogey-double bogey finish for a 69 to finish alone in fourth.

GOLF

Gabriela Ruffels closed with a 1-under 71 to cap off a wire-to-wire win in the Garden City Charity Classic, her second victory this year on the Epson Tour. She won by four shots over Isabella Fierro (62), Agathe Laisne (63) and Ga Yul Kang (65).

Chanjin Jung closed with a 5-under 66 for a six-shot victory in the GS Caltex Maekyung Open. It was his first victory on the Asian Tour.

Maximilian Rottluff of Germany closed with a 2-under 70 and won the UAE Challenge in Abu Dhabi by one shot over Ugo Coussaud for his first Challenge Tour victory. ... Lachlan Barker shot a 5-under 67 and won the PNG Open by four shots over Jack Murdoch on the PGA Tour of Australasia.

Toni Hakula closed with a 5-under 67 for a one-shot victory over Julian Itulain in the Kia Open in Ecuador on the PGA Tour Latinoamérica.

Yuri Yoshida finished with a 1-over 73 for a three-shot victory over Jiay Shin in the World Ladies Championship Salompas Cup on the Japan LPGA.

Bo Kyeom Park had a 68 and recorded a three-shot victory in the Kyochon 1991 Ladies Open. The Korea LPGA event was shortened to 36 holes.



Florida Panthers center Sam Reinhart (13) celebrates scoring the game-winning goal with teammate Anton Lundell during overtime of Game 3 of an NHL hockey Stanley Cup second-round playoff series against the Toronto Maple Leafs in Sunrise, Fla. (AP)



New Jersey Devils goaltender Vitek Vanecek clears the puck during the third period of Game 3 of an NHL hockey Stanley Cup second-round playoff series against the Carolina Hurricanes in Newark, N.J. (AP)

Gujarat in control

Hyderabad win after IPL no-ball drama

JAIPUR, India, May 8, (AP): Abdul Samad stayed calm amid an unexpected ending as Sunrisers Hyderabad beat Rajasthan Royals by four wickets in the Indian Premier League.

It was IPL drama at its best as Sandeep Sharma needed to defend 17 off the last six balls at Jaipur. He gave away 12 runs off the first five balls, and then Samad was out caught off the last one, only for it to be deemed a no ball.

Samad quickly smacked the free hit for six as Rajasthan lost a game it thought it had won just a minute earlier.

Samad finished with a run-a-ball 17 not out, with Glenn Phillips' 25 off seven balls making the chase pos-

CRICKET

sible. Hyderabad finished on 217-6, propelled by Abhishek Sharma's 55 off 34.

Jos Buttler rediscovered his form to score 95 off 59 balls as Rajasthan finished on 214-2.

Buttler scored his first half-century after six innings and hit 10 fours and four sixes. It was his fourth half-century of the season.

He put on 54 off 30 balls with in-form Yashasvi Jaiswal (35) and then added 138 off 81 balls with skipper Sanju Samson for the second wicket.

Samson scored a half-century after five innings - 66 off 38. He hit four fours and five sixes as Rajasthan recorded its highest total of the season.

In reply, Abhishek Sharma put on 51 off 35 balls with Anmolpreet Singh for the opening stand. Sharma hit five fours and two sixes.

Rahul Tripathi egged the chase on with 47 off 29 as he put on 65 with Sharma. Hyderabad seemed to be cruising at 116-1 in 12.3 overs when Sharma fell to Ravichandran Ashwin.

Yuzvendra Chahal then picked up three wickets to damage the chase. He dismissed Tripathi, while Heinrich



Sunrisers Hyderabad's Heinrich Klaasen plays a shot during the Indian Premier League cricket match between Rajasthan Royals and Sunrisers Hyderabad in Jaipur, India, Sunday, May 7, 2023. (AP)

Klaasen was caught for 26. Chahal finished with 4-29 in four overs, including two wickets in the 18th over. He also trapped Aiden Markram lbw for six, shortly after sending back Tripathi.

Glenn Phillips smacked 25 off seven balls to keep Hyderabad in the chase.

Earlier, Gujarat Titans moved even closer to sealing its place in the knockout stage as it continued a dominant run against Lucknow Super Giants with a 56-run win.

The defending champions top the table with 16 points from 11 games. Shubman Gill scored 94 not out off 51 deliveries as Gujarat piled up 227-2, its highest-ever total in the league. It was also the fourth highest total in the 2023 season.

In reply, Quinton de Kock scored a 41-ball 70 to lead Lucknow's chase but the visitors fell far short at 171-7.

It was Gujarat's fourth win against Lucknow since 2022.

Gill notched up his second-highest individual score for Gujarat and put on 142 runs off 74 balls for the first wicket with Wriddhiman Saha.

Saha scored 81, including 50 off 20 balls, as Lucknow didn't have a response to their opening stand.

Gill reached 50 off 29 balls, and overall hit seven sixes and two fours. Saha hit 10 fours and four sixes. They put on 100 off 50 balls.

Lucknow got the breakthrough in the 13th over, but there was no respite for the bowlers as Gill put on a rapid 42 with Hardik Pandya (25) for the second wicket.

Consolation win for New Zealand

KARACHI, Pakistan, May 8, (AP): Under-strength New Zealand enjoyed a consolation 47-run win in the fifth and final one-day cricket international to deny Pakistan a clean sweep of the series.

Pakistan slipped to No. 3 in the ODI rankings behind Australia and India after it was bowled out for 252 in 46.1 overs - its lowest total in the series - as run-machine Babar Azam went for just one run in his 100th ODI in the final game.

CRICKET

Pakistan rose to the top of the ODI rankings after it won the fourth game of the series on Friday, but needed a 5-0 sweep to retain its No. 1 spot.

Half centuries by Will Young (87) and captain Tom Latham (59) formed the backbone of New Zealand's total of 299 in 49.3 overs after Latham won his third successive toss in the Karachian leg of the series, but decided to bat first for the first time.

Middle-order batter Iftikhar Ahmed missed out on his first ODI century and made a fighting unbeaten 94 off 72 balls after Pakistan's top-order stuttered for the first time in the series.

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Red Bull's Max Verstappen reacts on the podium after winning the Formula One Miami Grand Prix auto race at the Miami International Autodrome in Miami Gardens, Fla. (A)

Sports

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Verstappen keeps Red Bull undefeated

Reigning champ drives from ninth to victory at Miami GP

MIAMI GARDENS, Fla., May 8, (AP): Max Verstappen used an easy Sunday drive to keep Red Bull undefeated on the season, as the reigning two-time Formula One champion drove from ninth to the victory at the Miami Grand Prix.

Red Bull has won all five races so far this season, and teammate Sergio Perez's second-place finish in Miami was the fourth 1-2 finish for Red Bull this year. Verstappen has three wins this season, while Perez, the pole sitter in Miami, has two.

The win was the 38th of his career for Verstappen, who tied Sebastian Vettel for most victories for Red Bull. At this pace, he'll smash Vettel's record by the end of what many critics are already complaining is a boring Red Bull-dominated season.

Red Bull boss Christian Horner praised Verstappen's poise over the 57-lap race that gave him his second consecutive victory in Miami.

"Well done, Max. That was a mighty middle stint, really impressive on the hard tire and thanks for racing cleanly with your teammate," Horner said.

Red Bull has said it will allow Verstappen and Perez to cleanly race for the championship, and Perez seemed poised to take the points lead in Miami by starting from the pole. Verstappen was relegated to a ninth-place starting position because qualifying was cut short before his final qualifying attempt by a Charles Leclerc crash.

MOTOR RACING

But the Dutchman had no problem driving through the field. He went from ninth to sixth in the first four laps, using a pass of two cars in one corner to gain ground. He was fifth by the ninth lap, fourth on Lap 12 and finally behind Perez in second on Lap 15.

Verstappen took the lead when Perez pitted on Lap 20 and he held nearly a 18-second lead with 15 laps remaining. When he finally made his pit stop, Verstappen returned to the track in second but only 1.6 seconds behind Perez.

It took him just minutes to pass Perez for the win, taking the lead in a wheel-to-wheel battle with nine laps remaining. Although Verstappen has won from a lower starting position before, he becomes the first driver since Niki Lauda in 1984 at the French Grand Prix to win from ninth.

The victory also came on the anniversary of the 2016 announcement that Verstappen was being promoted from the junior team to Red Bull ahead of the fifth round of that season.

Perez finished second, a full 5.3 seconds behind Verstappen.

"I tried, I gave it all," Perez said as the crowd chanted his nickname "Checo! Checo! Checo!"

Fernando Alonso was third for Aston Martin but finished 26 seconds behind. It was the fourth podium in five races for the resurgent Spaniard.

"It was not easy, it was never easy, but it was a lonely race," Alonso said.

George Russell was fourth for Mercedes, followed by Carlos Sainz Jr. of Ferrari, and Lewis Hamilton of Mercedes, who drove from 13th to sixth. Leclerc was seventh, and Alpine drivers Pierre Gasly and Esteban Ocon were eighth and ninth.

Kevin Magnussen, driver for Amer-



Pakistani players pose for a photo with the trophy after they won the series against New Zealand 4-1 during a presentation ceremony at the end of the fifty one-day international match between Pakistan and New Zealand, in Karachi, Pakistan. (AP) — See Page 15



Drivers head toward the first turn at the start of the Formula One Miami Grand Prix auto race at Miami International Autodrome in Miami Gardens, Fla. (AP)

ican team Haas, finished 10th to score a point for just the second time this season. Haas has used the Miami race to spotlight all its American sponsors, including Chipotle, which promised 10,000 free burritos if a Haas driver scored a point Sunday.

Logan Sargeant, the first American driver on the grid since 2015, finished last in his home race. Sargeant was born and raised less than 20 miles away from the circuit in Fort Lauderdale.

He started last.

The sold-out crowd of 90,766 included Jeff Bezos, Tom Cruise, Elon Musk, Serena and Venus Williams, and Roger Federer, while LL Cool J handled driver introductions. The drivers walked out to a new song by will.i.am called "The Formula" made specifically for Sunday's race. The song, which is a collaboration with Lil Wayne, was performed by a symphony.

City's Haaland takes on Real's attacking trio

MADRID, May 8, (AP): Two of the best attacking teams in Europe face off in the Champions League semifinals this week, with Manchester City's record-seeking Erling Haaland and going against Real Madrid's red-hot trio of Vinicius Junior, Rodrygo and Karim Benzema.

It will be a rematch of last year's semifinal, when Madrid got the better of a City team that didn't have Haaland in the squad. City fell short of European success yet again, while Madrid went on to win a record-extending 14th title.

The addition of Haaland could be the difference-maker for Pep Guardiola's team this time. The 22-year-old Norwegian scored 12 of City's 26 goals in the Champions League this season. He is five short of Cristiano Ronaldo's single-season record of 17 goals for Madrid in 2013-14.

Haaland added a new dimension to a City attack that played most of last season without a striker. Instead of focusing on always dominating possession, Guardiola has been happy to use Haaland as a weapon on the counterattack at times. The striker has a Premier League-record 35 goals this season, and 51 in total in all competitions.

Madrid will stick to the formula that has worked well in recent years, with Vinicius, Benzema and Rodrygo taking turns to lead an attack that scored 25 goals in the Champions League this season - 15 of them coming from the trio. They scored eight of the team's 10 goals in the knockout stage alone.

Last season, Vinicius, Benzema and Rodrygo combined for all six of Madrid's goals as it advanced past City 6-5 on aggregate in the semifinals. Rodrygo scored the two late goals that took the second leg to extra time at the Santiago

Bernabeu Stadium.

Rodrygo is coming off a two-goal performance in the 2-1 win over Osasuna that gave Madrid the Copa del Rey title on Saturday. Vinicius had an assist and continued to play at a top level. Benzema had a hat trick in Madrid's 4-2 win against Almeria in the previous Spanish league round.

With the Copa title secured and the league out of reach, Madrid can fully focus on the matchup against City.

"We're preparing for a big game on Tuesday and we're heading into it with our morale very high," coach Carlo Ancelotti said. "We're going to compete and fight because

SOCCER

we're so close to another final."

City will enter the semifinals still in the middle of a tight title race in England. Guardiola had to play some of his top players - including Haaland and Kevin de Bruyne - for the full 90 minutes in the 2-1 win over Leeds on Saturday.

Madrid eliminated two other English clubs in the Champions League this season - Liverpool in the round of 16 and Chelsea in the quarterfinals. City advanced past Leipzig in the last 16 and Bayern Munich in the last eight.

Madrid is making its 11th semifinal appearances in 13 seasons and is trying to win its sixth title in 10 seasons. City played in its first Champions League final two seasons ago, losing to Chelsea.

Harden makes winning 3 in OT, 76ers edge Celtics

Booker, Durant both score 36, Suns even series with Nuggets

PHOENIX, May 8, (AP): Devin Booker had 36 points and 12 assists, Kevin Durant also scored 36 points and the Phoenix Suns beat the Denver Nuggets 129-124 on Sunday to even their Western Conference semifinal playoff series at two games apiece.

Backup guard Landry Shamet made four crucial 3-pointers in the fourth quarter to keep the Suns ahead. Denver lost despite a huge game from MVP runner-up Nikola Jokic, who poured in 53 points on 20-of-30 shooting.

Jokic used his physical play to knock down several big buckets, even ripping the ball away from Suns owner Mat Ishbia at one point after the ball went out of bounds, which earned the Nuggets All-Star a technical foul.

The series returns to Denver for Game 5 on Tuesday.

The Suns took a 98-92 lead into the fourth quarter after a scoring flurry from Booker, who had 17 points in the third. Phoenix wouldn't trail in the fourth, though Denver didn't go quietly.

The Nuggets trailed 116-106 with 4:55 remaining but never panicked, slowly cutting into the lead. They pulled within 123-120 with 22.4 seconds left but TJ Warren made two free throws to push the margin back to five.

Booker - averaging 36 points on 60% shooting in these playoffs - was hot once again, shooting 14 of 18 from the field, including 3 of 4 on 3-pointers. Shamet finished with 19 points, shooting 5 of 8 on 3s.

Jamal Murray added 28 points and seven assists for the Nuggets.

Suns point guard Chris Paul missed his second straight game with a strained left groin suffered during Game 2.

The Suns took a 63-61 lead by halftime. Jokic had 24 points for the Nuggets before the break while Durant had 21 for the Suns.

Jokic was assessed a technical foul in the second after a bizarre altercation with Ishbia.

Late in the period, Suns guard Josh Okogie crashed into the seats while trying to save a loose ball. He landed in a group of fans on the baseline that included Ishbia, who grabbed the basketball.

Jokic was trying to get the basketball quickly - apparently so the Nuggets

could start their offensive possession - when he tried to take the ball away from Ishbia. The ball flew backward into the crowd, and then Ishbia was knocked backward by Jokic's elbow.

There were a few minutes of confusion as officials sorted out the weird scene, and then Jokic was assessed a technical foul.

Ishbia told The Associated Press at halftime that he was "fine" and more worried about the game than the altercation. He was back in his usual seats in the second half.

BASKETBALL

Suns center Deandre Ayton was the subject of scorn from media and fans following his subpar performance in Game 3.

Ayton had just four points and nine rebounds in Game 3 and the former No. 1 overall pick was benched in the fourth quarter in favor of Jock Landale.

But the big man got the fans back on his side during the first offensive possession of the night, grabbing three

consecutive offensive rebounds before Booker hit a short jumper as the crowd roared. Ayton finished with eight points and eight rebounds.

76ers 116, Celtics 115

In Philadelphia, James Harden had a new friend he called his good-luck charm in the arena and the grit he needed to turn in a vintage effort - in the form of tying and winning shots - for the 76ers.

Looking down-and-out in the previous two games, Good Game James saved the 76ers in Game 4.

Harden hit the floater with 16 seconds left in regulation that tied the game, buried the go-ahead 3-pointer with 18 seconds remaining in overtime and scored 42 points to help the Sixers stave off a wild Boston Celtics comeback in a 116-115 victory.

The 76ers tied their playoff series at 2-2 with Game 5 set for Tuesday.

Harden won the game in front of John Hao, a paralyzed Michigan State shooting survivor who developed a long-distance friendship with the 10-time All-Star. Harden invited Hao to a game as soon as he was able to travel.

Harden waved over Hao and signed his game-worn sneakers moments after Marcus Smart's potential winner was a tick too late. The 76ers are now guaranteed to return home for Game 6 on Thursday. Jaylen Brown said his poor defensive read when he ditched Harden to try and double Joel Embiid was a pivotal moment.

The Celtics did almost all they could to snuff out that chance. Smart and Jayson Tatum keyed a Celtics rally from 15 points down with 2 minutes left in the third quarter.

Boston's fun began in the fourth when Smart and Brown buried consecutive 3-pointers and Tatum attacked the rim for a bucket that wiped out an eight-point hole in 90 seconds. Al Horford put them ahead 98-90 - on a possession that started on the other end when Tyrese Maxey had his shot blocked - and shimmied for the crowd as boos rained on him.

Yes, the 76ers had home court but fans tensed up as memories all those second-round exits since 2001 stirred inside the building. Smart and Malcolm Brogdon hit consecutive 3s for a 105-100 lead.



Philadelphia 76ers' Joel Embiid (right), goes up to shoot against Boston Celtics' Al Horford (42) and Jaylen Brown (7) during the second half of Game 4 in an NBA basketball Eastern Conference semifinals playoff series in Philadelphia. (AP)