



baseball Page 14



Pages 15 & 16 soccer

UN HOPES SYRIA LEAGUE RETURN HELPS END WAR Ties with neighbors on incline: Iran



Mourners carry the bodies of Palestinians who were killed in Israeli airstrikes, during their funeral in Gaza City, Tuesday, May 9, 2023.

'Visas more attainable'

TEHRAN, May 9, (Agencies): Iran on Monday said its relations with neighboring Arab states is on the incline in the light of the recent proceedings.

During a press conference Spokesperson of the Iranian Foreign Ministry Nasser Kanaani said that the exchange of delegations in the region has resulted in a very positive outcome especially for bilateral relations with countries like Saudi Arabia, UAE, and Kuwait.

Adding, he said Iran's foreign policy seeks to achieve "common goals and remove misunderstandings" assuring that Tehran will continue in this path to guarantee the bilateral interests of the region.

In general, cooperation with regional nations in accordance with the recent conditions will lead to better relations through joint endeavors and dialogues.

In response to a question on the diplomatic relations with Saudi Arabia, Kanaani said, "we have made good progress in equipping and maintain diplomatic missions", with official agenda set thanks to the recent agreements which include the restructuring of locations in Riyadh and Jeddah.

He also mentioned that there are no more travel restrictions between both nations, especially for businessmen, and the possibility of issuing entry visas are much more attainable.

He was also enthusiastic towards re-opening embassies and consulates officially in both capitals, thanks to the contemporary agreements in Beijing to re-establish diplomatic relations.

Elsewhere, the U.N. chief expressed hope Monday that Syria's return to the Arab League and its engagement with regional powers could spur progress in resolving the 13-year Syrian civil war, as Damascus faced pressure to be transparent about chemical weapons.

Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said he believes the region "has a vital role to play in the search for settlement of the conflict," which began with an uprising against President Bashar Assad's rule in 2011 that was met with a violent crackdown. The civil war has killed nearly a half million people, and displaced half the country's pre-war population of 23 million.

Syria was reinstated in the 22-nation Arab League on Sunday after a 12-year suspension. It was a symbolic victory for Assad, who can join the group's May 19 summit, though Western sanctions will continue to block reconstruction funds to the war-battered country.

Guterres' comments challenged regional players to take a leading role in trying to get the Syrian government and opposition to negotiate an end to the war - something that succeeding U.N. envoys have been unable to do. The secretary-general said current special envoy Geir Peteresen will "continue to work closely with all key actors," according to his spokesman.

At the same time, Syria's chemical weapons program remains a serious and contentious issue. A majority of the world's nations and the global chemical weapons watchdog accuse Damascus of hiding activities, while its close ally Russia defends Assad's actions.



Activists set up an installation representing Russian atrocities against Ukraine, in Warsaw, Poland, on Tuesday, May 9, 2023. The one-day installation was set up on Russia's Victory Day, the day when Russia celebrates the Allied defeat of Nazi Germany at the end of World War II. (AP)

NewsWatch

Kuwait suspends visas for Filipinos

KUWAIT CITY, May 9: All types of work and entry visas for Filipino workers entering Kuwait have been suspended after an alleged non-compliance with the clauses of a bilateral labor agreement, reports Al-Anba daily quoting sources.

According to sources, the suspension came at the orders of the First Deputy Prime Minister, Interior Minister and Acting Defense Minister Sheikh Talal Khaled Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

KUWAIT CITY: The State of Kuwait on Tuesday sent its sixth Air Force aircraft carrying 10 tons of medical supplies to violence-hit Sudan.

The aid plane is part of the recently announced airlift, directed by Kuwait's political leadership, aiming at helping the Sudanese people amid their country's tough circumstances due to ongoing fighting there.

He added that 60 tons of food and medical aid have been sent to Sudan since the outbreak of infighting in Sudan. (KUNA)

CAIRO: The death toll from the ongoing clashes in Sudan has risen to 604 people, including civilians, the U.N. health agency said on Tuesday. The new figures come as representatives of the warring parties are holding talks in Saudi Arabia.

More than 5,100 people were also wounded in connection with the fighting, World Health Organization spokesperson Tarik Jasarevic told reporters. On Monday, the Sudanese Doctors' Syndicate, which tracks only civilian casualties, said that the fatalities had reached 487.

The conflict started on April 15, after months of escalating tensions between the military, led by Gen. Abdel-Fattah Burhan, and a rival paramilitary group called the Rapid Support Forces, or RSF, commanded by Gen. Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo. (AP)

BRUSSELS: The European Commission, the EU's executive body, last Friday, adopted its proposal for the 11th sanctions package against Russia.

The focus of this package is now on cracking down on circumvention of sanctions, President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen announced Tuesday.

"We recently see a growth of highly unusual trade flows between the European Union and certain third countries. These goods then end up in Russia. (KUNA)

WASHINGTON: The U.S. will provide \$1.2 billion more in long-term military aid to Ukraine to further bolster its air defenses as Russia continues to pound Ukraine with drones, rockets and surface-to-air missiles, U.S. officials said Monday.

The aid package is expected to be announced on Tuesday and the money will be provided under the Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative. (AP)

Women, children among dead

Israeli Gaza airstrikes kill 3 senior militants, 10 others

GAZA CITY, May 9, (AP): Israel carried out a series of targeted airstrikes in densely populated areas of the Gaza Strip early Tuesday, killing three senior commanders of the Islamic Jihad militant group and at least 10 civilians, Palestinian health officials said. Two of the commanders' wives, several of their children and other bystanders were among the dead.

The attacks set the stage for what is likely to be a new round of heavy fighting. The airstrikes hit the top floor of an apartment building, a house in Gaza City and a third house in the southern town of Rafah. The Palestinian Health Ministry said 20 people were wounded, and that some were in serious or critical condition.

Israel said it targeted several militant training sites as well before the airstrikes halted at daybreak. After a lull, the Israeli military said that warplanes struck militants carrying anti-tank guided missiles in the enclave's southern city of Khan Younis later Tuesday. The Palestinian Civil Defense reported that two people were killed, without immediately providing their identities.

At midday, tens of thousands of people took part in two funerals, with at least 10 bodies carried on stretchers through the streets in a mass procession in Gaza City. Children's coffins were carried next to those of their parents.

Such targeted killings are rare, and in the past, Palestinian militant groups have retaliated with heavy barrages of rocket fire.

In anticipation of renewed rocket fire, the Israeli military advised residents of communities within 25 miles (40 kilometers) of Gaza to stay close to designated bomb shelters.

Israel's Home Front command ordered the closure of schools, beaches and highways in cities and towns in

southern Israel, and limited public gatherings.

The military said the three targeted men had been responsible for recent rocket fire toward Israel.

It identified them as Khalil Bahtini, the Islamic Jihad commander for northern Gaza Strip; Tareq Izzelddeen, the group's intermediary between its Gaza and West Bank members; and Jihad Ghanam, the secretary of the Islamic Jihad's military council.

The Iran-backed Islamic Jihad, which is smaller than Gaza's ruling Hamas group, confirmed the three were among the dead.

In its statement, the group said the wives of the three commanders were killed, but witnesses and family members said the wives of only two commanders were killed. The Palestinian Health Ministry said the 13 dead included four women and four children.

The Russian diplomatic delegation in Ramallah, in the West Bank, said that one of the men killed, Jamal Khaswan, was a Russian national, and that his wife and son were also killed. Khaswan was a dentist who lived downstairs from Izzelddeen in Gaza City.

The Israeli airstrikes drew condemnation from Palestinian Prime Minister Mohammed Shtayyeh, Jordan's foreign ministry and the Egyptian government, which often mediates between Israel and Palestinian militant groups in the Gaza Strip.

Tor Wennesland, the U.N. envoy to the Mideast, said he was "deeply alarmed" and condemned the civilian deaths, calling on all sides "to exercise maximum restraint."

Dawood Shahab, an Islamic Jihad official, said that there would be a "unified Palestinian response" to the strikes at a time and place of its choosing.

Opinion

Outcome of the upcoming election

By Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

THE new episode of the election series is here. However, we are emotionally and physically bored this time after the numerous promises given by the parliamentary aspirants. It already appears to be a failing venture, similar to the previous elections, the one before that, and the one before that... in fact the elections of the past three decades.

Since 1963, nothing has changed. Development has not proceeded according to the citizens' aspirations. Even the laws have not been amended to satisfy people's aspirations. In addition, the successive governments have not been at the level of ambition; in fact, in many cases it has turned into a generator of corruption.

On the other hand, successive parliaments are not better than the governments, as they followed the same path of prioritizing personal interests over the interest of the nation, which entrusted some individuals whom it considered trustworthy to represent it.

Nonetheless, these parliaments were disappointing, as their members worked contrary to what they preached. Among the signs that emerged from the circle of candidates, there is no promise of a radical change that would lead the country out of the furnace of conflicts, bickering and maliciousness.

Rather, most of what we will see after June 6 are the same slogans, and the continuation of spinning in a vicious circle of conflict between the government and the National Assembly, from which we will all come out with one result - "effort applied, zero."

It is firmly established in people's minds that the next National Assembly will neither change the reality of development, nor work to solve the housing problem, nor seek to open the country to investors.

This is due to the fact that the one who does not possess something cannot give. The former MPs who are currently nominated did not provide anything to suggest that during the past years. Also, the government does not intend to change its behavior in this regard, and work with the slogan "Simplicity is the best policy."

The matter is in the hands of the stakeholders who were granted full powers by the Constitution to take fateful decisions to end what the country suffers from, and act in the same way as neighboring countries, which did not wait for anyone to launch the wheel of development, and were not dominated by the "citizen and expatriate" complexity, which has become a phobia in Kuwait.

Rather, it sought the help of all the minds and people of experience, irrespective of whether they wore French suits, spoke a language other than Arabic, did not master the local dialects, or were people of national aspiration, who did not work for the benefit of any team, because they wanted to invest in minds, not in deceit and "dishdashas."

Look at the advisory board of the Dubai Chamber of Commerce, and whose help the ruler of the emirate Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid had sought in recent appointments. Are there not some Kuwaitis, Arabs and foreigners among them?

Continued on Page 4

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Day by Day

THE 'thief of the Gulf' did not spare even the senior officials in his country. He cheated and robbed them in broad daylight. He claims Maher al-Assad owns money and real estate in Malta and Marbella and claims he was entrusted with managing and keeping the property a secret.

Often times he will place a call to one of the women of ill repute and make you believe he is talking to the elders or even the head of state. You often hear him during the conversation addressing the person at the other end as 'Mr President', 'Sir' and 'Your Lordship'. His tactics are to request the people around him to remain silent to impress them saying 'the call is confidential'.

The stupid thief has now been exposed. He will be punished for his lies and theft of people's money. It is just a matter of time since all the evidence points a finger against him. ... Yet tomorrow is another day. Zahed Matar



A woman gestures in front of a banner with an image of Turkish President and People's Alliance's presidential candidate Recep Tayyip Erdogan, in Istanbul, Turkey, Monday, May 8, 2023. (AP)

Prayer Timings

Fajr 03:32 Asr 15:20
 Sunrise .. 05:00 Maghrib .. 18:29
 Zohr 11:44 Isha 19:54

Local

CIVIL ID STATUS INQUIRY: <https://e.gov.kw/sites/kgenglish/Pages/eServices/PACI/CivilIDStatus.aspx>

Expected weather for the next 24 hours:

By Day: Hot and partly cloudy with light variable wind to light to moderate northerly wind with speeds of 08-30 km/h.
By Night: Mild and partly

Weather

cloudy with light variable wind to light to moderate northerly wind with speeds of 08-30 km/h.

Station	Max Exp	Min Rec
Kuwait City	33	26
Kuwait Airport	35	26

Abdaly	39	24
Jahra	40	25
Salmiyah	32	25
Ahmadi	32	25
Nuwaisib	33	26
Wafra	36	23



His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, receives the Minister of Information, the Chairman and members of the Kuwait Youth Assembly and Assemblymen. PM Diwan photo

PM receives Info Minister, Youth Assembly members

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah received Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi, accompanied by Chairman of Kuwait Youth Assembly Nawaf Al-Azmi and assemblymen, at Bayan Palace on

Tuesday. High Highness the Prime Minister affirmed the government's sustained keenness to communicate with youth and wipe out obstacles they could face and work to meet their hopes and ambitions, calling for developing

their skills and unleashing their energies.

His Highness also expressed his appreciation for the assembly's efforts to address challenges, actively get involved in serving their country and achieve reforms and developments. (KUNA)

'2022 Assembly was pro-reform'

Number of candidates hits 119



Photo by Mohammad Morsi
 A woman candidate talks to the press after filing her candidacy for the upcoming National Assembly election.

Social media erupts in protest

Outcry against MoH's fee hike

KUWAIT CITY, May 9: The decision taken by the Ministry of Health to impose a fee of KD 20 for each bag of blood and its derivatives for non-Kuwaiti residents who are registered in the health insurance system, as well as to impose laboratory test fees has sparked a popular outcry among citizens and residents, reports Al-Nahar daily.

A massive campaign was organized on social media, calling on the Ministry of Health to rescind its decision under humanitarian considerations.

Medical circles described the decision as "hasty and ill-considered", stressing that its implementation will have negative effects, even at the level of blood stocks in the blood bank, which always makes appeals to the public to donate due to a shortage in its strategic stock of blood.

They revealed that the data related to the blood bank revealed that 65 percent of the donors are expatriates.

They said they wondered how blood can be taken from them as a "donation" and then sold to them when needed.

They highlighted that in 2022, 84,500 units of blood cells and 7,000 units of platelets were collected from citizens and residents of more than 75 nationalities.

They stressed that such a decision will discourage many from donating their blood, and instead choosing to do so only when asking for a donation for their relatives or friends or for emergency humanitarian assistance from expatriates, as the ministry exempted those who have donors from financial fees.

The Ministry of Health had issued a statement clarifying the decision regarding the fees for blood bags.

It affirmed that the decision exempts a patient from all fees if there is a donor for each blood bag or its derivatives.

The Ministry of Health explained that the fees will not apply to Kuwaiti patients, emergency or critical cases, cancer cases, children of non-Kuwaiti patients, or other humanitarian cases. They are limited to specific categories such as non-Kuwaiti patients of non-emergency and pre-scheduled operations. This is within the framework of preserving the national strategic stock of blood and its derivatives.

381 get promotion: Acting Undersecretary of the Ministry of Social Affairs Abdulaziz Sari revealed that the Personnel Affairs Committee in the Ministry held a meeting which was chaired by him to discuss a number of important issues related to employees, including approving promotions and selection for workers in accordance with the requirements and

By Saeed Mahmoud Saleh
 Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, May 9: Thirteen male citizens and two females on Tuesday filed their candidacies for the upcoming National Assembly election, increasing the number of candidates to 119 so far – 115 men and four women.

The candidates who registered on the fifth day of the 10-day registration period are as follows:

First Constituency

- 1- Essa Ahmad Al-Subaidi
- 2- Muhammad Mubarak Al-Azmi

Second Constituency

- 1- Alyaa Al-Khalid

Third Constituency

- 1- Hamad Adel Al-Obaid
- 2- Abdulkareem Al-Kandari
- 3- Faisal Sabhan Al-Saleh

Fourth Constituency

- 1- Hamdan Laili Al-Subaidi
- 2- Ajeel Lahmoud Al-Shemmari
- 3- Maryam Muhsen Al-Mutairi
- 4- Mubarak Homoud Al-Tasha
- 5- Hazzaa Metleq Al-Hadba

Fifth Constituency

- 1- Hamdan Salem Al-Azmi
- 2- Abdulhadi Nasser Al-Ajmi
- 3- Eid Falah Al-Azmi
- 4- Muhammad MUSAED Al-Doussari

Meanwhile, in a press statement after filing his candidacy; MP Hamad Al-Obaid said the 2022 Assembly was pro-reform and this is the reason why it had been the subject of attacks from day one. He revealed some parties were keen on distorting the image of the 2022 Assembly by generalizing the violations committed by a few MPs to include those who were the first to address certain violations like the illegal appointments at Kuwait Ports Authority and exceptional salaries. He pointed out the optimism of citizens after the announcement of the 2022 parliamentary election results turned into dismay when the Constitutional Court nullified the 2022 Assembly. He hopes the outcome of the upcoming election is the same as that of the 2022 legislature whose members were pro-reform. He also confirmed that the Salafi Bloc and many diwaniyas in the Third Constituency support his electoral bid.

In addition, asked why he and his colleagues are keen on running for the upcoming election although the next Assembly will most likely be dissolved; former MP Abdulkareem Al-Kandari admitted he is aware of such a possibility. He argued that even if the next Assembly is not nullified, it can be dissolved as per Article 107 of the Constitution.

This article states: "The Amir may, by Decree, dissolve the National Assembly, giving the reasons for such dissolution. However, the National Assembly shall not be dissolved again on the same grounds.

Where the Assembly has been dissolved, elections for the new Assembly must be held within a period not exceeding two months from the date of the dissolution.

Where no elections take place within that period the dissolved Assembly shall recover its full constitutional power and shall convene immediately as if there had been no dissolution. It shall resume its activities until election of the new Assembly."

Al-Kandari went on to say that some parties want the people of Kuwait to distrust the legislature. He asserted the Assembly is a tool for the people to participate in the rule; hence, the need for them to exercise this right as they might lose it if they continue to abandon it. He urged all eligible citizens to participate in the election in order to prevent non-reform candidates from entering the Assembly.

Philippines latest terms, conditions for new hires

KUWAIT CITY, May 9: Philippines Labor Attaché and Head of the Migrant Workers Office (MWO) - State of Kuwait, Attorney Manuel M. Dimaano, said the recently announced procedures for companies and individuals who wish to bring in Filipino workers to work in the private sector is based on instructions issued by the competent authorities in Manila, reports Al-Qabas daily.

The daily added, the main aim is to reduce the documentary cycle. Commenting on the "requirements for recruiting new, specialized workers for the private sector," the labor attaché said the new requests will be governed by the terms and conditions of Kuwaiti laws."

He indicated that the steps announced for the recruitment of private sector workers have nothing to do with the existing consultations concerning domestic workers, while these requirements are being implemented in all offices of Filipino migrant workers in the GCC countries.

He stated that the new contracts and requirements have improved conditions and brought relief to employers in employment offices and companies seeking to hire Filipino workers.

He pointed out that the implementation of the new procedures in Kuwait was suspended until the completion of consultations with all relevant parties, reaffirming that "the new controls have nothing to do with sending domestic workers to Kuwait."

Customs

Procedures for exit POA for Kuwaiti registered vehicles

KUWAIT CITY, May 9: The Acting Director General of the General Administration of Customs Sulaiman Abdulaziz Al-Fahad issued customs instructions regarding electronic services and integrated regular mechanisms for an exit power of attorney for a Kuwaiti vehicle of individuals, through which the mechanism for issuing the power of attorney will be online for the owner of the car and the one being given the power of attorney, and the authentication of the agency through the feature authentications via My Identity application, reports Al-Anba daily.

In this regard, informed sources explained that the car travel agency issued by the General Administration of Customs is a service provided to Kuwaiti and Gulf citizens only. The car travel agency service is provided to residents through the agency service at the Ministry of Justice and not customs, which means that the current decision applies to citizens and Gulf nationals only and does not apply to residents.

The new customs instructions No. 18/2023 were based on what was stated in the provisions of the Unified Customs Law of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf No. 10/2003 and its executive regulations, and Customs Instructions No. 50/2003 regarding the implementation of Law No. 10/2003 issuing the Unified Customs Law of the GCC States Cooperation for the Arab Gulf states and law No. 20/2014 regarding electronic transactions and further to customs instructions No. 77/2022.

Without prejudice to any obligations arising from other laws in force in the country, and in accordance with what is required by the public interest to facilitate and prepare customs procedures, the following mechanisms are in place for a vehicle travel agency for Kuwaiti individuals through the electronic services of the General Administration of Customs.

The applicant can complete and finalize the procedures for issuing a travel exit permit in a Kuwaiti vehicle for individuals through the following steps:

1. Enter the civil number of the car owner.
2. Enter the civil number of the person entrusted to him.
3. Enter the vehicle plate number.
4. Choose the type of power of attorney (one trip or several trips) and the date of travel.
5. Choose the outlet for issuing the power of attorney.
6. The system checks the information of the car and the owner through electronic link services with the Ministry of Interior.
7. An authentication request is sent

through the "My Identity" application to both the car owner and the person entrusted to him, to authenticate the request for issuing a travel agency.

8. After authentication, the applicant pays the electronic stamp fees and service fees through electronic payment services, and then sends a request to issue a power of attorney.

9. After completing the payment operations, the applicant will be able to

print a copy of the travel permit with the QR code, through which the authenticity of the document can be verified.

The instructions specified the customs procedures for the port during the creation of the exit movement in

the vehicle registration part of the automated customs system. The power of attorney number is entered by the specialist (customs inspector), and the system verifies that the vehicle number matches the vehicle number in the power of attorney, and that the civil number of the owner matches the information with the civil number of the owner by power of attorney, then matching the driver's civil number with the movement information with the civil number of the person entrusted with the power of attorney.

The instructions also stated that if any of the information entered in the movement does not match with the information entered in the power of attorney, a message appears to the specialist that the movement does not match the power of attorney used. If the type of power of attorney is "one trip" and it was used before in an exit movement, a message appears stating that the power of attorney it has been used before. In the event that the type of power of attorney is "several trips", the system verifies the expiry of the power of attorney as determined during the issuance of the power of attorney. If it is completed, a message stating that the power of attorney has expired will appear.

Al-Fahad stressed in the instructions that the expert must take into account the use of the civil numbers of both the owner and the driver in the vehicle movement information, for the purposes of verifying the one exiting, as the travel agency that is issued from the services portal is issued based on the civil numbers on the authentication processes that take place through the "My Identity" application, provided that the new instructions will be implemented starting from earlier this week.

5,000 to benefit: MoH

Nod to DGFD abroad med care

KUWAIT CITY, May 9: The Director of the Health Affairs Department in the Directorate-General of Fire Department (DGFD) Colonel Dr. Fayez Al-Nassar, said the directorate is receiving requests for treatment abroad from members of the fire force and their first-degree relatives for critical and intractable cases that require surgical or non-surgical treatment provided the treatment is not available in Kuwait, reports Al-Rai daily.

The Ministry of Health said about 5,000 members of the force – military or civilian – will benefit from this decision and indicated that one of the conditions for applying for treatment abroad is that a member of the fire force must be on the job and submit a medi-

cal report approved by a government hospital in case of first degree relative must prove kinship and also submit a copy of the civil ID of the patient and his/her companion.

This comes as a step to address the concerns and needs of members of the DGFD upon directives of the First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Interior and Acting Minister of Defense Sheikh Talal Al-Khaled to receive requests for treatment abroad for members of the force and their first-degree relatives.

The sources stated the treatment can be received in America, Britain, France, Thailand, or any other country determined by the competent medical committee.

diwaniya ديوانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

'We want to see leaders in cyber security in every field'

"PERHAPS one of the most important capabilities of any organization today, whether in the public, private, or civil sectors, is its cyber resilience, or what is known as its ability to continue executing its tasks by anticipating and adapting to cyber threats, and other related threats, through steadfastness, containment, and recovering quickly from cyber attacks," columnist **Dr Dhari Adel Al-Huwail** wrote for **Al-Qabas** daily.

"A study prepared by IBM in 2021 examined the steps taken by high-performing organizations in cyber resilience, and showed that 65% of these organizations are able to monitor the security status of their applications and data assets.

"It also showed that 62% of these organizations now rely on automation, artificial intelligence, and machine learning to enhance their cyber resilience. There is no doubt that the whole world is in dire need of the human capital capable of managing and achieving cyber resilience.

"At the invitation of the Central Bank of Kuwait and those in charge of the most wonderful initiative (Kafa'a), which aims to build highly qualified national cadres with the necessary knowledge and skills to develop the banking sector, and enhancing the strength of the national economy in Kuwait we were honored to attend the activities of the third session of the "Cyber Security Leaders" program directed to national competencies specialized in the field of information security. In contrast to such events, which are often interspersed with media reviews, we have seen a very different and practical nature.

"As part of a summary review of the most prominent results of a study conducted by the Central Bank of Kuwait, and presented by Eng Ali Al-Khalid, Director of the Information Security Department, where he reviewed the large gap in the number of specialists in the field of cybersecurity, especially national cadres.

There is no doubt that we have a shortage of national technical cadres specialized in this field, especially with regard to, for example, response to cyber incidents, information intelligence and cloud computing security, in addition to risk assessment for third parties in digital supply chains. The study expected during the next three years, and in the financial and banking fields only, that our need for national cadres specialized in the field of cybersecurity will exceed 100.

"The issue is very important, and it is not purely technical, but rather a matter of national security but we enjoyed, benefited, and were excited about what awaits the national youth competencies in the field of information systems and technology, computer science and engineering.

"What pleased us was that all youth energies wishing to apply for the program were allowed, including recent graduates, without limiting it to workers in the banking and financial sectors. A beautiful initiative, we wish it all success, and it deserves all our support, hoping to see its echo spreading to all sectors in the country and at all levels, and to see the interaction of institutions, each in its specialization, whether in higher education or the executive or legislative side,



Dr Al-Huwail

in a positive way complementarily.
"We want to be proud that we want to see leaders in cyber security in every field."

Also:

"After the issuance of the decree dissolving the National Assembly, some believe that dissolving the parliament or electing a new one will change a lot in the country's economic and social situation," columnist **Mohamed Ramadan** wrote for **Al-Qabas** daily.

"In the past years, the National Assembly representatives were changed and the government was changed time after time, but not much changed.

"There is no fundamental change in the housing issue, in salaries, in education, in health, etc. Thus, many people's follow-up to the state of political instability that has been going on for years can be described as a means of entertainment rather than an end to achieving economic and social goals or to make the observer choose his representatives better, as is the case in many countries of the world.

"If we assume that the state of political instability will continue for years to come, as in the past, which is a realistic assumption, then we have to think about how to deal appropriately with this situation to achieve various economic and social goals that improve the general situation in the country.

"Here comes the role of citizens in lobbying for the establishment of civil society institutions that can pressure politically any government and any council, regardless of the level of disagreement between them.

"These institutions will receive the funding necessary for their establishment and continuation of their work from the state, and their members or those in charge of them will be selected by international institutions due to the citizens' preoccupation with pursuing political affairs for the purpose of entertainment.

"For example, an institution is established to follow up on education, and its citizen members are selected by UNESCO, and an institution is established to monitor health conditions and its members are selected by the World Health Organization, and an institution that follows up on housing affairs and its members are selected by the Gulf Cooperation Council, etc.

"These institutions follow up the implementation of their recommendations with undersecretaries and directors of state agencies and institutions directly, given the preoccupation of ministers with political conflicts, and these new institutions publish their reports and correspondences to the public, so that more pressure is placed on the government and the Council for implementation, and the approval of the necessary legislation, regardless of the level of disagreement between them.

"Some may view the above as cynicism or lack of seriousness, but it is necessary to think outside the box and beyond what is familiar to achieve the public interest in light of the continuing state of political instability, the absence of beneficial priorities for both the government and the parliament, and the inability of citizens to choose who represents them in parliament in an appropriate way.

"Countries all over the world celebrate the International Nurses Day on May 12 every year, which coincides with the birthday of Florence Nightingale – the founder of modern nursing," columnist **Dr Hind Al-Choumar** wrote for **Al-Anba** daily.

"In January 1974, May 12 was declared as the day of official celebration of nursing. The International Council of Nursing has been preparing for this day. It has been distributing nursing kits that contain educational, general and informational materials for nurses everywhere.

"Nursing is a difficult health profession, as the nurse is responsible for nursing care at all stages of the patient's treatment. It is older than medicine. Women's assistance in childbirth existed before the knowledge of medicine.

"Although the noble goals of nursing continued throughout history, the practice of nursing changed and was affected by factors related to different societies and medical development until nursing emerged as a profession with its origins and scientific degrees. No society can dispense with it due to its importance. Medicine cannot be practiced without it.

"The Arab women in Islam have had merits in ambulance work and nursing. Some of the faithful female companions volunteered in the battlefield to serve the sick and treat the wounded, in addition to their original duty to raise their children and take care of their husbands. At the time, they treated the wounded and bandaged their wounds."



"It is fair to say that our politicians are no less than their counterparts in Europe, America and Russia. Sometimes, they may even be preferred in work and practice!" columnist **Dr Abdulrahman Aljiran** wrote for **Al-Rai** daily.

"However, the difference is that when our politician enters the arena, he finds the birds have flown away with their livelihood and there is nothing left for him but to achieve.

"It is very clear that we are facing a new political scene – the fading star of the opposition and the aging of its symbols, as the State is gradually restoring its role while preserving the prestige of the law and the government standing at the same distance with merchants, the opposition and the National Assembly. We witnessed this in the past, until the Constitutional Court issued its ruling.

"Yes, we need politicians and new blood to lead the next stage, while preserving the old military's right to participate and express an opinion without monopolizing the decision... In this article, we are concerned about the emphasis on the principle of law between the government and the parliament, as stipulated in the Constitution.

"Accordingly, I believe that one of the forms of cooperation between the two authorities is the principle of 'support and attribution' by establishing a 'permanent office' in each of the ministries and financial institutions. Their positions should be succeeded by their students and deputies who are able to perform the tasks entrusted to them."

— Compiled by Mai Elsoukary

Fake doctor nabbed in raid

Illegals working in salons, clinics



KUNA photo
Deputy Chief of the National Guard, Sheikh Faisal Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

National Guard wins praise

'We're keen to upgrade units'

KUWAIT CITY, May 9, (KUNA): Deputy Chief of the National Guard Sheikh Faisal Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah affirmed the Guard's keenness to develop its military units and keep abreast of recent developments in all fields, and to continue its path in supporting the army, police, public fire force and all state institutions to maintain the security and stability of the country in light of wise leadership.

The Guard said in a press statement today, Tuesday, that Sheikh Faisal Nawaf conveyed, during his meeting with the heads of the branches in the Guard, the greetings of His Highness Sheikh Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah, Chief of the National Guard, praising their efforts and competence in managing their branches, which was evident in the advanced level of the work system in the

National Guard.

Sheikh Faisal Nawaf explained, according to the statement, that "leadership is an assignment, not an honor, so go to the base and the field so that your vision is comprehensive and your leadership is based on a clear vision."

The statement stated that the Deputy Chief of the National Guard directed the heads of the branches to communicate with all affiliates, know their strengths, and work on developing and investing them in the interest of the National Guard.

He stressed the need to apply the policy of open doors and good listening to the affiliates, finding out their needs at work and providing all the requirements to perform their assigned duties in protecting state facilities to the fullest.

We will not be silent: Al-Hajri

Faculty members cut lamented

KUWAIT CITY, May 9: A member of the administrative body of Kuwait University's Faculty Members Association Dr. Ibrahim Al-Hamoud lamented the decision to reduce faculty members in the next summer semester under the pretext of lack of budget, even though they were allowed last year, reports **Al-Jarida** daily.

He said this during a press conference held by a number of members of the administrative body of the Faculty Members Association and representatives of the independent academic list concerning the reduction in the numbers and percentages of academic courses in the summer semester, as many professors were affected by this procedure.

The press conference was held at the association's headquarters in Shuwaikh area in the presence of Dr. Ibrahim Al-Hamoud, Dr. Falah Al-Hajri, Dr. Amthaal Al-Huwailah and Abeer Al-Rifai.

Dr. Al-Hamoud stressed the need for the university council to work on holding a meeting to select a committee for the next university rector, which is done through the director, deans and assistants, all of whom

are acting, and all supervisory positions are also acting.

He called for adhering to what was stipulated by the Fatwa and Legislation Department that the committee for selecting the director should be from within the university, and it is not permissible to have any external member in it, and without dictations from the Council of Public Universities to the university council to choose the committee that will choose the next director.

Dr. Al-Hamoud said, "All members of the university council, including deans by designation, the director, and whoever wishes to run for the position of director, must not attend the meeting during which the committee will choose, because this is considered a conflict of interest and is an explicit violation of the law."

He called for the need to represent the faculty members association in the university council at the next meeting during which a committee will be formed to choose the director, stressing that the faculty members should have a clear opinion on this issue based on the opinion of their association.

KUWAIT CITY, May 9: Personnel from the residence investigations affairs department comprising members from the Joint Tripartite Committee have arrested 16 expatriates, reports Al-Rai daily.

They were found working in salons and medical clinics, and 11 violators working as daily workers in fake servants' offices.

The committee through continuous checks on medical clinics and salons, managed to arrest violators of the residence and labor law including one of them was caught practicing medicine without a license.

In the Mubarak Al-Kabeer area, three fake servant offices were raided and 11 violators of the residency law and labor laws were arrested who were working on daily wage basis.

They have been referred to the competent authorities.



KPA chief reinstated: The Court of Appeals upheld the ruling of the Court of First Instance, which had earlier cancelled the decision to suspend Director General of Kuwait Ports Authority Sheikh Yousef Al-Abdullah, reports **Al-Qabas** daily.

Attorney Muhammad Al-Ansari, lawyer for Sheikh Yousef, told the daily that "this ruling is final and enforceable, so our client shall resume work soon. Based on the ruling, he should complete the tenure stated in the Amiri decree on his appointment, including the illegal suspension that lasted for almost two years."



1,190 officers promoted: The Council of Ministers has approved the promotion of 1,190 officers from colonels to brigadiers-general in what is seen as the largest number of promotions witnessed by military institutions in the Ministry of Defense and the Ministry of Interior.

Informed government sources told **Al-Rai** that the Council of Ministers made its decision based on the proposal of the First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Interior and Acting Minister of Defense Sheikh Talal Al-Khaled, who is said to have presented lists of eligible persons in the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Defense.

The sources noted 400 army officers will be promoted from the 28th and 29th batch to the rank Brigadiers-General, and about 790 officers to the rank of Brigadiers-General in the Ministry of Interior from 6 batches (Batch 24 - 25 - 26 - 27 - 28 - 29).

All those who have been promoted are those who have completed the legal period prescribed for the rank of colonel, the sources said that Minister Al-Khalid will award the army officers their new ranks next Wednesday, and the interior officers next Thursday.



Long-deported caught: The Kuwait International Airport authorities have arrested an unidentified Asian who was reportedly deported from the country several years ago and was banned from entering for committing a serious crime, reports **Al-Rai** daily.

The daily added, the man arrived at the airport on a new work visa after making some modifications in his name but during the fingerprint process he was identified and as he was being taken to the authorities from the passport counter he escaped in the transit hall, but was soon arrested by the police.

The daily added, the authorities are in the process of deporting him to from where he came.



Regulating demographics: The Council of Ministers approved a draft law to cancel Law No. 115 of 2014 regarding the establishment of the Public Authority for Roads and Land Transport and submitted it to His Highness the Crown Prince in preparation for its referral to the National Assembly, reports **Al-Anba** daily.

The Council approved the formation of the National Committee for Regulating the Demographics, headed by the First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Interior and Acting Minister of Defense.

Other Voices

Obsession with bedoun file

By Ahmad alsarraf

I sympathize, like any person who respects humanity, with the issue of the bedoun, and I firmly believe that among them are innocent people because of the fault of those who brought them, and died without returning them to their homelands.

They also have rights over us, as long as our governments failed and neglected, for decades, to resolve their case, until their situation ended, a few years ago, in the hands of the Central Committee for illegal residents, and its affairs were handed over to the virtuous brother and former deputy, Saleh Al-Fadala, who is more knowledgeable than anyone else about lineages, conditions and families of Kuwait.

He was able during his time in his work at the head of the apparatus to collect millions of documents and papers supporting his positions regarding the fact that all the bedoun, a majority of them waiting for a solution to their situations.

Concluding a final solution to the issue is not part of the tasks assigned to the committee. Despite the opinion adopted by some people that part of the decisions issued by the committee had negative impact in terms of human rights, which can be true to some extent, however, the State Security is above all. The top duty of committee is to preserve national identity rather than any other factors. The delay or hastening the settlement of a final solution is not among the role of the committee.

Since the establishment of the Central Apparatus for Handling the Status of Illegal Residents, by an Amiri Decree issued in 2010, it has been immersed in processing their files, waiting for a decision on their status! As for finding a final solution to their problem, this is not the task of the agency.

Despite what some believe that the

agency's decisions led to violations of their rights, and this may not be far from reality at times, but state security comes first, as the agency's role really lies in preserving national identity, before anything else, and speeding up or the delay in deciding on the situation is not his responsibility nor his job.

From our point of view, we see that all the tremendous efforts the apparatus has made, organizational and security, can be completely destroyed whenever its current informed and loyal administration changes, because its organizational work is temporary, not institutional and permanent! In order to gain this status, and to save the files under the control of the agency, which belong to more than one hundred thousand people, and documents that number more than five million, it requires giving them the status of "state documents", so that they have absolute security immunity, so that no party is allowed to tamper with it, and no party has the right to request the original of these documents and files, but only "true copies", so that the identity of the homeland remains preserved forever!

The importance of this procedure lies in the danger represented by the change of the leadership of the apparatus, which follows, due to the nature of things, in terms of the danger that has been exerted in opening these files and collecting all these millions of important documents.

Our confidence in the new government is great, especially as it is free from the interference of representatives and their pressure in the interest of this or that party, and it can currently act and put in place possible long-awaited solutions for the bedoun issue and complete their naturalization, especially in known cases, and their number is not big, while giving the committee documents the official status and immunity they deserve, and preventing any party from requesting or tampering with them, except in the event that their owner is entitled to the nationality of the state, or he leaves the country to his original homeland, or he dies!



e-mail: a.alsarraf@alqabas.com.kw





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Schools prepared for distance education in emergency times

'Need to work on remedying negatives in Teams application'

KUWAIT CITY, May 9: The rains that poured in the country in the month of April had awakened schools from their electronic slumber to activate distance education, update the "Teams" application, and train all new teachers to manage virtual classes and how to deal with students through them, reports Al-Rai daily.



Osama Al-Sultan

whether climatic or otherwise".

According to an educational source, all schools are now prepared for online education, in implementation of the directives of the Assistant Undersecretary for Public Education Osama Al-Sultan for distributing virtual classes to teachers and learners on the Teams application, clarifying how to operate the application for learners, and activating inactive teacher accounts.

He described the sudden disruption of studies in last April and Al-Sultan's call for school administrations to activate e-learning as "a warning bell, which must sound at the beginning of each academic year to ensure the continuity of education under all circumstances,

The source said, "The COVID-19 crisis forced the Ministry of Education to adopt e-learning. This is one of the positives that must be developed. They must work on remedying the negatives that exist in the Teams application, the most important of which is the enactment of stricter procedures to oblige students to attend virtual classes and not miss them as a normal school day."

He explained that many public schools had established electronic accounts before the COVID-19

crisis, and had the ability to communicate with parents electronically. However, there was a qualitative leap after the health crisis, as it created the School Performance Improvement Unit, which is concerned with following up the academic achievement of students, identifying their weaknesses and strengths and tracking the level of teachers and the involvement of the guardian in the educational process so that the latter can follow up the child through his mobile phone.

Excel

There are schools in the public education sector that excel electronically compared to some private foreign schools in Kuwait in terms of employing technology in the educational process. Unfortunately, the efforts of these schools are individual from their departments.

The Ministry of Education had allocated a huge budget about 13 years ago to implement e-learning over a period of five years. Dozens of tenders and related projects have been put forward, but parliamentary and populist intervention was on the lookout for it, so they were all canceled in 2019. When the crisis occurred, the ministry bit the fingers of remorse for wasting those efforts and blowing up the projects it proposed.

The source stressed the impor-

tance of the ministry's interest in the distance education system to keep pace with the developed world through the creation of an integrated department in its organizational structure for e-learning that is responsible for implementing this system and avoiding all the gaps and negatives existing in it. This will happen through coordination between the public education and educational research and curricula sectors, during which textbooks are uploaded to the ministry's website, and the provision of a special system to link schools with one main network in all educational regions.

He said, "The most important negatives that accompanied the distance learning system in Kuwait are the educational authorities' use of personal laptops and the Internet, the weakness of the Internet at times, the lack of control over students in virtual classes, the large number of absences, and the lack of a real system for student evaluation."

The e-learning system, even if it has become a requirement today in all educational institutions, has great risks that must be remedied, the most important of which is that this open space in which the student swims today must be met by being immuned from all invitations, ideas and information that are promoted by known and unknown sources."

Outcome of

Continued from Page 1

This is because the goal is development and advancement of the country, and not nepotism, the inferiority complex of the dominant

"newcomer" in Kuwait, the heresy of Kuwaitization that fueled the fire of corruption and made everyone who came and went to issue fatwas according to his whim in public affairs, and the racism that made us lag behind in development.

There is no doubt that Kuwait has the capabilities and human energies

that can work with national honesty for the sake of reform. However, that does not mean that the country will be closed, as we do not live in this world alone. We will not be able to launch projects without the help of others.

That is why it has become necessary to work to get the country out of its crisis through decisions that

are in the interest of its future and its advancement.

This is what the people expect from the leadership. Because relying on parliaments that only seek the interests of the parliamentarians, and governments that are afraid of their own voices, will only lead to more destruction.

Correction

In the article, Indian Embassy in Kuwait kicks off 'Unleashing Synergies' conference, published on May 9 (Page 4), the report stated Abdullateef Al Sharikh attended the conference, but in fact it was the representative from Alghanim Industries James Minato of Kirby Building Systems (not Kirby Industries) who attended the event.

The paragraph should have read, Dari Al-Bader, CEO, Asiya Investments, shared his positive investment experience in the hospitality sector in India and James Minato, General Manager of Kirby Building Systems, an Alghanim Industries company, presented a detailed overview of Kirby's manufacturing plants in India.

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Guest:
ELIKA MANSOURI
Animal Rescuer
Founder & Volunteer: IcareQ8

Director:
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The Guest Show poster.

TGS presents Erika Mansouri

On The Guest Show (TGS), we once again pay tribute to the unrelenting efforts of animal rescuers in Kuwait with our next episode.

Elika Mansouri is an old friend of The Guest Show. Elika has helped animals for as long as she remembers. Back home in Canada, she started early. In Kuwait, her rescue efforts translated into an organization that does commendable work.

IcareQ8 is a very active animal rescue organization that is working hard at creating a more animal-friendly environment. Animal rescuing is a thankless job in Kuwait, with volunteers like Elika fighting against numerous odds to achieve what seems a herculean task.

In this episode, she speaks of her journey, animal rights in Canada, challenges in Kuwait and her hopes for the future. Tune in.

MoCI launches new service

Ministry lists fees for delivering express mail, parcels to homes

KUWAIT CITY, May 9: The Ministry of Communications has launched a new service to deliver express mail and parcels to homes exceptionally to the Al-Masayel Post Center for a nominal fee, reports Al-Qabas daily.

Sources told the daily, that despite awarding the tender for customs clearance, transportation, sorting, delivery, distribution and delivery of parcels, express mail and postal packages to a company, the ministry decided to limit the distribution of parcels and express mail to Masayel.

The sources added, "If a person chooses the service of delivering the parcel to his home, he pays fees starting from 500 fils and up to 1.5 dinars for each parcel or postal package, and in the event that there are additional parcels or postal packages, other fees will be applicable."

Informed sources told the daily that the mail delivery service to homes is considered good, but the fees need to be studied through legal channels before being approved, as well as the distribution to the rest of the post offices in the regions.

The sources stated that the role of post

offices is currently ineffective, and therefore everyone is forced to visit the Al-Masayel Post Office to receive mail, stressing that post offices in all regions must be subject to development in order to be utilized optimally.

The sources stated that after awarding mail delivery to one of the companies, the service provided will be optional for the public, so that a text message will be sent to the phone if he wishes to receive the parcel by delivery service, or he prefers to collect it from the Al-Masayel center.

Informed sources revealed the value of the fees in the event that they are delivered to homes, to be as follows:

Half dinar for postal packages for consignments less than 2 kg, and for each additional package, the delivery charges will be 200 fils, provided that it is of the same addressee, category, and weight of the first package; 1.5 dinars for regular or premium parcels for shipments larger than 15 kg up to 30 kg and 600 fils for each additional parcel provided that it is the same addressee, category and weight as the first parcel.

EPA discovers red tide, fish kill cases

Al-Soyyan laments shortage of laborers in fishing sector

KUWAIT CITY, May 9: The head of the Kuwaiti Federation of Fishermen, Dhaher Al-Soyyan, has called for opening entry visas for fishermen, especially since there is a huge shortage of fishing labor, explaining that failure to bring in labor quickly enough will cost the fishing sector a lot, reports Al-Rai daily.

He pointed out that what the federation is calling for are fair demands and contribute to saving the fishing sector from collapse, pointing out that the fishing seasons will start successively, as we are on the verge of the fishing season for mead on the first of July and Zubaidi on July 15, then the shrimp fishing season starts in Kuwait's territorial waters on the first of August and the regional waters on first September.

He said that the lack of labor will cause a shortage of local marine products, which will consequently cause a rise in fish prices, calling on officials to put an end to the suffering of license holders who have been waiting for a long-awaited solution to the issue of fishing labor.

Meanwhile, the Environment Public Authority (EPA) has discovered recently red tide and fish kill cases through its periodic surveys in beaches and Kuwait Bay, reports Annahar daily.

The authority said the marine environment is exposed to environmental pressures, including the illegal use of rainwater outlets to drain untreated water and other pollutants that reach the sea.

'Singer of the Gulf'

Mufarrej to undergo medical tests in UK

KUWAIT CITY, May 9: Chairman of the Board of Directors of Kuwaiti Artists Association Abdulaziz Al-Mufarrej, who is known as the 'singer of the Gulf', recently traveled to the United Kingdom to undergo various medical tests to assess his current health condition, reports Al-Jarida daily.

Al-Mufarrej is a distinguished singer and one of the great artists produced by the local music industry. He made immortal imprints in Kuwait's artistic history, especially at the level of national works, as he performed a series of national operettas that are firmly rooted in the memory of the Kuwaiti public.

According to EPA, these physical, biological and chemical changes lead to the blooming of microscopic algae, some of which may cause the death of fish.

Also, the rising temperatures could change the physical properties of sea water; thereby, contributing to algal bloom and decrease of dissolved oxygen in the water.

The authority will complete the assessment of environmental conditions in the coming days.

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Students guided through various laboratories

Indian Public School students visit Kuwait Medical Genetic Centre

KUWAIT CITY, May 9: The Class XII Biology students of Indian Public School had an edifying opportunity to visit Kuwait Medical Genetic Centre on 7th May 2023, thanks to the efforts of INJAZ Kuwait. Kuwait Medical Genetic Centre (KMGC) was established in the year 1979 with a clear vision of a modern Kuwait with a less burden of genetic disorders, a complete coverage of genetic services and is a leading research genetic center in the Middle East.

The students were guided through the various laboratories including the FISH Lab, NBS Delfia Lab, NBS Tandem Mass Lab, Cyto Genetic Lab, Molecular Diagnosis Lab and

the Screening Lab by the professionals with years of expertise in the field.

The working of the various labs were explained in detail to the students and all their queries were patiently answered by the experts. It was an enlightening experience for the students, planning to pursue innovative zones in the medical field.

The centre offers different genetic diagnostic services to citizens and residents in Kuwait. It also evaluates the genetic health state and determines the extent of the prevalence of genetic disorders in Kuwait. The state of the art equipment and facilities used were mindboggling and awe-inspiring for the students.



Organization groups 6 GCC states

ROPME marks Regional Environment Day

KUWAIT CITY, May 9, (KUNA): The Regional Organization for Protection of Marine Environment (ROPME) on Monday celebrated the Regional Environment Day, coinciding with the 1978 treaty according to which the organization was founded.

ROPME's Acting Director General Samira Al-Kandari, in a statement on behalf of the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Oil and Minister of State for National Assembly Affairs Bader Al-Mulla, underscored the need to educate the youth namely the students about negative impact

of green-house emissions.

The organization groups the six GCC member states plus Iran and Iraq.

The green house emissions and climatic change have become a global concern, Al-Kandari affirmed during a ceremony marking the occasion. She also noted that ROPME's logo for the occasion is, "Dust storms and their Effects on the Land and Marine Ecosystems."

Kuwait's territory is largely arid and the country often witnesses raging dust storms that sometimes leave damage.

Al-Kandari added that ROPME exchanges information and expertise with authorities of the regional countries on means of protecting the environment particularly the marine ecosystem.

Meanwhile, ROPME Executive General Secretary Dr. Jassem Al-Bechara indicated in a statement during the ceremony that an affiliate photo exhibition also organized on the Regional Environment Day -- intended to promote environment awareness among students.

The organization has allocated an annual award to honor winners of a competition for the students. Latest competition involved students who presented 500 paintings and some 90 articles, Bechara added.



Class XII Biology students of Indian Public School visit Kuwait Medical Genetic Centre

NATO's Iannucci praises Kuwait positive role in regional stability

Willingness to help Iraq seen

BRUSSELS, May 9, (KUNA): The outgoing Commander of NATO Mission in Iraq, Lieutenant General Giovanni Maria Iannucci, Monday lauded Kuwait's positive role in maintaining peace and security in the region.

"Kuwait has quite an important role to play", he told a small group of journalists including KUNA, speaking via zoom from Baghdad to the NATO headquarters in Brussels.

"I see from Kuwait a positive posture and even the willingness to help Iraq to some extent to become stronger," he said.

"I see a positive dynamic ongoing. The recent Iranian-Saudi agreement to some extent paved the way for better environment," said the NATO commander who was assigned to his post in Iraq in May 2022.

"Even though the agreement between Saudi Arabia and Iran was signed in Beijing, Iraq played a very important role in facilitating the dialogue," he stressed.

The Italian Lieutenant General said



KUNA photo
Commander of NATO Mission in Iraq, Lieutenant General Giovanni Maria Iannucci speaking to reporters via zoom from Baghdad

that the focus of the present government of Iraq led by Prime Minister Mohammad Al-Sudani is on improving regional relations by paying visits to neighboring countries.

"He is trying to re-position Iraq in the center of the regional foreign policy to smoothen and improve relations even with some neighboring countries

with whom they have some disagreements," he said.

Referring to the problem of terrorism, he said, "Daesh as we knew years ago in this country is no longer a threat."

"However, this does not imply that terrorism is no longer alive because there is a different type of terrorism be-

hind the scenes" he said, warning that the nexus between the growing criminality, drug trafficking, and terrorism could become a concern in Iraq.

In his presentation, Lieutenant General Giovanni Maria Iannucci referred to the growing role of China and Russia in the Middle East region and said that China will continue to play a major role in the region in the military and security environment.

The same applies to Russia, he said noting, "Iraq is in the center of geopolitical confrontation."

NATO Mission Iraq (NMI) is a non-combat advisory and capacity-building mission that assists Iraq in building more sustainable and effective armed forces and security institutions, to stabilize their country, fight terrorism and prevent the return of ISIS/Daesh.

Several hundred personnel from NATO and partner countries are serving in the mission.

The mission was launched at the NATO Summit in Brussels in July 2018, following a request from the government of Iraq, and established in October 2018.

Lieutenant General Jose Antonio Aguero Martinez from Spain has been appointed as the new Commander for the NATO Mission to Iraq.



Regional Organization for Protection of Marine Environment Acting Director General Samira Al-Kandari.



KUNA photos
Regional Organization for Protection of Marine Environment's event attendees.

'Technical content & collaboration opportunities for all'

AUK hosts IEEE EDUCON 2023

KUWAIT CITY, May 9: The American University of Kuwait (AUK) hosted the IEEE Global Engineering Education Conference (EDUCON 2023). Held for the first time in Kuwait, the University accommodated approximately 200 international conference attendees. EDUCON is one of the flagship conferences of the IEEE Education Society. EDUCON 2023 was sponsored by KIPCO and its subsidiaries, Burgan Bank and Gulf Insurance Company - GIG (premier sponsors); and platinum sponsors MathWorks, Binary Logic, and ABET; along with Qatar Airways as the official carrier. IEEE Region 8 also contributed to the organization of EDUCON, while IEEE-Kuwait Section was the technical sponsor of the event.

During the opening ceremony, AUK president, Dr. Rawda Awwad gave a speech where she prompted the audience to consider the implications of emerging technologies and rapid changes in the future of education. "As experts, innovators, academicians, industry people, public and private sector stakeholders, we must come together much more often, as we are doing here in the next several days, to share the significance of innovation and its impact, while holding onto the interdisciplinary importance of solving complex challenges we face today. As we move towards an era of rapid technological advancement, it is essential that we prepare ourselves and our students to navigate the changing landscape, with the introduction of AI only accelerating this process."

The dean of the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences (CEAS) and co-chair of EDUCON 2023, Dr. Amir Zeid, followed with a speech where he expressed his delight at the diversity of backgrounds and expertise represented in the conference. "We are honored to welcome around 200 participants from above 50 countries, across five continents to this year's

event. As we continue to provide high quality technical content and collaboration opportunities, we are confident that EDUCON will be an enriching and informative experience for all attendees."

Representing the premier sponsor, KIPCO senior vice president of Communications and Investor Relations at KIPCO, Ms. Eman Al-Awadhi, underscored the company's commitment to education. "Education is an important pillar of KIPCO's portfolio. The establishment of the American University of Kuwait in 2003 marked our entry into this sector. Since then, we have been contributing to the education of young people in Kuwait through our network of K-12 schools and this university, shaping the future of the country through the quality of learning that we offer. We pride ourselves on upholding a culture of freedom of thought and expression, respect for individual rights and cultural diversity in our institutions."

The conference featured a lineup of distinguished international keynote speakers who shared their expertise and insights on timely and pertinent topics in the field of engineering. They provided unique perspectives on emerging trends, new technologies, and best practices in the field.

Workshops, paper presentations, and roundtable discussions also took place to inform, inspire, and challenge attendees to broaden their knowledge and engage in meaningful conversation about the latest developments.

The IEEE EDUCON 2023 is the fourteenth in a series of conferences that rotate among central locations in IEEE Region 8 (Europe, Middle East, and Africa).

Held every year since 2010, EDUCON provides an opportunity to scientists, professional engineers, and students to present their work, publish their results, exchange ideas, and network for future scientific and industrial collaborations.



EDUCON 2023 group photo of AUK student volunteers.

Chevron JOINT OPERATIONS WAFRA SAUDI ARABIAN CHEVRON INC. (SAC) - KUWAIT GULF OIL COMPANY

Joint Operations (Saudi Arabian Chevron Inc. / Kuwait Gulf Oil Company), announces the under-mentioned Public Tenders for procurement of materials. Kuwaiti and Saudi Merchants, registered with either Company wishing to participate in any of the under-mentioned Tenders are invited to collect the Tender documents from Purchasing Section, Purchasing & Logistic Division, Administration Building, Ground Floor, Joint Operations, Wafra, during the official working hours from 10 MAY 2023 up to 28 MAY 2023 for a non-refundable fee mentioned against each tender. Tender Fees to be deposited in the National bank of Kuwait (NBK) Account No. 1001132057. Saudi Suppliers can collect the tender documents from Saudi Arabian Chevron office in Al-Khobar Telephone No.: (013) 8645104 - Fax No.: (013) 8985436

The closing date for the following Tender will be on Monday, 5 JUN 2023 @ 09:00 A.M. for tenders S.NO. 1 to 9 and on Monday, 19 JUN 2023 @ 09:00 A.M. for tenders S.NO. 10 to 17

S.NO.	TENDER NO.	MATERIALS	FEES (IN KD)
1	2848558-R2	S/F INGERSOL-DRESSER PUMPS	5
2	2861892	S/F AGAR AUTOMATIC DEWATERING CONTROL SYSTEM	5
3	2862143	S/F HOUTTUIN BV SHIPPING PUMP	15
4	2862163	SPARE PARTS & CONTROL VALVES, FISHER OR EQUIVALENT	25
5	2862928	S/F HYDROCYCLONE, PETRECO INTERNATIONAL	5
6	2862935	INTERNAL VESSELS AND FOAM BREAKER, AKER KVAERNOR	35
7	2863606	S/F HOWE-BAKER DESALTER VESSEL	25
8	2865162	S/F WELL HEAD PROCESS CONTROL SCADA SYSTEM, EPRODUCTION SOLUTIONS	5
9	2865534	S/F BAKER HUGHES PROCESS SYSTEM, CAMERON	5
10	2865638	CASINGS OCTG	100
11	2865640	PIPES COATED AND NON-COATED	35
12	2865975	FASTNERS ITEMS	5
13	2866052	PIPES CARBON STEEL AND STAINLESS STEEL	5
14	2866501	LED FIXTURES AND LAMPS	5
15	2867603	VALVES (GATE - BALL - CHECK - GLOBE)	5
16	2867605	S/F DRESSER RAND GAS COMPRESSOR (DRESSER RAND - HOERBIGER)	5
17	2867843	LANDING NIPPLES	15

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

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



Sheikha Altaf Al Sabah, the Honorary patron of KTAA with Donna Al Shaya, the former President of KTAA and other board members at the exhibition.



Amal Sadek, Quilt Coordinator, with one of her competition entries



Batoul Al Sayegh, President of KTAA with her prize-winning entry



Maddie Elsawi, Fibre Art Coordinator, with her version of the famous Afghan girl



Hanan Al Kazemi, the textile artist who curates the beautiful exhibition

KTAA opens 22nd annual exhibition

Exhibition reflects Kuwait's culture, artistic diversity

By Chaitali B. Roy
Special to the Arab Times

On Tuesday, April 3, the Kuwait Textile Arts Association (KTAA), a multicultural and multinational organisation of textile artists, inaugurated the opening of the 22nd Annual Kuwait Textiles Arts Association Exhibition at Al Funoon Hall in Dahiyat Abdullah Salem. The KTAA is one of the longest-running creative organisations in Kuwait that create magic with fibre, yarn, fabric and embroidery.

The exhibition, one of the highlights of Kuwait's cultural calendar, is an exciting display of talent and skill. Judged by international experts, the collection displays works of a high standard with advanced technical skills and deep emotional content. The exhibition features handmade pieces in different categories reflecting the artistic diversity in the KTAA. In many ways, the exhibition reflects Kuwait's culture, which is a diverse mixture of local and expatriate communities drawn from different parts of the world.

Since its inception, the Kuwait Textile Arts Association has become more creative and versatile, allowing people to share new ideas and skills. "What I love about this group is that they have only improved their skills with time. They have something new to offer each year," said Sheikha Altaf Al-Sabah, Honorary President of Sadu House and patron of KTAA, as she went around the exhibits on Tuesday. "The KTAA members continually seek new challenges and opportunities to expand their knowledge and love for textiles. The result is an explosion of joy and creativity, and the works speak for themselves." Sheikha Altaf also expressed her happiness at the increasing number of

Kuwaitis who have joined and worked with the group. "I always wanted local enthusiasts to join

the group. Not only did they join, but they have also enriched the group with their participation and

knowledge." Members of KTAA share a close-knit bond, a sisterhood of

sorts, connected to their love for fibre and fabric. The association allows members to collaborate, share and learn from each other. Like every year, this year too, the exhibition showcased recent works by KTAA members in different divisions of textile arts, including the highly anticipated categories of quilting, embroidery, fibre arts and sadu curated by Hanan Al Kazemi, the exhibition coordinator. Sadu was one of the most anticipated categories this year. Batoul Al Sayegh, President of KTAA, had been looking forward to this specific category in the exhibition, and she was not disappointed. "We wanted to celebrate the global recognition and great achievement of Al Sadu society being recognized by UNESCO for best safeguarding practices of our cultural heritage," she said. "To this end, we introduced the traditional Kuwaiti Sadu challenge. I think members have gone above and beyond in their creativity for this category."

"Ever since its establishment in 1994, the KTAA has strived to encourage artists to pursue textile art and exchange creative ideas and skills," said Hanan Al Kazemi, the exhibition coordinator. "As an organisation, the KTAA started with short meetings amongst a few people interested in handmade art. As more people started to take an interest in joining, the small meetings grew into larger meetings where workshops and events were organised by elected board members who have different responsibilities to maintain a high quality and standard of the activities that take place in the KTAA today." Hanan Al Kazemi has been a member of KTAA for a long time. She has also coordinated the annual celebration of textile arts for the longest period. "In any project or vision, it is essen-

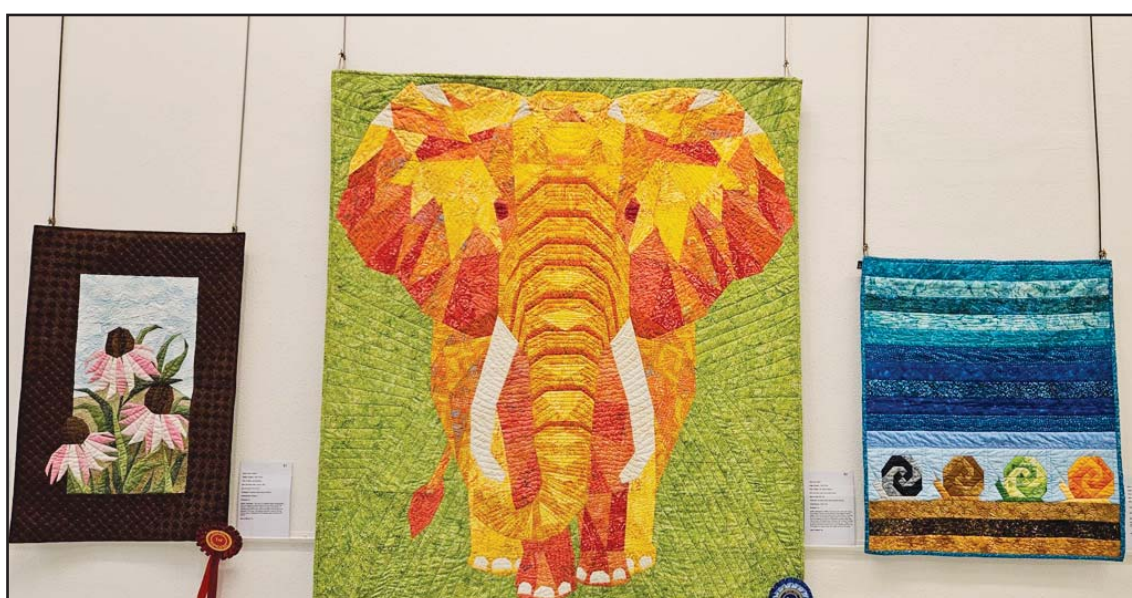
tial that we maintain a spirit of innovation and strive for excellence so that we can continue building on what we have accomplished and achieve the same level of recognition as other worldwide exhibitions," she said when asked about the evolution of the exhibition as we see it today.

Symbol

Amal Sadek, quilt coordinator of KTAA, was very excited to participate in a "professional" exhibition post-Covid. Amal exhibited six pieces, two of which were unfinished and one she had been working on for a few years. "The exhibition gave me the initiative to finish and exhibit them," she said. "I'm proud to be a member of such a talented group."

Maddie Elsawi, Fibre Arts coordinator of KTAA is yet another long-term member of the organisation. According to her, "This exhibition has become accessible to a wider range of audiences and with different backgrounds and cultures and nationalities, and that is exactly the purpose of this exhibition." One of Maddie's entries this year is a striking work featuring the award-winning image of an Afghan girl, which took the world by storm decades ago. "Sharbat Gula is the face of Afghani girls who became an international symbol for women's struggle in a war-torn country. And my piece is a tribute to her courage," says Maddie.

Afifa Behbehani, Treasurer of KTAA, was inspired to join the organisation and learn more about textile arts after her first visit to its annual exhibition a few years back. "I have met many talented ladies over the years that inspired me to learn and develop the art of quilting," said Afifa, who submitted two quilts and a cross stitch piece to the exhibition this year.



Some of the works from textile artists on display.

COVID-19 vaccine maker Novavax to chop workforce, expenses

Novavax is cutting about a quarter of its global workforce as the COVID-19 vaccine maker seeks to slash expenses while dealing with uncertain future revenue.

The company said Tuesday that it expects to trim next year's costs for research and development as well as selling, general and administrative expenses by about 40% to 50% compared to 2022.

The company has 1,992 full-time employees. A Novavax representative said the cuts will affect about 20% of that work-

force, or nearly 400 people, and some of the vaccine maker's contractors.

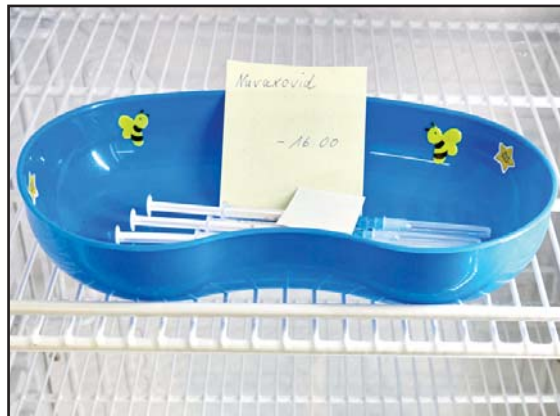
Novavax's protein-based vaccine debuted long after alternatives from companies like Pfizer, Moderna and Johnson & Johnson had reached the market. Only about 88,458 doses of the Novavax vaccine have been administered in the United States, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

That compares to more than 400 million doses of market leader Pfizer's two-shot original vaccine and updated

booster.

The COVID-19 vaccine is Novavax's lone commercial product. It is updating that vaccine for this fall and also developing a flu shot and a coronavirus-flu shot combination.

The company said in February that it estimates that it has enough cash to fund operations for the next year, but "substantial doubt exists regarding our ability to continue as a going concern" due to uncertainty over factors like 2023 revenue. (AP)



A kidney dish with syringes containing the Novavax COVID-19 vaccine sits in a refrigerator ready for use at a vaccination center in Prisdorf, Germany, Feb. 26, 2022. Novavax is cutting about a quarter of its workforce as the COVID-19 vaccine maker seeks to slash expenses while dealing with uncertain future revenue. (AP)

Market Movements

09-05-2023

	Change	Closing pts		Change	Closing pts		
JAPAN	- Nikkei	+1.01	29,242.82	UAE	- DFM	-0.33	3,571.09
PHILIPPINES	- PSEI	+0.33	6,622.61	PAKISTAN	- KSE 100	-1.09	41,373.81
SAUDI	- Tadawul	+0.43	11,305.28	EGYPT	- EGX 30	-1.79	17,326.27

Business

Expectations for a breakthrough low

Deal or default? Biden, GOP must decide what's on the table

WASHINGTON, May 9, (AP) — Before President Joe Biden and congressional leaders can even try to avert an unprecedented U.S. government default, their initial challenge on Tuesday will be to agree on what exactly they're talking about as they hold their first substantive meeting in months.

With the government at risk of being unable to meet its obligations as soon as June 1, raising the specter of potential economic calamity, Republicans are coming to the White House hoping to negotiate sweeping cuts to federal spending in exchange for allowing new borrowing to avoid default.

Biden, on the other hand, is set to reinforce his opposition to allowing the country's full faith and credit to be held "hostage" to negotiations — and to affirm his willingness to hold talks on the budget only after default is no longer a threat.

The chasm between these diametrically opposite postures is fomenting uncertainty that is already roiling financial markets and threatens to turn into a tidal wave that swamps the country's economy if not resolved.

Default, officials say, would have sweeping impacts, threatening to disrupt Social Security payments to retirees, destabilize global markets and tilt the nation into a potentially debilitating recession.

Biden's Oval Office meeting with House Speaker Kevin McCarthy, House Democratic leader Hakeem Jeffries, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer and Minority Leader Mitch McConnell was set to begin at 4 p.m. — after U.S. financial markets close for the day.

Expectations for a breakthrough are low.

Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen acknowledged the "very big gap" between Democrats and Republicans in an interview Monday with CNBC.

"They're very far apart," she said. "The president hopes to establish a process for discussing and compromising on those issues, but he's not willing to do it with a gun to not only his head — more

importantly, it's a gun to the head of the American people and the American economy."

Already looking past the meeting, Biden on Wednesday is set to go to Westchester County, N.Y., where he plans to deliver a speech on how proposed spending cuts approved by House Republicans could hurt teachers, older adults needing food aid and veterans seeking health care.

It's part of a broader campaign by Biden to try to paint the Republican cuts as draconian. Aides believe that message both strengthens his position in talks with the GOP and boosts his nascent 2024 reelection effort. His Wednesday visit will be to a congressional district won by Biden in 2020, but that is now represented by a Republican, Rep. Mike Lawler.

While calling for a "clean" increase to the debt limit, Biden has said he is open to discussion about how to reduce the federal deficit. His budget plan would trim deficits by nearly \$3 trillion over a decade, mainly through tax increases on the wealthy and changes such as letting the government negotiate over prescription drug prices.

By contrast, the bill that passed the House with Republican votes would achieve \$4.5 trillion in deficit savings through cuts in spending, eliminating tax breaks for investing in clean energy, and reversing Biden's plans to reduce the burdens of student loan debt.

McCarthy, R-Calif., has staked his speakership on extracting some concessions from Biden in exchange for raising the borrowing limit, with some of his members insisting they would withhold their votes on a debt measure unless all of their proposals made the final legislation.

While the financial markets have started to show some jitters, the business community has thus far largely avoided backing either side in the showdown and instead called for a deal to be struck.

"Securing a bipartisan path forward to raise the debt ceiling could not

be more urgent," said Josh Bolten, the head of the Business Roundtable, a group that represents CEOs.

"The cost of a default, or even the threat of a default, is simply too high."

Biden's refusal to negotiate on the debt limit is informed by his first-hand experience in 2011, when he was Barack Obama's vice president and the administration made painful concessions to Republicans in an effort to avoid default. Biden has told aides it's an experience he refuses to repeat, not just for himself, but for future presidents.

"There is no Plan B," Bharat Ramamurti, deputy director of the National Economic Council at the White House, told CNN on Monday. "Our plan is for Congress to act to address the debt limit, without conditions."

Notably, though, the administration has not ruled out a short-term increase in the debt limit that would align the deadline to increase federal borrowing authority with the talks on government spending that must be resolved by Sept. 30.

Though memories of the 2011 debt-limit standoff — which also featured a Democratic president and a Republican speaker — remain fresh in minds across Washington, aides to McConnell, the Senate GOP leader, have started to point to another, more recent battle as a more instructive example.

In 2019, former President Donald Trump and Nancy Pelosi, then the newly reinstalled Democratic House speaker, reached a broader fiscal deal that not only raised the nation's borrowing authority for two years but staved off automatic budget cuts that both parties deplored.

McConnell implored Trump at the time to negotiate directly with Pelosi and House Democrats, aides said — and the two parties were able to push off the prospect of a debt default beyond Trump's presidency despite political turmoil elsewhere.



Traders work on the floor at the New York Stock Exchange in New York, Wednesday, May 3, 2023. Stocks are drifting ahead of what Wall Street hopes will be the last hike to interest rates for a long time. (AP)

New investment banking team in place

Bancroft Capital expands suite of banking services

FORT WASHINGTON, Pa., May 9, (BUSINESS WIRE) — Bancroft Capital, a certified Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business (SDVOSB) specializing in Institutional Brokerage and Capital Markets services, announced the addition of a new Investment Banking Team.

This press release features multimedia.

Bancroft Capital has announced the expansion of its services with the addition of their new Investment Banking Team (L-R): Head of Investment Banking Jason Diamond; Managing Director Rob Malin; and Senior Associate Josh Goodman. Not Pictured: Advisor Kyle Hansen, MD.

Jason Diamond, Head of Investment Banking; Rob Malin, Managing Director; Kyle Hansen, MD, Advisor; and Josh Goodman, Senior Associate, bring 60-plus years of combined experience in Investment Banking to Bancroft's already-seasoned suite of services.

"Jason Diamond and Rob Malin bring more than 55 years of investment banking experience and the credibility and respect of accomplished investment banking professionals," said CEO Caudon Quinn. "We welcome Jason, Rob, Josh, and Kyle to an already strong banking team. This added suite of services can ensure continued success — which means more opportunities for service-disabled veterans to enroll in our Veteran Training Program."

Jason Diamond brings 30-plus years of industry experience to Bancroft Capital. Previously, he served as Head of Investment Banking at both Spartan Capital Securities and Drexel Hamilton.

Managing Director Rob Ma-

lin comes from Spartan Capital Securities where was Managing Director of Investment Banking. He brings more than 25 years of experience to his new position.

Dr. Kyle Hansen currently practices medicine in Milwaukee, WI and will advise Bancroft Investment Banking on biotechnology and medical due diligence matters, and deal placement.

Josh Goodman was an Investment Banking analyst at Spartan Capital Securities where he worked transactions for both public and private companies including initial public offerings, uplistings, registered direct equity offerings and private placement of debt and equity.

"This team is delighted to join Bancroft's robust capital markets platform, where we can leverage our middle-market banking expertise and relationships to drive incremental revenue and deliver new opportunities," said Jason. "We are proud to support Bancroft's mission to provide opportunities for service-disabled military veterans."

Bancroft Capital was co-founded in 2017 by Caudon Quinn, a disabled Navy veteran. Bancroft places financial industry veterans alongside military veterans to deliver value-added content to its clients and offer best-in-class service. Committed to offering meaningful training and employment to service-disabled veterans, Bancroft funnels profits, earned through its hard work and extensive knowledge, into their Veteran Training Program, which puts disabled veterans in a position to develop a skill set capable of supporting new careers as Institutional Traders and Investment Bankers.

Wall St. dips amid quiet trading

Global shares decline ahead of reports

NEW YORK, May 9, (AP) — Stocks are drifting lower on Wall Street Tuesday following some mixed earnings reports. Several beaten-down banks are also weakening after a brief respite from a brutal run.

The S&P 500 was 0.4% lower in midday trading. The Dow Jones Industrial Average was down 60 points, or 0.2%, at 33,557, as of noon Eastern time, while the Nasdaq composite was 0.6% lower.

Paypal fell 11.4% despite reporting better profit and revenue for the latest quarter than expected. Analysts pointed to its forecast for how much profit it expects to wring out of each \$1 of revenue, which may have disappointed some investors.

Electric automaker Lucid Group dropped 8.2% after reporting a worse loss than expected for the latest quarter.

Skyworks Solutions sank 5.3% after reporting profit for the first three months of the year that matched forecasts. The company's comments about weakness in demand from China for Android phones may have frightened investors.

On the winning side of Wall Street was Palantir Technologies. It soared 20.9% after reporting a stronger profit than expected and saying demand for its new artificial intelligence platform "is without precedent."

So far this earnings reporting season, which is approaching its final stretch, the majority of companies have been topping forecasts for first-quarter results. That's largely because expectations were set quite low due to a slowing economy and high interest rates. Companies in the S&P 500 are still on track to report a second straight quarter of weaker profits from year-earlier levels.

"Companies have been able to do pretty well," said Margie Patel, senior portfolio manager at Allspring Global Investments.

The better-than-feared results have given some support to Wall Street when many other worries are weighing on it.

Key among them is what will happen to the U.S. banking system, which is under stress following three high-profile bank failures since March. Hurt by much higher interest rates, smaller and mid-sized banks are scrambling to reassure everyone that their deposits are stable and that they aren't at risk of a sudden exodus of customers.

After finding some stability in the two prior days, stocks of regional banks under the heaviest scrutiny by Wall Street fell again Tuesday. PacWest Bancorp dropped 5.2%, and Western Alliance Bancorp fell 3.6%.

Global

Global shares mostly fell Tuesday as investors took a wait-and-see view on the week ahead, including stubbornly high inflation across the economy.



The logo for Goldman Sachs appears above a trading post on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange on July 13, 2021. Goldman Sachs has agreed Monday, May 8, 2023, to pay \$215 million to settle a years-long class action lawsuit that claimed the bank discriminated against women when it came to pay, performance evaluations and promotions. (AP)

Goldman settles gender discrimination suit for \$215 million

Goldman Sachs will pay \$215 million to settle a years-long class action lawsuit that claimed the bank discriminated against women when it came to pay, performance evaluations and promotions.

The lawsuit, initially filed in September 2010, was set to go to trial next month. The plaintiffs in the case are women who worked for Goldman as an associate or vice president in the U.S. in the investment banking, investment management or securities divisions.

The settlement covers about 2,800 female associates and vice presidents in Goldman's investment banking, investment management

and securities divisions.

"My goal in this case has always been to support strong women on Wall Street. I am proud that the result we achieved here will advance gender equity," plaintiff Allison Gamba said in a prepared statement.

Aside from the payment, the settlement includes a three-year period during which Goldman will work with an independent expert to perform more analysis on its performance evaluation processes, as well as its process for promoting individuals from vice president to managing director. It also requires an independent ex-

pert to conduct additional pay equity studies and for the New York City company to investigate and address any gender pay gaps where appropriate.

"Goldman Sachs is proud of its long record of promoting and advancing women and remains committed to ensuring a diverse and inclusive workplace for all our people. After more than a decade of vigorous litigation, both parties have agreed to resolve this matter," said Jacqueline Arthur, Goldman Sachs global head of human capital management. "We will continue to focus on our people, our clients, and our business." (AP)

Data showing lagging imports in China sent Chinese benchmarks lower. Oil prices fell.

France's CAC 40 slipped 0.4% in early trading to 7,412.85. Germany's DAX inched down 0.1% to 15,938.15. Britain's FTSE 100 fell 0.2% to 7,762.54. U.S. shares were set to drift lower with Dow futures dipped 0.3% to 33,599.00. S&P 500 futures were down 0.2% to 4,143.00.

Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 gained 1.0% to finish at 29,242.82. But other regional benchmarks fell.

Australia's S&P/ASX 200 slipped 0.2% to 7,264.10. South Korea's Kospi shed 0.1% to 2,510.06. Hong Kong's Hang Seng lost 2.1% to 19,867.58, after new data on China's trade showed declining imports. The Shanghai Composite dropped 1.1% to 3,357.67.

Chinese exports grew 8.5% in April, showing more unexpected strength

despite weakening global demand, according to customs data. Exports grew to \$295.4 billion compared with a year earlier, although at a slower pace, building on momentum seen in the March data when exports rose 14.8%.

But imports shrank at a faster pace, with the total slumping 7.9% to \$205.2 billion compared to the same time last year, according to data Tuesday from the General Administration of Customs. It was down 1.4% in March. Trade with the U.S. and European Union showed a contraction in comparison with last year. China's trade surplus in April widened, growing 82.3% compared to the same period last year.

"Asian equities traded sideways on Tuesday after U.S. stocks traded within a tight range, remaining mostly unchanged in volatile trading, as investors reacted to the mixed response to

the Fed's senior loan officer survey," said Anderson Alves, analyst at AcitivTrades. "The survey showed a tightening of credit availability, impacting companies' margins and signaling an imminent economic slowdown."

The larger concern for markets is that all the turmoil could cause U.S. banks to pull back on their lending. That in turn could raise the risk of a recession that many investors already see as highly likely.

Oil

In energy trading, benchmark U.S. crude fell 97 cents to \$72.19 a barrel. Brent crude, the international standard, lost 96 cents to \$76.05 a barrel.

Currencies

In currency trading, the U.S. dollar inched down to 134.86 Japanese yen from 135.04 yen. The euro cost \$1.0981, down from \$1.1008.

Ryanair to order between 150 and 300 Max jets

Ryanair will order 150 Boeing 737 Max planes with an option for 150 more, marking the biggest aircraft purchase in the Irish airline's history and a boost for Boeing.

At Boeing's list prices, the deal would be worth more than \$40 billion if Ryanair exercises all the options, but airlines routinely get deep discounts. Financial terms were not disclosed.

Ryanair CEO Michael O'Leary said Tuesday that the planes will replace some of the airline's older Boeing jets

and provide room for growth. The airline selected the largest version of the Max, which O'Leary said will have 21% more seats but burn 20% less fuel than the airline's current 737s.

The airline expects to take delivery of the planes between 2027 and 2033.

Boeing is benefitting from a boom in airplane orders, as air travel around the world recovers from the COVID-19 pandemic. The Arlington, Virginia, company has struggled however with production issues affecting the Max and a larger

plane, the 787 Dreamliner.

Boeing announced last month that deliveries of a "significant" number of new Max jets will be delayed while the company and supplier Spirit AeroSystems fix incorrect fittings between the fuselage and tail sections, a problem that was discovered to date back to 2019.

The announcement Tuesday amounts to a vote of confidence from one of Boeing's best customers - and one that has bluntly expressed its displeasure with the aircraft maker in the past. (AP)

General Motors hires former Apple exec

General Motors has hired a former high-ranking executive at Apple to run a new software organization at the automaker.

Mike Abbott is joining GM as executive vice president of software on May 22, the Detroit manufacturer said Tuesday. He'll report directly to CEO Mary Barra.

Abbott formerly was vice president of engineering for Apple's cloud services division, leading a team that developed infrastructure for all of the

company's cloud-based services including iCloud, iMessage, mail and account security, GM said. He also was a partner at investment firm Kleiner Perkins Caufield & Byers, focusing on the mobile device and cloud computing areas.

GM and other automakers are looking to software as a major revenue source in the future as fleet and other buyers seek vehicle diagnostic systems, partially automated driving software and other services. (AP)



A stamp is shown on an envelope Friday, May 28, 2021, in Washington. When you receive an email or mail notice inviting you to join a class-action lawsuit, or notifying you that you've been automatically included. (AP)

NerdWallet

'A trial by proxy'

Millennial Money: Should I join a class-action lawsuit?

It might have happened to you a few times in past years: You received an email or mail notice inviting you to join a class-action lawsuit, or notifying you that you've been automatically included. But being part of such a lawsuit might be intimidating, especially if you need to opt in, and would mean surrendering the option to sue individually.

In most cases, there's little downside to joining these lawsuits, which combine many legal claims - often thousands - into one claim against a single defendant, reducing fees for each claimant and potentially earning a much larger payout.

And there have been many opportunities to do so. Following a series of large opioid settlements, 2022 had the most billion-dollar class-action settlements in U.S. history apart from the tobacco settlements decades ago, according to a report from the national law firm Duane Morris. The stakes are high for class-action lawsuits at this level, as they set standards for corporate responsibility in areas such as data privacy, employee discrimination, securities fraud and civil rights.

But in cases where you suffered significant harm, suing individually could secure a bigger payout.

In many cases, class-action lawsuits offer such a minor payout to each victim that participation is a matter of principle, not reward. But even if you receive only \$10 to \$20 as compensation, joining a collective lawsuit can help other customers or employees get justice, and may deter a company from harmful practices in the future.

"It's really a trial by proxy," says attorney Russell T. Abney, who defends victims of dangerous drugs and defective medical devices at the law firm Watts Guerra. "The beauty of the class action," he says, is that it adds up individual cases to a number that's high enough to go up against a large company.

In most cases, Abney says, plaintiffs of class-action lawsuits pay legal fees on contingency, which means they don't pay anything unless they win the case. Lawyers taking on these lawsuits will usually receive payment as a percentage of the settlement won from the company.

If you're part of the "class" of a lawsuit - that is, if you were affected by the certain event or purchase described - you'll often be automatically included in the lawsuit. And for certain cases, such as those relating to wage violations or defective products, you may have to opt in.

If you feel strongly about the outcome of a class-action lawsuit, you can also participate as a class representative, sometimes called a lead plaintiff. In some cases, becoming a class representative could lead to a bigger payout - but that isn't always the case.

Even though the class representative is the case's headline, "That person isn't necessarily going to get any kind of windfall," says Jennifer A. Riley, a partner at Duane Morris and vice chair of the firm's workplace class-action group. She notes that some courts in some jurisdictions would be able to grant a service award to plaintiffs representing the case, which are often between \$2,500 and \$7,500, but other courts have found these awards inappropriate. And it's difficult to discern upfront whether such a service award would be granted.

Class-action lawsuits can also take anywhere from a few months to several years, which can be an excessive commitment for many. The Exxon Valdez oil spill, for example, took 17 years to reach a class-action set-

Australian government forecasts 1st 'annual' budget surplus in 15 years

Gross debt as a percentage of GDP is now forecast to peak at 36.5%

CANBERRA, Australia, May 9, (AP): The Australian government forecast the nation's first balanced annual budget in 15 years but warned Tuesday that economic pressures such as persistent inflation, elevated interest rates, rising unemployment and slowing growth would sink the country into deeper debt.

Treasurer Jim Chalmers announced that a surplus of 4.2 billion Australian dollars (\$2.8 billion) was forecast for the fiscal year ending June 30. He also released details of his government's economic blueprint for next year that aims to ease financial hardships of the most needy without stoking stubbornly high inflation.

High prices for commodities including iron ore, coal and gas, plus income tax revenue buoyed by an extraordinarily low jobless rate of 3.5%, helped deliver the first surplus since the global financial crisis tipped the Australian economy into the red in 2008.

Chalmers said the next two years were expected to be the weakest for global growth in more than two decades, apart from the global financial crisis and the first years of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"In this environment, inflation remains our primary economic challenge - it drives rates rises, it erodes

tlement.

If you plan to make a case of your own, it makes sense to opt out of, or not participate in, a class-action lawsuit.

"If you have your own lawsuit, the value of your claim might be much, much higher as an individual than it would have been as a class member," says Gerald L. Maatman Jr., a partner at Duane Morris and the chair of the law firm's workplace class-action group. "You're trying to decide, 'If I opt out, am I going to do that much better than I'd do in a class action?' And in certain circumstances, an individual would do better. They'd get the money quicker, and they'd get more money."

One example: Following the credit-scoring company Equifax's data breach in 2017, which compromised the personal data of 147 million people, The New York Times reported that some people took Equifax to small claims courts, winning much larger sums than those who received class-action payouts.

Small claims courts - which handle claims under a few thousand dollars to \$15,000, depending on your state - generally charge a small fee to file, making them a relatively low-cost way to seek damages. Typically, plaintiffs represent themselves in these cases, bypassing costly attorney fees. (AP)



A line of 2022 Santa Fe SUV's sit outside a Hyundai dealership Sunday, Sept. 12, 2021, in Littleton, Colo. Nearly three months after Hyundai and Kia rolled out new software designed to thwart rampant auto thefts, crooks are still driving off with the vehicles at an alarming rate. (AP)

'Exponentially worse than it has been in the past'

Hyundai, Kia thefts keep rising despite security fix

WASHINGTON, May 9, (AP): Nearly three months ago, Hyundai and Kia unveiled software that was designed to thwart an epidemic of thefts of their vehicles, caused by a security flaw that was exposed on TikTok and other social media sites.

So far, it hasn't solved the problem. Across the country, thieves are still driving off with the vehicles at an alarming rate.

Data from seven U.S. cities gathered by The Associated Press shows that the number of Hyundai and Kia thefts is still growing despite the companies' efforts to fix the glitch, which makes 8.3 million vehicles relatively easy targets for thieves.

From Minneapolis, Cleveland and St. Louis to New York, Seattle, Atlanta and Grand Rapids, Michigan, police have reported substantial year-over-year increases in Hyundai and Kia theft reports through April. An eighth city, Denver, which was hit early by the theft outbreak, reported a 23% decline from 2022 levels but still endured a high number of thefts.

So far this year, Minneapolis police have received 1,899 Kia and Hyundai theft reports, nearly 18 times the number for the same period in 2022.

"The scope of the problem is only expanding and is exponentially worse than it has been in the past," Brian O'Hara, the police chief of Minneapolis, said in an email. "We have some weeks where nearly as many Kias and Hyundais are stolen in a week as had previously been stolen in a year."

The most recent nationwide numbers on Hyundai and Kia thefts aren't yet publicly available. The figures for early 2023, as calculated by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, will be released until later this year. (Hyundai and Kia are part of the same South Korean corporate family.)

Some U.S. cities have reported that 60% or more of their auto theft reports now involve Hyundais or Kias. Videos on TikTok and other sites that illustrate how to start and steal Kia and Hyundai models - using only a screwdriver and a USB cable - have allowed the thefts to spread across the nation since late 2021.

In New York, the Hyundai-Kia theft problem has grown

so worrisome that the city held a news conference last month to offer owners devices that can track their vehicles if they're stolen. Police there reported 966 Hyundai and Kia thefts as of April 30 - nearly seven times the number in the same period of 2022.

The disturbing theft rate, which authorities nationally have linked to other crimes including at least 14 reported crashes and eight fatalities, has persisted despite the automakers' unveiling of their anti-theft software campaign in mid-February.

Hyundai and Kia have said they're accelerating their distribution of the software, with Hyundai saying it's reached 6,000 installations a day. The company says it's using direct mail, phone calls, digital advertising and social media to try to reach the affected owners.

Ira Gabriel, a spokesman for Hyundai, said the company has tried to remove from social media the instructional videos that show how to steal the cars.

"But as new ones surface," he said, "there have been additional waves of thefts."

Kia said in a statement that it began developing and testing the security software last year.

"The process occurred at an accelerated pace and allowed us to begin rolling out the enhanced security software earlier this year in phases," the company said.

Safety authorities say the companies' software rollout has been far too slow. Of the 4.5 million Kia vehicles that are eligible for the fix, the automaker says it's installed the software on about 210,000 - nearly 5%. Kia says it has sent notifications to about 2.8 million of the affected owners and expects to have notified all of them by the end of this month.

For Hyundai, the figure is about 225,000 out of 3.8 million vehicles - roughly 6%. Hyundai said he expects to have contacted all the affected vehicle owners by May 18.

The companies' affected cars, many of them lower-cost models from the 2011 to early 2022 model years, were not equipped with a theft immobilizer. Such a device contains a computer chip in the key that must be recognized by another chip in the steering column before the engines will start.

The Conversation

History shows that several leaders on the run eventually face charges in court

Putin may not outrun the warrant for his arrest

By Aaron Fichtelberg,
University of Delaware

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



The Russian government, U.S. President Joe Biden and mainstream Western media are among the observers who all responded to Russian President Vladimir Putin's arrest warrant for war crimes with a shrug.

In March 2023, the International Criminal Court announced the warrant for Putin and his commissioner for children's rights, Maria Lvova-Belova, because they allegedly directed the abduction of Ukrainian children. The court says that these charges amount to war crimes.

While Biden said the arrest warrant was "justified," he also noted that the International Criminal Court "is not recognized by us either."

The skeptics have a point - the ICC, based in the Hague, Netherlands, does

not have its own police force to execute its orders and must rely on other countries' police to arrest the people it indicts.

Indeed, there are a number of barriers potentially preventing Putin's arrest.

One is that Russia, like the United States, is not a member of the court - so as long as Putin does not set foot in a country that is a member of the court, he is safe from arrest. Putin also remains popular within Russia and is unlikely to soon be overthrown and turned over by his successor.

But it still would be rash to assume that Putin is safe from the court's grasp. I am a scholar of criminal justice who specializes in international courts and the creativity that prosecutors show in catching their targets, often under very difficult political circumstances.

History shows that it would require a little bit of good luck for prosecutors - and a few bad decisions by Putin - for the Russian autocrat to end up in handcuffs. But it's far from impossible.

A group of 60 countries established the International Criminal Court in 2002

to prosecute people who commit the worst crimes, including genocide and wartime sexual violence, that violate international law. The court is part of a long line of international criminal tribunals going back to the military tribunal the U.S. and allies set up to prosecute Nazis at the end of World War II, as part of the Nuremberg Trials.

There are other international criminal courts that prosecute war crimes, but the ICC is the largest and arguably most influential, since 123 member countries fund the court and abide by its rulings.

Since its inception, the ICC has issued 38 arrest warrants, arrested 21 people, convicted 10 and acquitted four. Other suspects, like Putin, remain at large or have had their charges dropped.

Yet there are a number of options for prosecuting war crimes outside of the ICC that have been used in the past.

There are also other, smaller tribunals similar to the ICC that countries have helped set up to focus on specific conflicts. In other cases, individual countries can use their own courts to prosecute in-

ternational criminals who have evaded arrest abroad.

In the case of the Ukraine war, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky has called for a new international tribunal to prosecute war crimes committed by Russia during the conflict. Others have argued that Putin could be prosecuted in a Ukrainian court specifically designed for this purpose.

There have been several long but ultimately successful efforts to arrest fallen political leaders and mass murderers.

For example, Charles Taylor, the former president of Liberia who helped instigate a civil war in neighboring Sierra Leone in the 1990s, is now serving a 50-year prison sentence in the United Kingdom.

Prosecutors from an international tribunal set up in Sierra Leone announced Taylor's indictment when he was in Ghana in 2002, forcing him to quickly flee a political conference and head home for safety. But Taylor then fell from power in 2003, in the midst of a rebel insurgency. He then fled to Nigeria. (AP)

ABK announces Alfouz weekly draw winner

Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) announced Danah Issam Quttaineh, as the winner of KD10,000 in the Alfouz weekly draw. The winner was announced on Monday, 8 May 2023 under the supervision of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. The Alfouz draw account offers ABK customers the chance to win life-changing rewards as they will get a chance to win KD10,000 in the weekly draw and the ultimate grand prize of KD5,000 monthly additional income for 10 years.

Both new and existing ABK customers can benefit from this opportunity, with a minimum account balance of KD100 only.

ABK encourages everyone to open Alfouz draw account and/or increase their balances to have more chances in winning in the upcoming draw which will occur on Monday, 15 May 2023. The higher the deposits are, the higher the chances to win. Since its establishment in 1967, ABK has progressed to become one of the leading Kuwaiti banks in the region that is today known for offering a simpler banking experience. The Bank offers personal, corporate, and private banking of which includes a wide array of products and services. ABK also provides a broad range of local, regional, and global investment so-

lutions and services through its subsidiary, ABK Capital. Enjoying equal stability and strength, the Bank also offers the convenience of banking across the region, servicing other markets in Egypt and the UAE.

For more information about ABK, please visit eahli.com or contact an ABK customer service agent via 'Ahlan Ahli' at 1899899. Alternatively, you can visit your nearest ABK branch. ABK's long-term regional aspirations have also led to strategic alliances with world-class financial partners. ABK is listed as one of the 10 safest banks in the Middle East by Global Finance.



Alfouz draw

The Conversation

Many fleeing 'toxic' site find new alternative

Mastodon, the 'federated' network, won't be a new Twitter

By Brian C. Keegan
University of Colorado Boulder

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

In the wake of Elon Musk's noisy takeover of Twitter, people have been looking for alternatives to the increasingly toxic microblogging social media platform. Many of those fleeing or hedging their bets have turned to Mastodon, which has attracted hundreds of thousands of new users since Twitter's acquisition.

Like Twitter, Mastodon allows users to post, follow people and organizations, and like and repost others' posts.

But while Mastodon supports many of the same social networking features as Twitter, it is not a single platform. Instead, it's a federation of independently operated, interconnected servers. Mastodon servers are based on open-source software developed by German nonprofit Mastodon gGmbH. The interconnected Mastodon servers, along with other servers that can "talk" to Mastodon servers, are collectively dubbed the "fediverse."

A key aspect of the fediverse is that each server is governed by rules set by the people who operate it. If you think of the fediverse as a university, each Mastodon server is like a dorm.

Which dorm you're initially assigned to can be somewhat random but still profoundly shapes the kind of conversations you overhear and the relationships you form. You can still interact with people who live in other dorms, but the leadders and rules in your dorm shape what you can do.

If you're particularly unhappy with your dorm, you can move to a new housing situation - another dorm, a sorority, an apartment - that is a better fit, and you bring your relationships with you. But you are then subject to the rules of the new place where you live. There are hundreds of Mastodon servers, called instances, where you can set up your account, and these instances have different rules and norms for who can join and what content is permitted.

In contrast, social media platforms like Twitter and Facebook put everyone in a single, gigantic dorm. As millions or billions of people joined, the companies running these platforms added more floors and bedrooms. Everyone could communicate with each other and theoretically join each other's conversations within the dorm, but everyone also has to live under the same rules.

If you didn't like or didn't follow the rules, you had to leave the megadorm, but you were not able to bring your relationships with you to your new housing - a different social media platform - or talk to people who stayed in your original megadorm. These platforms tapped into the resulting fear of missing out to lock people into a highly surveilled dorm where their otherwise private behavior was mined to sell ads.

Infrastructure

The big social media companies sell ads to pay for two primary services: the technical infrastructure of hardware and software that lets users access the platform, and the social infrastructure of usability, policy and content moderation that keeps the platform in line with users' expectations and rules.

In the Mastodon collection of servers, if you don't like what someone is doing, you can cut ties and move to another server but keep the relationships you already made. This removes the fear of missing out that could otherwise lock users into a server with other people's bad behavior.

There are a few factors that should put Mastodon servers under strong pressure to actively and responsibly moderate the behavior of their members. First, most servers don't want other servers cutting ties entirely, so there is strong reputational pressure to police members' behavior and not tolerate trolls and harassers.

Second, people can migrate between servers relatively easily, so the server administrators can compete to provide the best moderation experience that attracts and keeps people around.

Third, the technical and financial costs of creating a new server are much

greater than the costs of moderating a server. This should limit the number of new servers cropping up to evade bans, which would avoid the endless "whack-a-mole" challenge of new spam and troll accounts that the big social media platforms have to deal with.

The federated server model on Mastodon also has potential drawbacks. First, finding a server to join on Mastodon can be hard, especially when a flood of people trying to find servers leads to the creation of waitlists, and the rules and values of the people running a server aren't always easy to find.

Second, there are significant financial and technical challenges with maintaining servers that grow with the number of members and their activity. After the honeymoon is over, Mastodon users should be prepared for membership fees, NPR-style fundraising campaigns or podcast-style promotional ads to cover server hosting costs that can go into the hundreds of dollars per month per server.

Third, despite calls for newspapers, universities and governments to host their own servers, there are complicated legal and professional questions that could severely limit public institutions' abilities to moderate their "dorms" effectively. Professional societies with their own methods of verification and established codes of conduct and ethics may be better equipped to host and moderate Mastodon servers than other types of institutions.

Fourth, the current "nuclear option" of servers entirely cutting ties with other servers leaves little room for repairing relations and reengagement. Once the tie between two servers is severed, it would be difficult to renew it. This situation could drive destabilizing user migrations and reinforce polarizing echo chambers.

Finally, there are tensions between longtime Mastodon users and newcomers around content warnings, hashtags, post visibility, accessibility and tone that are different from what was popular on Twitter.

Still, with Twitter melting down and the long-standing issues with the major social media platforms, for many people the new land of Mastodon and the fediverse doesn't have to be all milk and honey. (AP)

Unique banking experience

Warba announces Bloom & Sunbula draw winners

KUWAIT CITY, May 9: Warba Bank - the best bank in banking services for the corporate sector and banking services for the investment sector in Kuwait - announced the winners of the weekly Sunbula, monthly Sunbula kids and Bloom draws. The Bank will continue to make weekly draws for 10 winners for the Sunbula account and 5 for the monthly Bloom draws in the presence of a representative of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and Warba Bank employees.

As for the lucky customers for the weekly Sunbula draw, 10 winners were chosen from Warba Bank's customers, each of whom received 1,000 Kuwaiti dinars. The winners are: Mr. Qamar Abdulmohsen Al-Sayegh, Mr. Abdullah Hassan Al-Awadhi, Mr. Rashid Mubarak Mohamed Al-Hajri, Mr. Mansour Butti Al-Ajmi, Ms. Sarah Khaled Ibrahim Al-Salal, Mr. Owaid Ali Ayad Al-Hubaini, Ms. Dhahia Abdullah Eid Al-Azmi, and Mr. /Abdullah Khaled Saleh Al-Rashidi, Ms. Amthal Mukhalif Eid Al-Dhafiri, Mr. Mubarak Fuhaid Ali Al-Azmi.



Al Mutawa

Announced

As for the customers who were lucky during the monthly Sunbula kids draw for children, 7 winners were announced from Warba Bank customers, and they are: Ms. Ghadeer Mubarak Fahad Al-Anzi, Mr. Al-Hassan Ali Abdulaziz Abu Al-Majid, Ms. Norah Ali Rashid Al-Rashidi, Ms. Amthal Mukhalif Eid Al-Dhafiri, Mr. Mubarak Fuhaid Ali Al-Azmi.

Warba Bank singles the "Bloom" customer segment with a unique digital banking experience that lives up to their ambitions and aspirations. It presents them with a private banking application-- the first of its kind not only in Kuwait; Rather, in the entire region-- inspired by social media applications in terms of design, interface, browsing methods and color choices, which targets young people.

Meanwhile, the Sunbula account is the perfect choice for all those who wish to save money and achieve great financial returns on their balances at the same time; in addition to multiple opportunities to win cash prizes throughout the year.

Conditions

With regards to the conditions for winning the Sunbula, Mr. Ahmed M. Almutawa Area Manager Retail Banking Group states: "Only 100 KD is required to enter the weekly Sunbula draws and other major draws, whereby the customer still gets one chance per every 10 KD in the account, and the chances are calculated according to the lowest balance in the account during a month. Therefore, a full month must have passed in the account to qualify for the weekly draw, and two full months for the major draws to calculate the opportunities. There are no restrictions or limits for withdrawal and deposit, the higher the deposited amount, the greater the customer's chances of winning".

Notably, Warba Bank launched its latest Customer Onboarding banking solution in accordance with the terms of its ambitious five-year strategy, this will enable non-Warba Bank customers to apply for opening an account in an easy digital way through the bank's website without the need to visit any of the bank's branches, and within only five minutes - through the new and unique automated system used to enable this service - new customers will be able to complete the request to open an account at any time and any place.

It is also worth mentioning that after a short period of its establishment, Warba Bank has succeeded in establishing its position in the banking sector; it occupies a leading position in the field of Islamic digital banking services for individuals and is considered to have the highest number of shareholder base between local banks.

Thus, establishing Warba's place to customers by providing the best banking services. Warba Bank has managed to meet the aspirations of the Kuwaiti society and deservedly, earned their trust in a short period.

CK Connect for our employees



A fresh experience to help them discover & build the skills that personally matter



Left: Mrs. Halah El-Sherbini, Group Chief Human Resources and Development Officer at Burgan Bank and Mrs. Ghada El-Kadi, (right) Unit Head of Learning and Talent Development at Burgan Bank.

Sets new benchmark for employee development

Burgan deploys personalized digital learning program for its employees

KUWAIT CITY, May 9: In a bid to maintain its leading position as an Employer of Choice that consistently caters to its employees' need for growth, Burgan Bank announced the deployment of the AI-guided soft skills development platform, CK Connect from CrossKnowledge Wiley. The new development initiative, which is the first of its kind in Kuwait, aims to aid Burgan staff in advancing at their own pace and in line with their personal needs and interests. This comes as part of Burgan Bank's efforts to offer a comprehensively outstanding experience for its employees and, in turn, for the customers they serve.

The personalized digital learning and development program, delivered in partnership with IQuad Learning Solutions, adheres to the modern need for tailored, self-paced development - an approach that has proven effective in raising employees' autonomy and ownership of their learning curve and growth. In addition to the benefit reaped by the employees, CK Connect serves as a data collection and analytics tool that provides managers with detailed insights into their teams' interests, development, and capacity. With a rich base of data-driven insights, CK Connect further enables managers to utilize their teams' full potential, allowing them to raise their performance and the Bank's overall quality of service and products.

Commenting on this forward-looking initiative, Mrs. Halah El-Sherbini, Group Chief Human Resources and Development Officer at Burgan Bank, said: "As a leading institution in the banking and finance sector, we are quite aware of the value of our employees and the importance of effectively updating our solutions, adopting modern trends, and adapting to technology advancement while investing in them. Of all the capital that impacts our institutional growth,

investing in our human capital is, by far, the most valuable and course-defining. Thanks to the AI-guided adaptive technology of CK Connect and its integrated All Types™ assessment, we are now able to track our employees' strengths, performance, and improvement in a timely manner that guarantees consistent growth across all levels."

Enabled

On her part, Mrs. Ghada El-Kadi, Unit Head of Learning and Talent Development at Burgan Bank, said: "The success of any institution rests, first and foremost, on the shoulders of its staff; the more enabled and fortified with knowledge and skills they are, the more solid and unshakable the institution is - in times of prosperity and adversity alike. That is why it is a core goal at Burgan Bank to ensure that our employees are constantly learning and advancing, both on the personal and professional levels." She added: "Through CK Connect, Burgan has made a progressive leap in catering to its employees by offering a more effective and engaging learning solution put at the service of our strategy. Thanks to a truly personalized approach and based on personality type and state of the art content, CK connect from CrossKnowledge allows us to coach learners on the skills of the future and efficiently roll out our leadership framework and corporate values."

This new experience offered through the IQuad Learning Solutions platform in its first stage, allows for a highly engaging discovery of self and others, to understand people's preferences and differences within the team and analyze conflicts that might have previously been puzzling. It also allows for increased positive collaboration, productive discussions, and

project success. It serves to note that the CK Connect program is an extension of Burgan Bank's continuous efforts in advancing the skills and knowledge of its staff across all employment grades. This vital strategy aims to enhance employee performance and help retain the best talents.

Established in 1977, Burgan Bank is currently the third-largest bank by assets in Kuwait. From its earliest days, the Bank has significantly focused on the corporate and financial institution sectors, in addition to diversifying its offering to cater to its growing retail and private banking customer base.

Burgan Bank has majority-owned subsidiaries, collectively known as the "Burgan Bank Group", in the MENAT region. This Group is supported by one of the largest branch networks across the region and includes: Gulf Bank Algeria - AGB (Algeria), Tunis International Bank - TIB (Tunisia), and the fully owned Burgan Bank Turkey. Furthermore, Burgan Bank has a presence in the UAE through its corporate office, Burgan Financial Services Limited.

The Bank has continuously improved its performance over the years, through an expanded revenue structure, diversified funding sources, and a strong capital base. The adoption of state-of-the-art services and technology has positioned it as a trendsetter in the domestic market and within the MENA region. Moreover, Burgan Bank's brand has been built on a foundation of real values - trust, commitment, excellence, and progression - which serve as a reminder of the high standards to which the Bank always aspires. In fact, the Bank's core philosophy of 'Driven by You' is the foundation on which its products and services are continuously developed.

CAN, DialESG partner to offer ESG Solutions for brands, companies

MUMBAI, India, May 9: Collective Artists Network, India's leading creator marketplace, has announced a strategic partnership with DialESG, a leading ESG domain expert, to offer India's first 360-degree comprehensive solution to brands, companies and rights holders to drive and implement their ESG initiatives.

The partnership aims to help Indian companies align their business strategies with ESG objectives and effectively communicate their sustainabil-

ity efforts to stakeholders, including investors, customers, employees, and communities.

The new solution will leverage the expertise of DialESG in the ESG domain and Collective Artists Network's extensive network and experience in the industry to provide comprehensive services, including ESG strategy development, sustainability reporting, stakeholder engagement, and ESG communication.

Vijay Subramaniam, Founder and

Group CEO at Collective Artists Network, said, "With the rise of sustainable investing and the increasing importance of ESG considerations, we recognized the need for a comprehensive and accessible toolset to help brands and companies navigate this complex landscape.

Sustainability

We believe that sustainability is no longer a choice but a necessity, and our solution will help companies to in-

tegrate ESG principles into their business strategies and operations."

"We are thrilled to offer this new ESG-based service to our existing and new clients. Our new tools and resources enable brands to inform all their internal and external stakeholders about their effort toward making the world a better place to live in and the investment decisions they are making to support their values. We are confident that this comprehensive solution will empower brands

to communicate their sustainability initiatives effectively, build trust with stakeholders, and drive positive societal change and thus contribute positively to the Indian economy and the larger United Nations Sustainable Development Goals," said Nitin Lakhota, Chief Growth Officer at Collective Artists Network.

"Together, CAN and DialESG will profoundly impact the confidence of all served entities to choose Sustainability as an additional pillar to their

success stories. Digital platforms, the deployment of machine learning and artificial intelligence and Analytics for ESG will be enabled through the service. We are very excited to make this positive contribution to the emerging 'NEW INDIA'," said Shailesh Haribhakti and Suyash Agarwal, Co-founders of DialESG.

The partnership is expected to significantly impact the larger Indian industry and contribute to the country's sustainable development goals.

VAPORESSO turns heads at Egypt Vape Expo

VAPORESSO, a world-leading vaping brand, stole the show at the recent Egypt Vape Expo held at the Cairo International Convention Center, showcased the technical prowess of its latest products. This event marked the first legal e-cigarette expo in the Egyptian market and attracted many players from B2B channels in North Africa and the Middle East. VAPRESSO's new LUXE XR MAX and

XROS 3 NANO devices were the main showstoppers at the exhibition. VAPRESSO's LUXE XR MAX is a small device that packs a big vape punch. The product comes equipped with a GTX COIL to deliver precise flavors using advanced technology that provide a futuristic sensory experience. On the other hand, the XROS 3 NANO is a compact and portable device with extended

battery life and exceptional flavor performances. Both products drew an overwhelmingly positive response from those in attendance, with their innovative features particularly appreciated by the crowd. VAPRESSO's participation in the Egypt Vape Expo is part of the company's efforts to further strengthen brand awareness in the local and regional market. (AP)

tick-borne illness on the rise across US

Ticks are dangerous pests capable of transmitting debilitating diseases at increasingly alarming rates. In fact, one in five (22%) Americans know someone who has contracted Lyme disease from a tick bite, according to a recent NPMA survey conducted by The Harris Poll. In honor of Tick Awareness Week, May 7-13, the National Pest Management Association (NPMA) is spreading awareness about health risks as-

sociated with these experienced hitchhikers. There are nearly 100 different tick species in the US, with a handful posing specific health threats, including anaplasmosis, babesiosis, Powassan virus, tularemia, and more. Notably, there are two tick-borne illnesses on the rise across the nation: Lyme Disease: is the most common vector-borne disease in the U.S. According to the CDC,

nearly half a million Americans are diagnosed and treated for Lyme disease annually. This concerning disease is transmitted by blacklegged (deer) ticks and is often recognized by a red "bull's eye" rash near the bite site. Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever is one of the deadliest tickborne diseases in the region. Transmitted by different tick species, including the Rocky Mountain wood tick, brown dog tick. (AP)

Data presentations highlight Ferring's microbiome leadership

1st FDA-approved drug's efficacy evaluated for preventing rCDI

PARSIPPANY, N.J., May 9: Ferring Pharmaceuticals has announced three oral presentations and one poster presentation at Digestive Disease Week® (DDW 2023) for REBYOTA™ (fecal microbiota, live – jslm) a first-in-class single-dose microbiome-based treatment approved by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for the prevention of recurrent C. difficile (C. diff) infection in individuals 18 years of age and older, following antibiotic treatment for recurrent C. diff infection.

The analyses reviewed the safety of REBYOTA (previously known as RBX2660) in patients with inflammatory bowel disease, as well as safety and efficacy in immunocompromised patients and when administered by colonoscopy. An additional analysis looked at microbiome compositional changes and clonal engraftment following treatment with REBYOTA. The first ad hoc analysis (Safety outcomes and concomitant medication changes in patients with inflammatory bowel disease being treated with RBX2660 for recurrent Clostridioides difficile infection; Session number 699) evaluated safety outcomes and changes in IBD-related medications after REBYOTA treatment in adults with recurrent C. diff infection categorized by IBD comorbidity subgroups in the ongoing Phase 3 PUNCH CD3-OLS trial and a completed retrospective study of use under enforcement discretion.

In the pooled safety population (N=547), 18 patients were identified as having Crohn's disease only and 38 had ulcerative colitis only. Of the 56 patients evaluated, 39 patients (69.6%) received IBD-related medication at the time of REBYOTA administration. The number of IBD-related medications taken when REBYOTA was administered and/or during the eight-week observational baseline period were compared to those at eight weeks after administration. Participants were monitored for treatment-emergent adverse events (TEAEs) for at least six months after treatment.

Medication

The analysis showed that 82.1% (n=32/39) did not experience an IBD-related medication change after eight weeks. Seven participants stopped or initiated concomitant medication within eight weeks of treatment. The incidence of TEAEs was comparable in patients with or without IBD (57.1% vs. 63.1%). TEAEs were mostly gastrointestinal in nature, predominantly diarrhea and abdominal pain.

"Underlying IBD is a known risk factor for recurrent C. diff infection, but prospective clinical trials often exclude these patients," said Jessica Allegretti, M.D., M.P.H., Brigham & Women's Hospital. "This analysis is important as it reflects results from a real-world patient population seen in clinical practice."

In a separate ad hoc analysis of the PUNCH CD3-OLS trial evaluating the safety and efficacy of REBYOTA in immunocompromised patients (Safety and efficacy of RBX2660 in reducing recurrent Clostridioides difficile infection in immunocompromised patients; Session number 700), 91 out of 483 participants had an underlying immunocompromising condition, including

cancer and end-stage renal disease. A similar percentage of participants with and without immunocompromising conditions (64.8% and 62.0%, respectively) reported TEAEs. Most participants with and without immunocompromising conditions experienced TEAEs that were mild or moderate in severity (42.9% and 47.7%, respectively) with GI disorders, including diarrhea, abdominal pain and nausea, the most frequently reported TEAEs. Serious TEAEs were reported in 19.8% and 8.4% of participants with and without immunocompromising conditions, respectively, and most were related to C. diff infection or preexisting conditions. Treatment success (defined as the absence of recurrent C. diff infection through eight weeks after treatment) was comparable in patients with and without immunocompromising conditions (79.5% and 73.5%, respectively). Sustained clinical response through six months was maintained in 80.0% and 85.0% of treatment responders with and without immunocompromising conditions.

Administered

The poster presented a retrospective subgroup analysis evaluating the safety and efficacy of REBYOTA administered via colonoscopy (Retrospective subgroup analysis of RBX2660 administered by colonoscopy under enforcement discretion for the reduction of recurrent Clostridioides difficile infection; Poster number Su1866). In the analysis, patients with recurrent C. diff infection and treated with REBYOTA under the Assured Active Treatment (AAT) program were retrospectively identified across five clinical trial sites. The AAT program offered REBYOTA to adults not eligible for clinical trial participation or who needed additional treatment following study participation. The primary endpoint was the number of participants with REBYOTA and/or procedure related TEAEs. The secondary endpoints were treatment success, defined as the absence of recurrent C. diff infection eight weeks after the final dose and sustained clinical response for six months after treatment. Of the 94 participants in the full analysis set, 39 received one dose of REBYOTA and 10 of those patients received treatment via colonoscopy. Two participants who received treatment via colonoscopy but did not have comprehensive medical records were considered treatment failures.

TEAEs were reported in 75% of participants (six of eight). Most TEAEs were mild to moderate in severity and were not due to REBYOTA or its administration, with the most common TEAEs being GI disorders and infections/infestations. Treatment success was reported in eight of the 10 participants who received REBYOTA via colonoscopy. Six of the eight participants who reported treatment success had a sustained clinical response at six months.

"Doctors often see recurrent C. diff infection patients with comorbidities and perform routine colonoscopies for them," said Paul Feuerstadt, M.D., F.A.C.G., A.G.A.F., Yale University School of Medicine. "This is some of the first data that looks at REBYOTA being administered via colonoscopy in this patient population."

PREVENT-HD clinical trial studies efficacy of rivaroxaban

Commonly used drug has no effect in preventing blood clots & death: study

Drug can treat brain metastases in cancer patients

Zion enters global agreement with Roche to develop blood brain barrier penetrant

MANHASSET, N.Y., May 9: Because millions of people experience fatal venous and arterial thrombosis – blood clots – per year and those with COVID-19 are at higher risk, researchers at The Feinstein Institutes for Medical Research helped to design and implement an entirely virtual, outpatient, cloud-based clinical trial to understand the efficacy of a common prophylactic medication: rivaroxaban. While the PREVENT-HD multi-center site clinical trial found no significant impact of rivaroxaban to prevent clots, the findings – along with its novel remote trial design – were published in the journal Circulation.

"Since the start of the pandemic, we have been studying COVID-19, its risk to increase blood clots and the best course of treatment, both in and out of the hospital," said Alex C. Spyropoulos, MD, study co-principal investigator, professor at the Feinstein Institutes' Institute of Health System Science and director of anticoagulation and clinical thrombosis services at Northwell Health. "The PREVENT-HD trial is a good model for how future outpatient clinical trials can be designed, harnessing patient data and embracing technology."

From August 2020 to April 2022, more than 1,280 diverse, COVID-19-positive, symptomatic patients were virtually consented and enrolled in the trial. The patients were identified through electronic health records and other clinical decision support tools, which helped detect patients at risk of a venous or arterial thrombosis event. Rivaroxaban was prescribed daily for 35 days, but the results show that it did not reduce the frequency of a composite outcome of symptomatic major thromboembolism, hospitalization and death. Rivaroxaban did reduce thrombosis in an exploratory analysis. The trial was terminated early due to under-enrollment, but the data did not appear to support routine antithrombotic prophylaxis in non-hospitalized patients with symptomatic COVID-19.

Benefit

"While the trial was unable to show benefit with low-dose rivaroxaban to prevent adverse events that included clotting, hospitalization and death, it contributed valuable insights for the management of outpatients with COVID-19 and co-existing cardiovascular risk factors," said Mark Goldin, MD, principal investigator of the study and Northwell's co-director of anticoagulation services and director of clinical trials in the department of medicine. "Northwell is a leading center worldwide in elucidating

blood clot prevention strategies in COVID-19 patients during the full continuum of care: hospital admission, after hospital discharge and in the community."

Despite pandemic-related logistical challenges, the PREVENT-HD model allowed for 100 percent follow-up of all patients through day 49. Additionally, the remote design allowed for nearly 30 percent of the trial's participants to be non-white in an effort to enroll diverse patient populations. "Despite everything we now know about COVID-19, major questions remain about why it can cause dangerous blood clots," said Kevin J. Tracey, MD, president and CEO of the Feinstein Institutes and Karches Family Distinguished Chair in Medical Research. "Drs. Spyropoulos and Goldin's important work into novel

clinical trials serves as a model for conducting impactful research, even during a global pandemic."

Dr. Spyropoulos is a world-renowned expert in blood clots who has collaborated with researchers across the globe, particularly during the pandemic, to study clots in COVID-19 patients. During a Late Breaking Clinical Trial Presentation at the 2022 American Heart Association's Scientific Sessions, he shared data from a large clinical trial he and Dr. Goldin led, showing the effectiveness of a new digital tool, called IMPROVE-DD VTE, that assesses and decreases the risks of these blood clots – both during hospitalization and post-discharge period – as well as provide life-saving preventative therapy.

In 2021, Drs. Spyropoulos and Goldin published in the Journal of Ameri-

can Medical Association (JAMA) Internal Medicine results from his HEP-COVID clinical trial, which revealed that prophylaxis with therapeutic low-dose heparin significantly reduces major thromboembolism (clotting) and death in high-risk hospitalized patients versus standard-of-care thromboprophylaxis.

The Feinstein Institutes for Medical Research is the home of the research institutes of Northwell Health, the largest health care provider and private employer in New York State. Encompassing 50 research labs, 3,000 clinical research studies and 5,000 researchers and staff, the Feinstein Institutes raises the standard of medical innovation through its five institutes of behavioral science, bioelectronic medicine, cancer, health system science, and molecular medicine.

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Zion A-1041 is an orally administered selective tyrosine kinase inhibitor targeting the Human Epidermal Growth Factor Receptor 2 (HER2). ZN-A-1041 was designed to be blood-brain-barrier-penetrant. The ongoing Phase 1 trial is being conducted at multiple sites in the U.S. and China. Additional details will be presented at the poster sessions during the American Society of Clinical Oncology Annual Meeting in June 2023. Zion Pharma is a private, clinical stage biotech company focused on the development of novel, small molecule, anti-tumoral agents. Founded in 2018, the company's research headquarters are in Suzhou with additional research operations in Shanghai. The company is applying an innovative drug discovery approach, capitalizing on its DMPK expertise, to develop a pipeline of proprietary first-in-class/best-in-class compounds focused on therapeutic targets which drive tumor inhibition, including ataxia telangiectasia mutated (ATM), Kirsten Ras Sarcoma (KRAS G12D) and SMARCA2 (BRM).

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Trump forum a big test for CNN, moderator Kaitlan Collins

NEW YORK, May 9, (AP) — Donald Trump's town hall forum on CNN on Wednesday is the first major television event of the 2024 presidential campaign - and a gigantic test for the chosen moderator, Kaitlan Collins.

Both sides of the political divide expressed suspicion when the CNN forum at New Hampshire's St. Anselm College was announced last week. Some Democrats question whether the former president should be given the airtime, while Republicans wonder if a network Trump has long disparaged can be fair.

Once it begins, Collins must give audience members the chance to ask questions while determining when to step in with her own. She'll weigh how to correct misinformation in a potentially hostile environment: Invited town hall participants are those who expect to vote in a Republican primary.

"It's a balance beam and it can be walked," said Frank Sesno, a former CNN Washington bureau chief now at George Washington University. "We're going to see if Kaitlan is worthy of the Olympics."

CNN would not make Collins available to talk before the event, scheduled for 8 p.m. Wednesday.

It speaks to Collins' stature that she was given the assignment at a network with no shortage of experienced political journalists - Dana Bash, Anderson Cooper, Jake Tapper, Chris Wallace. She worked at The Daily Caller, the conservative website launched by Tucker Carlson, before turning occasional guest appearances on CNN into a full-time job in 2017.

She covered the Trump White House and became CNN's chief White House correspondent in 2021. She moved to New York late last

year for a co-hosting role on "CNN This Morning." For the 31-year-old Collins, now in the mix for a role on CNN's prime-time lineup, Wednesday's event may also be an important audition.

"She has had a pretty meteoric rise at a young age because of her talent," said Maggie Haberman, New York Times correspondent and author of the Trump biography "Confidence Man." "She was a formidable White House correspondent, always calm under pressure, but she is also incredibly fair and facts-focused."

Collins had her run-ins with the Trump White House. She was barred from a Rose Garden event in 2018 when the Trump team got upset with her shouted questions in the Oval Office earlier in the day.

She has fact-checked on the fly as a morning anchor. "That's not true, Senator," she said to Republican Sen. Rick Scott of Florida recently when he made a claim about President Joe Biden and Medicare spending on "CNN This Morning."

views with outlets that appeal to conservatives.

During his presidency, Trump continually attacked CNN as "fake news." CNN's reputation among Republicans sunk, and although the network's new management has sought to inhabit more of a middle ground politically, it's an uphill battle among his supporters.

"It's obvious to everyone with half a brain that Trump won't get a fair shake from CNN," wrote columnist Paula Bonnyard for the conservative PJ Media. "Why does he keep prostrating himself before these dishonest left-wing media hacks?"

Also:

WASHINGTON: President Joe Biden called for a "fair deal" for Hollywood's striking writers on Monday as he hosted a White House screening of the upcoming streaming series "American Born Chinese" to mark Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month.

Biden made his first public comments on the strike, which hits the one-week mark Tuesday, in remarks ahead of the pilot's screening. He was joined by an overflow crowd of hundreds of community leaders, elected officials and cast members and producers from the show in the East Room and the State Dining Room.

"Nights like these are a reminder of stories and the importance of treating storytellers with the dignity, respect and the value they deserve," Biden said. "I sincerely hope the writers strike in Hollywood gets resolved and the writers are given a fair deal they deserve as soon as possible."

Interview

Alyssa Farah Griffin, once on Trump's communications team and now a panelist on "The View," tweeted after the forum was announced that Collins "is one of the toughest interviews out there. Anyone thinking that Trump will get away with lying without being called out needs to watch her past interviews. Honestly surprised he agreed."

Remarkably, it's Trump's first appearance for a CNN interview since before he was elected president in 2016. Since announcing his 2024 candidacy, he's generally confined himself to television inter-

Variety



Natali Sevriukova cries in front of her apartment building destroyed in a rocket attack in Kyiv, Ukraine, Feb. 25, 2022. The image was part of a series of images by Associated Press photographers that was awarded the 2023 Pulitzer Prize for Breaking News Photography. (AP)

Pulitzers

Prize-winning AP team served as world's eyes in Mariupol

Haunting photos from Ukraine win Pulitzers

NEW YORK, May 9, (AP) — The Associated Press won two Pulitzer Prizes on Monday for its coverage of the war in Ukraine, earning recognition for its breaking news photography of the Russian invasion, as well as the prestigious public service award for its startling - and exclusive - dispatches from the besieged port city of Mariupol.

AP journalists were also finalists in two Pulitzer categories, for breaking news photography of Sri Lanka's political crisis and for feature photography of the Ukraine war's impact on older people.

For the public service award, the Pulitzer judges acknowledged AP - which had the only international journalists in Mariupol for nearly three weeks - for capturing notable images of an injured, pregnant woman being rushed to medical help and Russia firing on civilian targets.

AP's Mariupol team was made up of videojournalist Mstyslav Chernov, photographer Evgeniy Maloletka and video producer Vasilisa Stepanenko on the ground in the besieged city, and reporter Lori Hinnant in Paris.

Other winners of two Pulitzers apiece were AL.com, of Birmingham, Alabama, the Los Angeles Times, The New York Times and The Washington Post.

The Pulitzers honor the best in journalism from 2022 in 15 categories, as well as eight arts categories focused on books, music and theater. The public service winner receives a gold medal. All other winners receive \$15,000.

Kyle Whitmire, of AL.com, won a commentary award for "measured and persuasive columns" about Alabama's Confederate heritage and a legacy of racism.

His Alabama colleagues John Archibald, Ashley Remkus, Ramsey Archibald and Challen Stephens won a local reporting award for a probe into a local police force.

It was a second Pulitzer win for John Archibald, who previously won in 2018 for commentary, and the first for his son, Ramsey Archibald. Remkus and Stephens were also picking up their second Pulitzers, after being part of a team that won in 2021 for national reporting.

"The recognition is tremendous and we're grateful our work is being honored on the national stage like this," Kelly Ann Scott, editor in chief and vice president of Alabama Media Group, said in a statement. "This is local journalism at its best - and local journalism is the

heartbeat of this country's journalism in general."

The New York Times was honored with an international reporting award for its coverage of Russian killings in the Ukrainian town of Bucha. Pulitzers were also given for work surrounding the US Supreme Court's decision overturning the Roe v. Wade abortion standard, the government's policy of child separation at the border, and welfare spending in Mississippi.

The Washington Post's Caroline Kitchener won for "unflinching reporting" on the consequences of the abortion decision, including the story of a Texas teenager who gave birth to twins after new restrictions denied her an abortion. The Post's Eli Saslow won for feature writing.

The Los Angeles Times won for breaking news for its stories revealing a secretly recorded conversation with city officials making racist comments. The newspaper's Christina House won for feature photography, for her images of a 22-year-old pregnant woman living on the street.

Devastation

The AP coverage of Mariupol, according to the Ukrainian city's deputy mayor, focused the world's attention on the devastation there and ultimately pressured Russians to open an evacuation route, saving thousands of civilian lives.

"They told the world of the human toll of this war in its earliest days," AP Executive Editor Julie Pace said during a staff Zoom celebration. "They served as a counterweight against Russian disinformation, and they helped open up a humanitarian corridor out of Mariupol with the power of their work."

The AP team that won for breaking news photography included Maloletka, who was part of the Mariupol coverage, along with Bernat Armangué, Emilio Morenatti, Felipe Dana, Nariman El-Mofty, Rodrigo Abd and Vadim Ghirda.

AP's director of photography, David Ake, credited winners in the breaking news photography category for simply staying put in a war zone to bear witness.

Pulitzer Prize Board co-chair Neil Brown highlighted the dangers faced by journalists, noting the imprisonment in Russia of Wall Street Journal reporter Evan Gershkovich on spying charges, which his family and the newspaper vehemently deny. Brown said the board

demands Gershkovich's immediate release.

The Atlantic won the Pulitzer for explanatory journalism for Caitlin Dickerson's exhaustive probe of the Trump administration policy of separating parents from children at the US border.

The Wall Street Journal won for its investigation into federal officials holding stock that could have been affected by government action, including dozens who reported trading stock in companies shortly before their own agencies announced enforcement actions against them.

Anna Wolfe, of Mississippi Today, was honored for her reporting on a former Mississippi governor sending federal welfare money to family and friends, including NFL Hall of Famer Brett Favre.

Andrew Long Chu, of New York magazine, won a Pulitzer for criticism. Nancy Anrum, Amy Driscoll, Luisa Yanez, Isadora Rangell and Lauren Constantino, of the Miami Herald, won for editorial writing. Mona Chalabi, a contributor to The New York Times, won for illustrated reporting and commentary. The staff of Gimlet Media won for audio reporting.

The prizes were established in the will of newspaper publisher Joseph Pulitzer and first awarded in 1917.

Instincts about the strategic significance of the Ukrainian port city of Mariupol led a team of Associated Press journalists there just as Russians were about to lay siege. It proved to be a fateful decision.

For nearly three weeks last year, Mstyslav Chernov, Evgeniy Maloletka and Vasilisa Stepanenko were the only journalists in Mariupol, serving as the world's eyes and ears amid the horrors of the Russian onslaught.

Together they helped expose the extent of the suffering Ukrainians endured, served as a counterweight to Russian disinformation and contributed to the opening of a humanitarian corridor out of Mariupol. They also had to elude capture by Kremlin forces that were hunting for the team.

On Monday, Pulitzer Prize judges cited the work of the three Ukrainian journalists, along with Paris-based Lori Hinnant, in giving The Associated Press the prestigious award for public service.

Seven AP photographers, including Maloletka, also won a breaking news Pulitzer for their coverage of the war, including in Mariupol.

See Also Page 12

Features

ARABIC TIMES
WEDNESDAY, MAY 10, 2023

LONDON: King Charles III made a cameo appearance on "American Idol" after the royal coronation concert in his honor.

Charles and Queen Camilla walked into a room at Windsor Castle on Sunday where "Idol" judges Lionel Richie and Katy Perry - who performed at the concert of eclectic acts - were appearing virtually on the talent show.

The king, wearing a dark blue suit and tie, named-checked one of Richie's signature songs, which he performed at the show, asking if he was planning to do this "All Night Long."

"I just wanted to check how long you'll be using this room," Charles joked.

The audience laughed.

The concert the day after the gilded coronation spectacle had the newly crowned monarch and his wife on their feet at one point 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... and Kermit the Frog made an appearance, joking with host Hugh Bonneville.

Richie and Perry, who are judges on "Idol" and were replaced for the episode by Alanis Morissette and Ed Sheeran, were on camera in a room in the castle with dark red drapes and golden arm chairs when the king and queen entered.

Richie feigned surprise and told the US audience that he and Perry needed to vacate the room immediately.

The king thanked Richie and Perry for a "brilliant performance."

"It's a great treat to have you both here," he said.

Camilla, in a bright blue jacket, gave them high marks: "Fantastic, absolutely fantastic."

Charles was not the only member of the royal family to make

a joke of one of Richie's most popular tunes. (AP)

BERLIN: A court in Germany has rejected a married couple's request to legally change their Russian-sounding surname due to negative repercussions they said they had experienced since the start of the



Cruise Scherzinger

war in Ukraine.

The couple had sought to force officials in the southwest German state of Rhineland Palatinate to authorize the change, claiming that they and their daughter had suffered in their daily lives because of their last name.

The regional administrative court in Koblenz did not provide

the couple's surname in line with German privacy rules.

The court said that judges dismissed the Germany-born couple's request on the grounds that the reasons they gave for the change were insufficient.

"The fact that a family name is of foreign origin or doesn't sound German is in itself generally not an im-

portant reason for a name change," the court said in a statement.

It said the negative treatment the couple claimed to have experienced since the start of Russia's invasion of Ukraine wasn't serious enough to warrant the name change, noting that the family's economic situation hadn't been affected. (AP)

People & Places

Books

Japan bestseller

Onda's 'Honeybees' an ode to creatives

'Honeybees and Distant Thunder' by Riku Onda (Pegasus Books)

The Yoshigae music competition will never be the same after this year's pianists push the boundaries of the art form, leaving judges to wonder if a particular contestant is a gift from the music gods or a ticking bomb.

Riku Onda's "Honeybees and Distant Thunder" is a meandering ode to music, to the artists who create it and the nature that inspires it. The novel pops between a slew of characters as they witness breathtaking performances and nervously wait for results at the end of each round, from a preliminary trial in Paris to the finals in Japan.

Onda's passion for music is immense and infectious, bursting out of each of her characters with their unique views of the craft.

Competition judge Mieko has an anti-establishment rebellious streak in her. Juilliard student Masaru sees athleticism in piano playing. Former child prodigy Aya cherishes the musicality of nature. Akashi wants to prove that musical performance is for everyone, even a working-class father like himself. And Jin, the son of a beekeeper, is on a totally different level that challenges the conventions of stuffy classical piano competitions.

"Honeybees" soared to success as a bestseller in Japan and won the Japan Booksellers Prize and the Naoki Prize in 2017. Translated by Philip Gabriel, whom readers will recognize from his work with Haruki Murakami novels, the book's international release in English comes with high expectations.

But it falls short of the hype. Half-formed thoughts dust the pages, sometimes over-explaining as the narrator explores an idea, sometimes not really explaining at all. Onda returns again and again to a disjointed sort of poeticism that circles around the core idea by firing off questions and trying out slightly augmented versions of the same sentence, akin to stream-of-consciousness.

Then, by bouncing around different characters, the author has the opportunity to repeat the same ideas and sentences again - sometimes verbatim.

Hence how a single music competition can take up over 400 pages.

It's verbose, repetitive, meditative. It basks in its own metaphor, taking inspiration from itself to fuel even more endlessly yet endearing droning as it meanders through the field of its own story.

But, once you get used to the style and surrender to it, "Honeybees" is a lovely book to get lost in because it forces you to be in the moment with the story. Something clicks - you hit a stride and suddenly realize pages have passed since you said "I'll stop at the end of this paragraph."

You don't have to be a pianist, or even a musician, to follow the characters' internal struggles through the twists and turns of each round of competition. But it is helpful to have some musical background - to understand the hair-raising quality of playing a harmony that's just a half-step up from the melody, or follow along when spectators start commenting on a performer's glissando, tremolo or fortissimo. Still, Onda describes the music in ethereal, pastoral scenes that rely more on emotion than on technical know-how.

While its quirks don't all translate nicely, "Honeybees" is deeply moving. The now-ness of Onda's writing left me more than once with a big, goofy grin on my face or tears on my cheeks before I could break her musical spell to stop them.

☐ ☐ ☐

"Koreh: The True story of David Koreh and the Tragedy at Waco," by Stephan Talty (Mariner Books)

Thirty years ago, on April 19, 1993, after a 51-day siege by federal agents, the Branch Davidian complex in Waco erupted in flames, leading to the deaths of 76 people.

The murky circumstances and conflicting accounts about the siege and how it ended have led to decades of lore and misinformation. Several projects timed around the 30th anniversary aim to revisit the events of the siege, including a Netflix documentary "Waco: American Apocalypse" and a Showtime dramatized series "Waco: The Aftermath." In his book, Talty goes further back to trace the Branch Davidian movement from the beginning and examine the life of Koreh himself.

Born **Vernon Wayne Howell** in 1959, Koreh was an unhappy and abused child who became obsessed with the bible. As an adult, he increasingly took control of an existing sect of the Seventh Day Adventists called the Branch Davidians and preached about the coming end times, collecting plenty of teenage "wives" along the way. As the group began amassing large amounts of weapons, they caught the attention of federal authorities, leading to the eventual show-down.

Talty writes in an 'immersive nonfiction' style that tells the story partly through the point of view of what Koreh might have been thinking. Drawing from new interviews with people both inside and outside of Waco during the siege and plenty of archival material, Talty paints a detailed picture of what led to the deadly siege, one of the darkest chapters in American history.

Also:

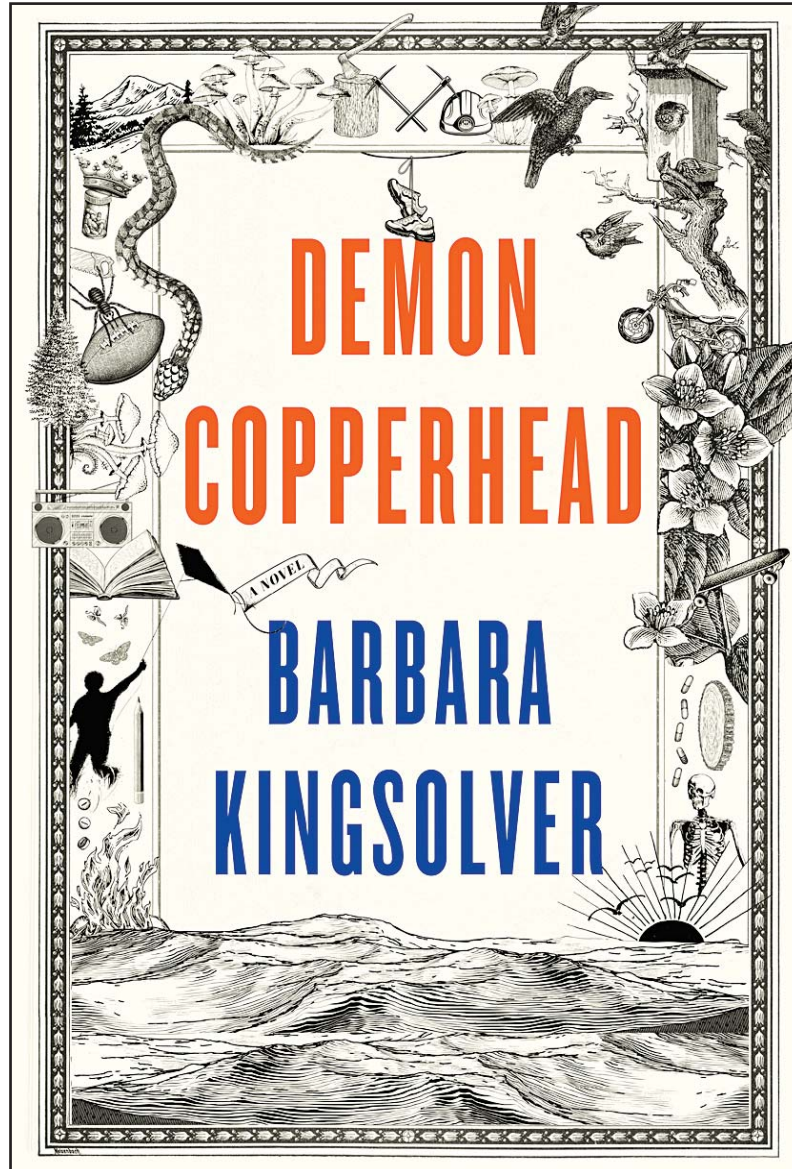
SALT LAKE CITY: After her husband died last year, she wrote a children's book on grief. Now she's charged with his murder.

Kouri Richins was arrested on Monday in Utah and is accused in charging documents of poisoning her husband with a lethal dose of fentanyl at their home in **Kamas**, a small mountain town near Park City.

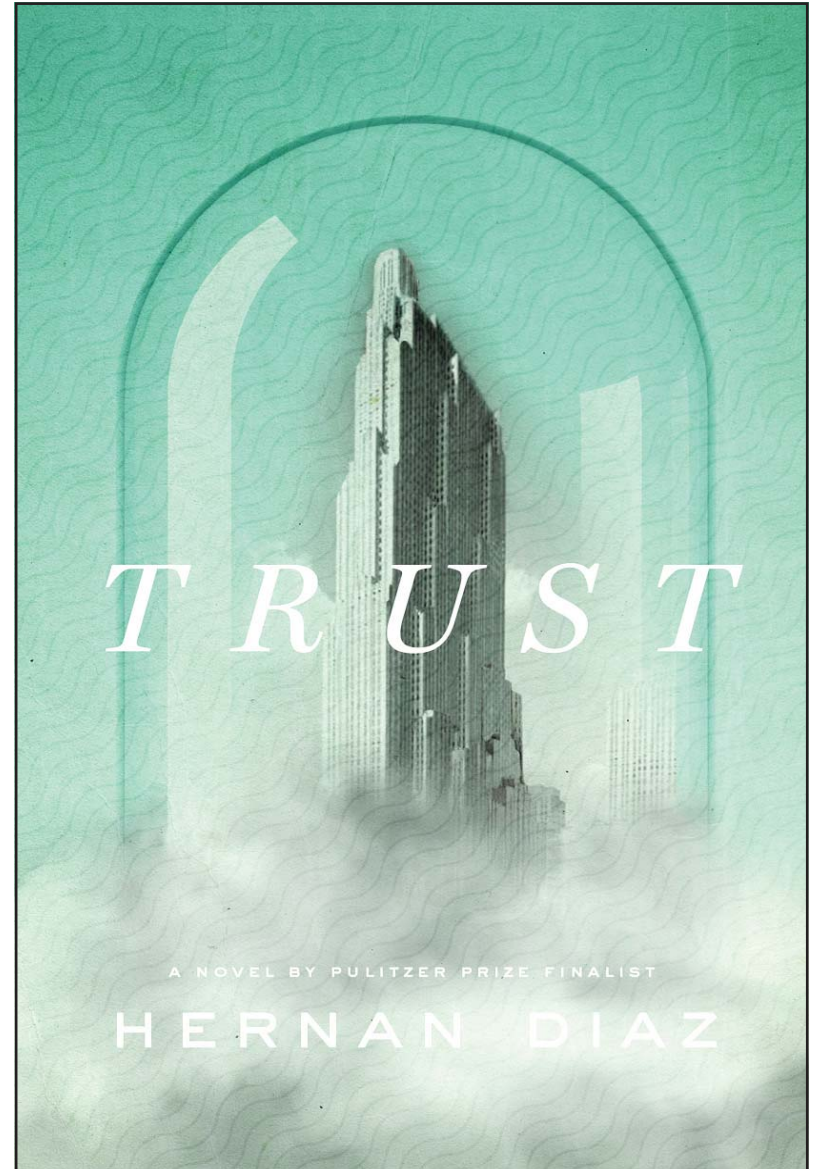
Prosecutors allege that Richins called authorities in the middle of the night in March 2022 to report that her husband, **Eric Richins**, was "cold to the touch." The mother of three told officers that she had made her husband a mixed vodka drink to celebrate him selling a home and then went to soothe one of their children to sleep in their bedroom. She later returned and upon finding her husband unresponsive, called 911.

A medical examiner later found five times the lethal dosage of fentanyl in his system.

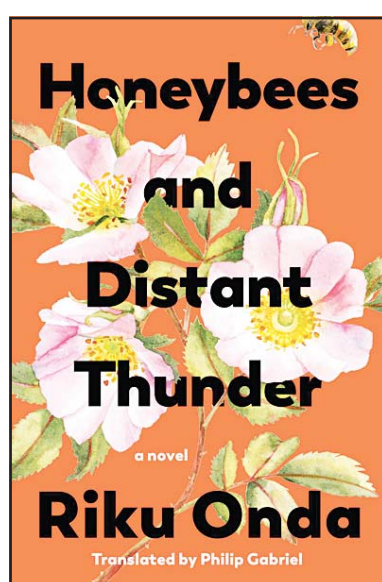
In addition to the murder charge, Richins also faces charges involving the alleged possession of GHB - a narcolepsy drug frequently used in recreational settings, including at dance clubs.



This image released by Harper shows cover art for 'Demon Copperhead,' by Barbara Kingsolver, winner of the Pulitzer Prize for fiction. (AP)



This cover image released by Riverhead Books shows 'Trust' by Hernan Diaz, winner of the Pulitzer Prize for fiction. (AP)



This cover image released by Pegasus Books shows 'Honeybees and Distant Thunder' by Riku Onda. (AP)



Price



Bumbry

Variety

NEW YORK: Grace Bumbry, a pioneering mezzo-soprano who became the first Black singer to perform at Germany's Bayreuth Festival during a career of more than three decades on the world's top stages, has died, she was 86.

Bumbry died Sunday at Evangelisches Krankenhaus, a hospital in **Vienna**, according to her publicist, **David Lee Brewer**.

She had a stroke on Oct 20 while on a flight from Vienna to New York to attend her induction into Opera America's Opera Hall of Fame. She was stricken with the plane 15 minutes from landing, was treated at NYC Health + Hospitals/Queens and returned to Vienna on Dec 8. She had been in and out of facilities since, Brewer said Monday.

Bumbry was born Jan 4, 1937, in **St. Louis**. Her father, **Benjamin**, was a railroad porter and her mother, the former **Melzia Walker**, a school teacher.

She sang in the choir at Ville's Sumner High School and won a talent contest sponsored by radio station KMOX that included a scholarship to the St. Louis Institute of Music, but she was denied admission because she was Black. She sang on CBS's "Arthur Godfrey's Talent Scouts," then attended Boston University College of Fine Arts, and Northwestern, where she met soprano **Lotte Lehmann**, who became her teacher at the Music Academy of the West in **Santa Barbara, California**, and a mentor.

Bumbry, known mostly as a mezzo but who also performed some soprano roles, was inspired when her mother took her to a recital of **Marian Anderson**, the American contralto who in 1955 became the first Black singer at New York's Metropolitan Opera. Bumbry became part of a generation of acclaimed Black opera singers that included **Leontyne Price**, **Shirley Verrett**, **George Shirley**, **Reri Grist** and **Martina Arroyo**.

Bumbry was among the winners of the 1958 Met National Council Auditions. She had a recital debut in Paris that same year and made her Paris Opéra debut in 1960 as Amneris in "Aida."

The following year, she was cast by **Wieland Wagner**, a grandson of the composer, to sing Venus in a new production of "Tannhäuser" at the Richard

Pulitzers

Opera 'Omar' wins for music

Kingsolver, Diaz win fiction Pulitzer Prizes

NEW YORK, May 9, (AP): The Pulitzer Prize for fiction was awarded Monday to two class-conscious novels: "Demon Copperhead," Barbara Kingsolver's modern recasting of the Dickens classic "David Copperfield," and Hernan Diaz's "Trust," an innovative narrative of wealth and deceit set in 1920s New York.

It's the first time the Pulitzers have awarded two fiction books in the category's 105-year history. Officials have declined to name a fiction winner several times, mostly recently in 2012.

"Trust" won the Kirkus Prize for fiction, was on the long list for the Booker Prize and was named by The New York Times and The Washington Post as one of the year's best books. Kingsolver's novel, the story of a young boy's struggles and persistence as he grows up in southern Appalachia, was chosen by Oprah Winfrey last fall for her book club and named by The Washington Post as a top release of 2022.

The 68-year-old Kingsolver has long woven social issues into her novels, which also include "The Bean Trees" and the Winfrey choice "The Poisonwood Bible," and helped establish the PEN/Bellwether Prize for Socially Engaged Fiction. Speaking by phone Monday, the author said she regards the Pulitzer as an affirmation not just of her novel, but of a misunderstood and overlooked part of the country. Kingsolver is a longtime resident of Appalachia who currently lives on a farm in southwestern Virginia, and set "Demon Copperhead" close by.

"I wrote this book for my people because we are so invisible to the

rest of the world and so persistently misrepresented," Kingsolver said. "I couldn't be happier (about the Pulitzer) for this reason.

Diaz, also interviewed by phone, sees his book and Kingsolver's novel approaching a similar subject, class, from different perspectives. "Demon Copperhead" dramatizes life on the lower end of the extreme divide between rich and poor. "Trust," which begins with a novel-within-the novel about a financial tycoon and his daughter, explores how such a world is created.

"I wanted to talk about the process itself of the accumulation of wealth," said Diaz, 49, whose debut novel "In the Distance" was a Pulitzer finalist. "I wanted to deal with class and money, and how money is really made."

Biography

Several works with racial themes were honored Monday. Beverly Gage's "G-Man," her widely acclaimed book on longtime FBI leader J. Edgar Hoover, was given the Pulitzer for biography after previously receiving the Bancroft Prize, the Los Angeles Times Book Prize and the Barbara and David Zalaznick Book Prize from the New-York Historical Society. It was the first major Hoover biography by Pulitzer judges and was cited by Pulitzer judges for its "deeply researched and nuanced look" at Hoover's "monumental achievements and crippling flaws," including his persecution of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

"His Name Is George Floyd: One Man's Life and the Struggle for Racial Justice," by Robert Samuels and Toluse Olorunnipa, won for general nonfiction, and Jefferson

Cowie's "Freedom's Dominion: A Saga of White Resistance to Federal Power" was honored for history. The Pulitzer for music was given to Rhiannon Giddens and Michael Abels for the opera "Omar," about an Islamic scholar captured and sold into slavery.

Sanaz Toossi's play "English" won for drama. The Pulitzer board hailed "English" as "a quietly powerful play about four Iranian adults preparing for an English language exam in a storefront school near Tehran, where family separations and travel restrictions drive them to learn a new language that may alter their identities and also represent a new life."

Finalists included "On Sugarland," by Aleshea Harris, "an ambitious drama inspired by Sophocles of a community shaped by the trauma of a nameless war" and "The Far Country," by Lloyd Suh, "an account of emigrants who traveled from China to San Francisco and suffered in the shadows of a strange new world."

The one-act play "English" premiered off-Broadway at Atlantic Theater Company. Toossi is an Iranian American playwright from Orange County, California, who graduated with a master's from New York University. Her other works include "Wish You Were Here."

The Pulitzer for memoir or autobiography was given to Hua Hsu's "Stay True," which judges praised as "an elegant and poignant coming of age account that considers intense, youthful friendships but also random violence." One of the country's most highly regarded poets, Carl Phillips, won in poetry for "Then the War: And Selected Poems, 2007-2020."

Wagner Festival in Bayreuth. Bumbry's casting in a staging that included stars **Wolfgang Windgassen**, **Victoria de los Angeles** and **Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau** resulted in 200 protest letters to the festival.

"I remember being discriminated

against in the United States, so why should it be any different in Germany?" Bumbry told St. Louis Magazine in 2021. "I knew that I had to get up there and show them what I'm about. When we were in high school, our teachers - and my parents, of course - taught us that you

are no different than anybody else. You are not better than anybody, and you are not lesser than anybody. You have to do your best all the time." (AP)

☐ ☐ ☐

MARIETTA, Ga: Police have charged two former employees of a suburban **Atlanta** hospital laundry with stealing an urn containing the ashes of a stillborn infant and then throwing away the ashes. Marietta Police last week arrested a married couple, **Anilus** and **Rosnie Frederic**, charging them with theft and abandonment of a dead body.

Kieran Massey told WAGA-TV that his fiancée, **Carla Watson**, gave birth to a stillborn daughter in August. The infant was cremated and her ashes placed inside a small gold urn in a white teddy bear, which **Kieran Massey** said the couple kept for "emotional support."

"Losing her plus the ashes was a big heartbreak," Massey said.

The bear disappeared while Watson was hospitalized at Wellstar Kennestone Hospital in **Marietta** in January, WAGA-TV reported. She found it missing after taking a shower. Police suggest someone stole the bear while Watson's sheets were being changed.

The teddy bear was found in a trash can at the hospital laundry the same day, but the funerary urn was missing.

The urn was later found at the Frederics' home, but was empty. Court documents allege they threw away the ashes. (AP)



A 90.36 carat Briolette of India Diamond Necklace by Harry Winston, estimated between 9,000,000 - 14,000,000 CHF (Swiss Francs), is pictured, during a preview of 'The World of Heidi Horten' the 700 piece jewellery collection of the late Austrian billionaire Heidi Horten, at Christie's Auction House in Geneva, Switzerland, Monday, May 8. (AP)

Ecology

'It's killing marsupials'

1st wild koalas given 'chlamydia vaccine'

CANBERRA, Australia, May 9, (AP): Australian scientists have begun vaccinating wild koalas against chlamydia in an ambitious field trial in New South Wales.

The aim is to test a method for protecting the beloved marsupials against a widespread disease that causes blindness, infertility and death.

"It's killing koalas because they become so sick they can't climb trees to get food, or escape predators, and females can become infertile," said Samuel Phillips, a microbiologist at the University of the Sunshine Coast who helped to develop the vaccine.

The scientists' initial goal is to catch, vaccinate and monitor around half of the koala population in the Northern Rivers region of New South Wales - that means vaccinating around 50 animals.



Phillips

The safety and effectiveness of the single-shot vaccine, which has been designed specifically for koalas, has previously been tested by vaccinating a few hundred koalas brought to wildlife rescue centers for other afflictions.

Now scientists want to understand the impact of vaccinating a population of wild koalas. "We want to evaluate what percentage of the koalas we need to vaccinate to meaningfully reduce infection and disease," said Phillips.

The first koalas were caught and vaccinated in March, and the effort is expected to last about three months.

Researchers use binoculars to spot koalas in eucalyptus trees, then construct circular enclosures around the tree bases with doors leading into cages. After a few hours or days, the koalas will eventually climb down from one tree to seek tasty leaves on another, and wander into the harmless traps.

"It's hard to confuse a koala with any other animals - they're pretty easy to spot," said Jodie Wakeman, veterinary care and clinical director at Friends of the Koala, a nonprofit that runs a wildlife hospital where the koalas are being brought for vaccination.

Infected

After a check-up to make sure the animals are in good condition, researchers administer anesthesia and shots of vaccine, then keep them under observation for 24 hours after they wake up, to confirm there are no unexpected side effects, said Wakeman.

The goal is to vaccinate healthy koalas to prevent them from becoming infected with chlamydia.

Before release, the researchers mark the koalas with a dab of pink dye on their backs, to ensure the same animals aren't caught twice.

When the first vaccinated koala was returned to her habitat on March 9, the scientists placed her cage at the base of a tree and opened the door. She quickly emerged and bounded up the tree trunk.

Koalas are iconic Australian marsupials, like wombats and kangaroos. They spend most of their time eating and sleeping in eucalyptus trees, and their paws have two opposing thumbs to help them grasp and climb up trunks.

Australia's wild koala populations have declined steeply in the past two decades.

Last February, Australia's federal government declared koalas "endangered" in the eastern regions of New South Wales, Queensland and the Australian Capital Territory.

Facing compounded threats from disease, habitat loss and road collisions, koalas could become extinct by 2050, according to a 2020 assessment from the New South Wales government.

Around half of wild koalas in Queensland are already infected with chlamydia, scientists estimate.

In deciding to vaccinate, the scientists are balancing the risk of disturbing the animals against the danger of allowing the disease to spread. The trial was approved by multiple government bodies, including Australia's agriculture department and New South Wales' planning and environment department.

The origins of chlamydia in koalas aren't confirmed, but scientists believe it's likely the marsupials initially caught the disease from exposure to the feces of infected sheep and cattle. Then it's spread sexually, or passed from mother to offspring.

While humans and livestock infected with the bacteria that causes chlamydia can be treated with antibiotics, it's not so simple for koalas.

The "complex" microbes inside the stomachs of koalas are designed to neutralize toxins in eucalyptus leaves that are their main food source, said Mathew Crowther, a conservation biologist at the University of Sydney. But their digestive systems can also neutralize some medicines so "that means they don't respond well to antibiotics treatment," he said.

Crowther has been monitoring a population of koalas in northern New South Wales for more than a decade. In 2008, 10% of animals tested there were infected with chlamydia. Today that rate is 80%.

"It's been devastating - there's very, very low fertility," he said. "You hardly see any babies."

The other threats koalas face - including habitat destruction from land clearing and climate-enhanced wildfires - may increase their stress levels, weakening their immune systems and making them more susceptible to diseases including chlamydia, said Crowther.

Rebecca Johnson, now chief scientist at the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History in Washington, D.C., previously led the Koala Genome Consortium in Australia. She said that seeing the effects of the disease up close was heart-breaking.

A necropsy of one koala with advanced chlamydia that was euthanized revealed "ovaries completely encased in cysts" and "intestines full of hard lumps of food, evidence that she couldn't properly digest food," recalled Johnson. "She was obviously infertile and in pain."

There are only a handful of other examples worldwide of scientists attempting to catch and inoculate endangered wildlife for conservation. In 2016, scientists began to vaccinate Hawaiian monk seals against a deadly strain of morbillivirus. Two and a half years ago, biologists in Brazil began to vaccinate golden lion tamarins against yellow fever.

"Vaccination for wildlife is certainly not routine yet," said Jacob Negrey, a biologist at Wake Forest University School of Medicine. "But whether it should be used more often is a fundamental question that conservation biologists are really wrangling with right now."

The Smithsonian's Johnson said the benefits are likely to outweigh the risks for koalas. "Vaccination is an incredibly resource-intensive thing to do. Koalas live high up in trees," she said. "But because the effects of chlamydia are so debilitating, I think it's totally worth it."

Also:

MEXICO CITY: Mexican officials and the conservation group Sea Shepherd said recently that experts will set out in two ships in a bid to locate the few remaining vaquita marina, the world's most endangered marine mammal.

Mexico environment secretary said experts from the United States, Canada and Mexico will use binoculars, sighting devices and acoustic monitors to try to pinpoint the location of the tiny, elusive porpoises. The species cannot be captured, held or bred in captivity.

The trip will run from May 10 to May 26 in the Gulf of California, also known as the Sea of Cortez, the only place the vaquita lives. The group will travel in a Sea Shepherd vessel and a Mexican boat to try and sight vaquitas; as few as eight of the creatures are believed to remain.

Illegal gillnet fishing traps and kills the vaquita. Fishermen set the nets to catch totoaba, a fish whose swim bladder is considered a delicacy in China and can fetch thousands of dollars per pound (kilogram).



A relative adjusts the oxygen mask of a tuberculosis patient at a TB hospital on World Tuberculosis Day in Hyderabad, India, March 24, 2018. Top UN officials and health industry leaders are trying to tackle an alarming surge in tuberculosis, which is now killing more people worldwide than COVID-19 or AIDS. Among the problems: a high number of cases in conflict zones, including Ukraine and Sudan, where it's difficult to track down people with the disease and diagnose new sufferers. (AP)



A koala sits in a tree at a koala park in Sydney, Australia, Friday, May 5. Australian scientists have begun vaccinating wild koalas against chlamydia in a pioneering field trial in New South Wales. The aim is to test a method for protecting the beloved marsupials against a widespread disease that causes blindness, infertility and death. (AP)

Health

Woman fights to freeze eggs: An unmarried Chinese woman on Tuesday began her final appeal of a hospital's denial of access to freeze her eggs five years ago in a landmark case of female reproductive rights in the country.

Teresa Xu's case has drawn broad coverage in China, including by some state media outlets, since she first brought her case to court in 2019. She lost her legal challenge last year at another Beijing court, which ruled the hospital did not violate the woman's rights in its decision.

The upcoming judgment will have strong implications for the lives of many unmarried women in China and the country's demographic changes, especially after the world's second-largest economy recorded its first population decline in decades.

In China, the law does not explicitly ban unmarried people from services like fertility treatments and simply states that a "husband and wife" can have up to three children. But hospitals and other institutions, in practice, implement the regulations in a way that requires people to present a marriage license.

Xu, who wanted to preserve her eggs so she could have the option to bear children later, is one of those facing difficulties in accessing fertility treatment.

In 2018, Xu, then 30 years old, had gone to a public hospital in Beijing to ask about freezing her eggs. But after an initial check-up, she was told she could not proceed without a marriage certificate.

According to the judgment she received last year, the hospital argued that egg freezing poses certain health risks. It said that egg-freezing services were only available to women who could not get pregnant in the natural way, and not for healthy patients. (AP)

Elevated cancer rates in Kan: Kansas health officials have identified elevated levels of liver cancer among people living in several historically Black neighborhoods in Wichita where groundwater was polluted by a rail yard chemical spill.

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment released a study that found a liver and biliary tract cancer diagnosis rate of 15.7 per 100,000 people in the contamination zone, which was more than double the statewide rate of 6.4 per 100,000. The Wichita Eagle reports.

Among non-Hispanic Black residents, the diagnosis rate was even higher, at 23.9 per 100,000.

Experts believe that the spill of trichloroethene (TCE), a common solvent that is used to clean off paint and remove grease, could have happened as early as the 1970s, although it wasn't identified until 1994. It created a plume of polluted groundwater that runs for 2.9 miles (4.67 kilometers) from the Union Pacific Railroad rail yard site.

TCE can cause cancer in humans — "especially kidney cancer and possibly liver cancer and non-Hodgkin lymphoma," according to the US Environmental Protection Agency.

But State Epidemiologist and Environmental Health Officer Dr. Farah Ahmed cautioned that there is no way to know definitively if TCE is responsible for the

Health

'World must invest more to develop new vaccines'

Conflicts fuel alarming surge in TB

UNITED NATIONS, May 9, (AP): Top UN officials, health industry leaders and activists demanded Monday that the world invest more to develop new vaccines and tackle a surge in tuberculosis fueled by the impact of COVID-19 and conflicts including Ukraine and Sudan.

At a crowded meeting punctuated by activists chanting "End TB Now," there were speeches from many TB sufferers and a keynote by UN Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed, who spoke about how her father passed on tuberculosis to her two-year-old sister: TB claimed his life at the age of 60, but her sister, now 50, is a survivor.

Tuberculosis is the biggest infectious disease killer in the world today, taking the lives of around 4,400 people every day around the world including 700 children, Dr. Lucica Ditiu, executive director of the Stop TB Partnership, said ahead of Monday's hearing to prepare for a high-level meeting on Sept. 22 during the annual gathering of world leaders at the UN General Assembly.

The UN deputy secretary-general said global response efforts to tuberculosis have saved 74 million lives since 2000, but over 10.5 million people got the disease and an estimated 6.1 million died in 2021, and it is now the leading cause of death for people with HIV.

The TB epidemic is driven by a host of factors including poverty, malnutrition and HIV and disproportionately affects the most vulnerable in all countries, Mohammed said, stressing that these drivers of the disease must be addressed.

Treatment

She said \$22 billion is needed to provide all people diagnosed with TB access to quality treatment by 2027 along with access to health and social benefits so they don't suffer financial hardship - and an additional \$5 billion a year is needed for TB research and innovation.

"We can develop safe and effective tuberculosis vaccines and simple one-stop shops for quality tests and care," Mohammed said. "This would be a game changer."

UN World Health Organization Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said in a video address to the meeting that COVID-19 "turned our world upside-down" for three years, and in addition to the millions of deaths it deprived millions of people of essential health services including for tuberculosis.

"Conflicts across Europe, Africa, and the Middle East have made life-saving services even harder to access for people living with TB," he said. "These challenges have been a setback in the fight against TB, reversing some of the significant gains we have made over the past 20 years in expanding access to prevention, testing and treatment."

The WHO chief said the high-level meeting in September must be a turning point in reinvigorating

NEW YORK, May 9, (AP): For the first time, the US government will pay for a large study measuring whether overdoses can be prevented by so-called safe injection sites, places where people can use heroin and other illegal drugs and be revived if they take too much.

The grant provides more than \$5 million over four years to New York University and Brown University to study two sites in New York City and one opening next year in Providence, Rhode Island.

Researchers hope to enroll 1,000 adult drug users to study the sites' effects on overdoses, to estimate their costs and to gauge potential savings for the health care and criminal justice systems.

The universities announced the grant Monday. The money will not be used to operate the sites, the universities said.

With US drug overdose deaths reaching nearly 107,000 in 2021, supporters contend safe injection sites, also called overdose prevention centers, can save lives and connect people with addiction treatment, mental health services and medical care.

Opponents worry the sites encourage drug use and that they will lead to the deterioration of surrounding neighborhoods.

"There is a lot of discussion about overdose prevention centers, but ultimately, we need data to see if they are working or not, and what impact they may have on the community," said Dr. Nora Volkow, director of the National

Institute on Drug Abuse, which awarded the grant.

Sites operate in 14 countries, including Canada, Australia and France, according to the Drug Policy Alliance, a group working for decriminalization and safe drug use policies.

In the US, New York City opened the first publicly recognized safe injection site in 2021 and Rhode Island became the first state to authorize them that year.

States including Colorado, Nevada and New Mexico have considered allowing them. The governors of California and Vermont vetoed safe injection site bills last year, and Pennsylvania's Senate last week voted for a ban on them.

The grant marks another move by the Biden administration toward what is known as harm reduction, a strategy focused on preventing death and illness in drug users while helping them get care, as opposed to punishment.

The White House's drug control strategy is the first to emphasize harm reduction, and the Justice Department has signaled it will allow safe injection sites.

In December, the National Institutes of Health established a harm reduction research network to study programs providing services and supplies such as naloxone, a drug that can reverse overdoses, and materials to test drugs for fentanyl, a powerful opioid driving record numbers of overdoses.

The new study will be part of that project.

progress in the fight against TB, not only by expanding existing tools but also developing new tools including new TB vaccines. That's why WHO "has proposed establishing a TB vaccine accelerator council to facilitate the development, licensing and use of new TB vaccines," Ghebreyesus said.

Dr. Özlem Türeci, chief medical officer of BioNTech which developed one of the main COVID-19 vaccines with Pfizer using messenger RNA technology, told the meeting that it started trials of a new vaccine candidate for TB several weeks ago.

The Stop TB Partnership's Ditiu said a COVID vaccine was developed in less than a year while it has taken 19 years to get three or four other vaccines for TB to phase 3 trials because of a lack of money.

Before COVID, which like TB is transmitted through the air, "we didn't see very dramatic cases of TB," she said, "but after COVID we saw a type of TB that we saw in ... movies in which people spit blood and they are very weak, and so on."

Ditiu said the economic impact of COVID and conflicts, first and fore-

most in Ukraine but now also in Sudan, are having "a huge impact" on efforts to treat people with TB and diagnose new cases.

Ukraine has the highest number of estimated people with TB in the European region - 34,000 - and also a high number with drug-resistant TB, she told a news conference on Thursday.

"It's remarkable, the fact that the Ukrainian people are actually showing an amazing resilience in doing their best to maintain the services for TB," Ditiu said. "But obviously a lot of people left the country."

Nonetheless, she said, major efforts have been made to track down those with the disease, but what worries everyone is to ensure that people in Ukraine have access to treatment.

According to the Stop TB Partnership, which is managed by the UN Office for Project Services and aims to achieve a world free of tuberculosis, 18,000 people in Sudan received treatment in 2021.

Ditiu said the situation there for TB sufferers because of the ongoing fighting and collapse of most of the health system is "probably like a ticking bomb."



Ahmed



Baty

ple would have drunk directly from contaminated groundwater wells. But there are other risk factors for TCE exposure, which occurs when a person breathes, ingests or touches the chemical.

According to the EPA, water is contaminated if it contains more than 5 parts per billion of TCE.

Sedgwick County Commissioner Ryan Baty was critical of health officials during a briefing. (AP)

Injury-hit Jofra Archer returns from IPL, a doubt for Ashes

Knight Riders live on in IPL after overcoming Kings

KOLKATA, India, May 9, (AP): Andre Russell hit a 23-ball 42 for Kolkata Knight Riders to top Punjab Kings by five wickets and stay alive in the Indian Premier League playoffs race.

Russell's late heroics drove Kolkata to the brink of victory until he was run out off the penultimate ball. Rinku Singh then hit the last delivery by Arshdeep Singh to the square leg boundary for the victory.

Punjab's 179-7 was beaten by Kolkata's 182-5.

Kolkata rose to fifth on the table and with in striking distance of the top four, trailing fourth-placed Rajasthan Royals on net run-rate. Punjab slipped to seventh on run-rate.

Shikhar Dhawan's 57 off 47 balls powered Punjab to a par total. His nine fours and a six anchored Punjab while wickets fell at regular intervals at the other end.

Mystery spinner Varun Chakravarty picked up 3-26 in four overs to stifle the Punjab middle order. This was after pacer Harshit Rana took 2-32 to make inroads at the top.

Dhawan and Jitesh Sharma put on 53 off 42 balls for the fourth wicket, Punjab's only impactful partnership. Another four wickets were lost in the space of 29 balls and Punjab was 139-7 in 17.2 overs.

Shahrukh Khan and Harpreet Brar combined for 40 runs off 16 balls to give Punjab a fighting chance.

Jason Roy launched Kolkata's reply with 38 off 24 balls, and skipper Nitish Rana took over with 51 off 38. Rana hit six fours and a six.

Russell arrived in the 14th over at 115-3, and he took a little time to settle in with Rinku Singh. Then Russell smashed three sixes in a 20-run Sam Curran over to bring the target down to six runs off the last over.

Russell and Singh added 54 off 26 balls to edge close to the finish line, and the latter completed the job in style.

NBA fines Nuggets 'center' Jokic \$25K

DENVER, May 9, (AP): Denver Nuggets center Nikola Jokic was fined \$25,000 by the league Monday for making improper contact in the stands with Phoenix Suns owner Mat Ishbia.

No suspension, though. It was nearly the outcome Ishbia was hoping for in a series where the home team has won every game.

On his Twitter account Monday, Ishbia praised his team's performance and urged no further disciplinary action for Jokic.

"Great win for the Suns last night in an amazing series so far!" Ishbia posted. "That should be and is the only story. Suspending or fining anyone over last night's incident would not be right. I have a lot of respect for Jokic and don't want to see anything like that. Excited for game 5! Go Suns!"

Jokic was assessed a technical foul in the second quarter of Game 4 on Sunday night when the big man tried to snatch the ball back from Ishbia, who was sitting courtside, and hit Ishbia with an elbow.

The situation set social media ablaze and overshadowed a game in which the Suns won 129-124. One of the topics up for debate was whether it was a flop by Ishbia, a former walk-on basketball player at Michigan State, or excessive contact from Jokic.

BASKETBALL

"I was hoping they'd give him a flopping charge," Nuggets coach Michael Malone said Monday about Ishbia. "That would probably be the only fine I could imagine, but I have no idea."

The mini-fracas began when 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 held on to the basketball.

Jokic was trying to get the ball quickly - apparently so the Nuggets could start getting into their offensive possession - when he attempted to grab the ball away from Ishbia. The ball flew backward into the crowd, and then Ishbia was knocked backward by Jokic's elbow.

Jokic defended his actions after a game in which he had 53 points and 11 assists.

"The fan put the hand on me first," Jokic explained. "I thought the league was supposed to protect us. Maybe I am wrong. I know who he is, but he is a fan. Isn't he?"

Malone agreed. "That's not an owner in the stands. He's a fan," Malone said Monday. "We don't designate who's in the stands. I just felt after watching that whole incident, Nikola is just trying to get the ball. I felt the embellishment was almost comical, from my standpoint."

There were a few minutes of confusion as officials sorted out the weird scene, and then Jokic was assessed a technical foul. The Suns made the ensuing free throw.

Devin Booker finished with 36 points and 12 assists. He also gave a shout-out to the Suns owner.

"He got us a point!" Booker said with a grin.

Ishbia has been the Suns' owner for only a few months, purchasing the team from the embattled Robert Sarver.

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.

The Barbados-born Archer played a key role in England winning its first 50-over world title in 2019 on home soil and starred in the home Ashes series later that year in his first taste of test cricket.

Keller's CG helps Pirates top Rockies, snap losing streak



Tampa Bay Rays relief pitcher Jason Adam throws a pitch to the Baltimore Orioles during the ninth inning of a baseball game in Baltimore. (AP)

Gray pitches Rangers past Mariners

PITTSBURGH, May 9, (AP): Mitch Keller pitched his first career complete game and Rodolfo Castro hit a two-run homer as the Pittsburgh Pirates snapped their seven-game losing streak with a 2-0 victory over the Colorado Rockies on Monday night.

Keller (4-1) shut out the Rockies on four hits in his first time pitching into the eighth inning. The fifth-year veteran struck out eight and walked one in a game that took just 1 hour, 55 minutes. Castro's homer off Kyle Freeland in the seventh broke the scoreless tie.

Freeland (3-4) also had a strong start, giving up two runs and seven hits in seven innings with four strikeouts and three walks.

Ke'Bryan Hayes had two hits for the Pirates, who hold a slim lead in the NL Central. Kris Bryant had two hits for the Rockies, who had won six of seven.

Rangers 2, Mariners 1
In Seattle, Marcus Semien ended Logan Gilbert's bid for a perfect game with a leadoff single in a two-run seventh inning, and Jon Gray pitched Texas past Seattle.

Semien scored the tying run on Josh Jung's bases-loaded sacrifice fly, and Jonah Heim chased Gilbert (1-2) with a two-out RBI single.

Ty France homered in the first off Gray (2-1), who gave up four hits over seven innings. He struck out eight and walked none as Texas won its third straight.

Gilbert mowed down the Rangers for six innings. He struck out seven consecutive batters from the second through the fourth, matching a franchise record held by Mark Langston (1984) and teammate Luis Castillo (2022). He needed only 72 pitches to retire his first 18 hitters, fanning nine. But he ran into trouble in the seventh.

Yankees 7, Athletics 2
In New York, Aaron Hicks broke out of his season-long slump with a two-run homer and New York went deep four times in a win over Oakland.

Gleyber Torres hit a tiebreaking solo drive in the sixth inning against former Yankees lefty JP Sears (0-3). Oswaldo Cabrera and DJ LeMahieu launched two-run shots off Sears as New York (19-17) avoiding falling back to .500 for the second time in a week.

The Yankees won for the fourth time in 10 games without slugger Aaron Judge, who is expected back Tuesday from a stint on the injured list due to a strained right hip.

Nestor Cortes rebounded from his worst start with the Yankees and allowed two runs on six hits in five-plus innings. Ron Marinaccio (2-1) earned the win in relief.

Sears allowed five runs and six hits in 5 1/3 innings as the major league-overall A's dropped to 8-28

overall.

Tigers 6, Guardians 2
In Cleveland, Joey Wentz settled down after allowing a double and single to start the game on the way to his first win, and Andy Ibanez homered and scored three runs in Detroit's win over struggling Cleveland.

After allowing the opening hits, Wentz (1-3) then retired 13 of 14 before giving up a pair of walks in the sixth. He got two outs and was pulled for Will Vest, who worked out of the jam. Jason Foley, Chasen Shreve and Alex Lange completed the combined six-hitter.

Ibanez connected for his first homer for Detroit and Riley Greene drove in two runs as the Tigers won for the sixth time in seven games.

José Ramirez homered as the Guardians continued to scuffle offensively. Rookie Tanner Bibee (1-1) for three runs and five hits in the third inning and didn't survive the fourth.

Rays 3, Orioles 0
In Baltimore, Shane Bieber worked six innings and became this season's first seven-game winner. Josh Lowe and Luke Raley homered and Tampa Bay topped Baltimore in a matchup of the teams with the best record in the American League.

The Rays extended their AL East lead to 6 1/2 games. McClanahan (7-0) allowed four hits and four walks and struck out seven. Gleyber Torres (4-2) pitched well in defeat, allowing two runs in six-plus innings. Lowe hit a solo shot leading off the second and Raley added one in the ninth. Wander Franco hit a sacrifice fly in the seventh.

Colin Poche and Kevin Kelly followed McClanahan for Tampa Bay, and Jason Adam struck out three in the ninth for his fourth save.

The Orioles lost a series opener for the first time this season after winning their first 11. It's Baltimore's first three-game losing streak of the season.

Brewers 9, Dodgers 3
In Milwaukee, Wiemer and Willy Adams hit three-run homers to back Freddy Peralta's strong pitching and Milwaukee defeated Los Angeles for its second straight win after six straight losses.

Wiemer went 2 of 3 with four RBIs - his first since April 29 - while homering off Tony Gonsolin (0-1) with two outs in the fifth. He added an RBI double against Phil Bickford in the seventh. Christian Yelich added a two-run single in the win. Peralta (4-2) struck out five and allowed just three hits, one run and two walks in six innings for his third straight quality start. Chris Taylor hit a two-run homer in the ninth for the Dodgers, who lost for just the second time in 12 series.

losses.

Royals 12, White Sox 5
In Kansas City, MJ Melendez homered and drove in four runs, Nick Pratto had a three-run double during an eight-run sixth inning, and Kansas City beat Chicago and won consecutive home games for the first time this season.

Melendez hit a 431-foot, two-run shot in the fourth against Dylan Cease and then had a two-run single in the sixth as the Royals turned a 4-4 game into a rout. Kansas City had its highest-scoring game this season.

Cardinals 3, Cubs 1
In Chicago, Willson Contreras had two hits and two RBIs in his return to Wrigley Field, including a tiebreaking double, and St. Louis beat Chicago. St. Louis also got a strong effort from its bullpen in its second straight win after an eight-game losing streak. Génesis Cabrera (1-0), Jordan Hicks and Ryan Helsley combined for 4 2/3 innings of one-hit ball in relief of Miles Mikolas. Helsley got his fourth save.

It was the Cardinals' first win in 12 series openers. The streak of 11 straight losses in such games to begin the season was a franchise record.

Nationals 5, Giants 1
In San Francisco, rookie Jake Irvin struck out five in 6 1/3 innings and earned his first career victory, leading Washington past San Francisco.

Making his second career start and first on the road, Irvin didn't give up a run in a dominant outing for the Nationals, who are in last place in the NL East. The 26-year-old right-hander limited the Giants to four hits and walked three.

Luis García singled twice and had a multi-hit performance in his fourth consecutive game and CJ Abrams drove in two runs. Alex Call, the Nationals' new everyday center fielder after Victor Robles was placed on the injured list earlier Monday, had an RBI double.

Joc Pederson homered for San Francisco, which lost its second straight after a four-game winning streak. Anthony DeSclafani (3-2), who has been one of San Francisco's best pitchers so far this season, allowed 10 hits and five runs in seven innings.

Angels 6, Astros 4
In Anaheim, Shohei Ohtani had a pair of RBI doubles, Brandon Drury drove in the go-ahead run with a triple in the eighth inning and Los Angeles rallied past Houston.

Taylor Ward had three hits and Hunter Renfroe homered for the Angels, who are 2-2 on their current homestand. David Hensley homered for the Astros, who have dropped five of six.

Ohtani tied it at 4-4 in the fifth inning with a line-drive double off the wall in right-center and had a run-scoring double in the second.

The Angels' Matt Moore (2-1) pitched 1 2/3 scoreless innings and Carlos Estévez earned his eighth save. Rafael Montero (0-2) took the loss.

CRICKET

The England and Wales Cricket Board said Tuesday that Archer will return to Britain "for a period of rest and rehabilitation to give him the best opportunity for a full recovery."

He will work on his rehabilitation with England's medical department and his country team, Sussex.

Archer is facing a race against time to be healthy enough to feature in the Ashes series against Australia, which starts June 16 with the first of five tests. His last test match appearance was against India in Ahmedabad in February 2021.

With another injury cloud hanging over Archer, England could yet be without its most explosive pacer for the defense of its Cricket World Cup title in India in October and November.



Kolkata Knight Riders' Andre Russell plays a shot during Indian Premier League cricket match between Kolkata Knight Riders and Punjab Kings, in Kolkata, India. (AP)

MLB Results/Standings

WASHINGTON, May 9, (AP): Results and standings from the MLB games on Monday.

Detroit	6	Cleveland	2	Pittsburgh	2	Colorado	0
Tampa Bay	3	Baltimore	0	Milwaukee	9	LA Dodgers	3
NY Yankees	7	Oakland	2	St. Louis	3	Chicago Cubs	1
Kansas City	12	Chicago W. Sox	5	Washington	5	San Francisco	2
Texas	2	Seattle	1	Arizona	5	Miami	1
LA Angels	6	Houston	4				

American League				National League					
East Division				East Division					
W	L	Pct	GB	W	L	Pct	GB		
Tampa Bay	29	7	.806	—	Atlanta	24	11	.686	—
Baltimore	22	13	.629	6-1/2	New York	17	18	.486	7
Toronto	21	14	.600	7-1/2	Miami	17	19	.472	7-1/2
Boston	21	15	.583	8	Philadelphia	16	19	.457	8
New York	19	17	.528	10	Washington	15	20	.429	9

American League				National League					
Central Division				Central Division					
W	L	Pct	GB	W	L	Pct	GB		
Minnesota	19	16	.543	—	Pittsburgh	21	15	.583	—
Detroit	16	18	.471	2-1/2	Milwaukee	20	15	.571	-1/2
Cleveland	16	19	.457	3	Chicago	17	18	.486	3-1/2
Chicago	12	24	.333	7-1/2	Cincinnati	14	20	.412	6
Kansas City	10	26	.278	9-1/2	St. Louis	12	24	.333	9

American League				National League					
West Division				West Division					
W	L	Pct	GB	W	L	Pct	GB		
Texas	21	13	.618	—	Los Angeles	21	15	.583	—
Los Angeles	20	16	.556	2	Arizona	20	15	.571	-1/2
Houston	17	18	.486	4-1/2	San Diego	18	17	.514	2-1/2
Seattle	17	18	.486	4-1/2	San Francisco	15	19	.441	5
Oakland	8	28	.222	14	Colorado	14	22	.389	7

Change Name

I, AAMINAH AYESHA KHAN (write full name as per present passport) holder of passport No: S7655219 Do hereby change my name to AAMINAH AYESHA KHAN (as given name) PATHAN (as surname) for all purposes. I will henceforth be known in the name AAMINAH AYESHA KHAN PATHAN (write full name as change now) and I also undertake to carry out this name change in my all my documents.

49ers sign Allen, 2 others

SANTA CLARA, Calif., May 9, (AP): The San Francisco 49ers signed quarterback Brandon Allen, defensive lineman Marlon Davidson and tight end Troy Fumagalli to one-year deals on Monday.

San Francisco was looking for an extra quarterback for the offseason program with projected starter Brock Purdy recovering from elbow surgery and found one in Allen.

Allen was drafted in the sixth round by Jacksonville in the 2016 draft and has spent time with the Jaguars, Rams, Broncos and Bengals since then.

Allen has played 15 games and made nine starts, throwing for 1,611 yards, 10 TDs, six interceptions and a 78 rating.

Alderweireld abused online after Belgian league match

Sampdoria relegated from Serie A after losing at Udinese



Vegas Golden Knights' William Karlsson (71) and Edmonton Oilers' Evan Bouchard (2) battle for the puck during third-period NHL hockey Stanley Cup second-round playoff game action in Edmonton, Alberta, Monday, May 8, 2023. (AP)

Golden Knights look for answer after Edmonton even series 1-1

Draisaitl, McDavid each scored twice

EDMONTON, Alberta, May 9, (AP): The Vegas Golden Knights were road warriors during the regular season. They will need to be again.

Leon Draisaitl and Connor McDavid each scored twice and Edmonton knotted the series 1-1 with a 5-1 victory Saturday night. Vegas got a lone goal from Ivan Barbashev as the team fell flat after winning the opener 6-4 with goals from five different players.

"We need to do a lot better," left wing Reilly Smith told reporters ahead of Monday's Game 3 (8:30 p.m. Eastern, ESPN). "It's a game you just have to flush. We had a poor performance in Game 1 last series. We just have to find a way to bounce back."

The Golden Knights finished the regular season tied for the second-most road points in the league. Whatever they do, they will need to contend with an Oilers team averaging 4.5 goals in the series behind a power play that went 3 for 6 in Game 2 and is now a league-best 14 for 25 in the playoffs.

Edmonton defenseman Evan Bouchard has the power play humming, leading all teams with three special teams goals and nine assists



Edmonton Oilers' Warren Foegele (37) celebrates after his goal against the Vegas Golden Knights with teammates on the bench during first-period NHL hockey Stanley Cup second-round playoff game action in Edmonton, Alberta, Monday, May 8, 2023. (AP)

Staying at PSG unlikely of outcomes

Messi's next move fuels speculation

PARIS, May 9, (AP): Lionel Messi's next stop could mark his return to Barcelona. Or he could make a hugely profitable move to Saudi Arabia. Staying at Paris Saint-Germain is the most unlikely of outcomes.

Increasingly fevered speculation continued to build Tuesday into where the World Cup winner from Argentina will play next season. Inter Miami in Major League Soccer is also chasing the seven-time Ballon d'Or winner.

French media have reported that Messi has a verbal deal with an unnamed Saudi club, a move that would put him back into the same league as Cristiano Ronaldo. But one soccer transfer gossip specialist, Fabrizio Romano, was quick to update his 14.6 million followers on Twitter that there will be no decision until after the season.

Both Barcelona and Al Hilal clearly want Messi, who turns 36 next month and also wants to keep playing for Argentina. South American qualifying for the 2026 World Cup starts in September, with Argentina at home against Ecuador.

Messi's trip last week to Saudi Arabia - and subsequent suspension by PSG for the unauthorized absence - has re-ignited talk he will play in the Middle Eastern country if he leaves the French capital as expected. One French media report claimed Messi has agreed to a massive deal with an unnamed Saudi club worth at least 500 million euros (\$548 million).

and then center Nick Bjugstad. Coach Jay Woodcroft said Ekholm has fit with his team "like a glove" since arriving from the Nashville Predators.

"We put a lot of work into trying to find the right person to complement our group," Woodcroft said, according to The Canadian Press. "He's a serious professional. He's not somebody who just comes to the rink and waits for direction. He

PSG declined to comment when asked by The Associated Press if there is an agreement in place for Messi to leave the club.

Messi was linked with a move to Riyadh-based Saudi club Al Hilal last month, the same city where Ronaldo's team, Al Nassr, is located.

Messi played against Ronaldo in January in an exhibition game in Riyadh, with the Qatar-owned PSG facing a combined team from Al Nassr and Al Hilal. Ronaldo's arrival has already boosted Saudi

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Arabia's soccer profile in the Middle East in a regional rivalry fueled by Qatar hosting last year's World Cup.

Having Messi playing against Ronaldo would do even more for the country as Saudi Arabia prepares to stage the Club World Cup for the first time in December.

Messi returned to training with PSG this week after the club lifted his suspension following the promotional trip to Saudi Arabia. He missed practice last Monday, the day after PSG's 3-1 loss to Lorient. The club announced his suspension last Tuesday.

Messi subsequently apologized to the club and his teammates for traveling without PSG's permission.

Messi joined PSG on a two-year deal after tearfully leaving finan-

cially stricken Barcelona against his will in 2021, with an option for an extra year if both parties agreed.

His contract runs until the end of June, but talks about extending reportedly broke down, making Messi's exit seem inevitable.

Barcelona coach Xavi Hernandez, who is poised to lead his team to the Spanish league title this season, has openly said he wants his former teammate to come back.

Barcelona is the club closest to the heart of Messi and his family. They moved to Spain in 2001 and Messi scored 672 goals - including an extraordinary 50-goal league season in 2012 - and won four Champions League trophies with Barcelona among a glittering array of silverware.

Barcelona president Joan Laporta is also eager to bring Messi back, but must overcome the club's severe debts and restrictions imposed by the Spanish league.

Barcelona's return to the Champions League could also be affected by an ongoing UEFA investigation into payments of millions of dollars over more than a decade to a company linked to a Spanish refereeing official. No evidence of suspected match-fixing has yet emerged.

Playing in Saudi Arabia would lessen the wear and tear on Messi's body while also offering lower-quality games ahead of World Cup qualifying and the 2024 Copa America in the United States, with Argentina the defending champion.

Ekholm's voice following the trade to Edmonton, a city that isn't usually high on a player's list of preferred destinations, was reassuring that the correct move for the right person had been made.

"That was excellent," Woodcroft said. "Somebody who really embraces the weather and the northern climate, who wanted to be part of the proud history and tradition of our club."

MILAN, May 9, (AP): Bottom club Sampdoria was relegated from Serie A following a 2-0 loss at Udinese on Monday.

Two first-half goals condemned Sampdoria, which was left 13 points from safety with four rounds remaining.

Spezia and Cremonese are the other teams in the relegation zone and they are three and six points, respectively, behind 17th-placed Hellas Verona.

Sampdoria has won just two matches since the start of the year and travelled to Udine on the back of two straight losses without scoring.

Udinese took the lead in the ninth minute. Festy Ebosele ran almost the entire length of the field before sending the ball through to Roberto Pereyra, who lifted it above on-rushing goalkeeper Nicola Ravaglia.

Adam Masina doubled Udinese's lead in the 34th when he headed a chipped pass from Sandi Lovric into the bottom left corner. Samp almost got back into the match 12 minutes into the second half but Manolo Gabbiadini's effort came off the right post.

SOCCER

RELEGATION BATTLE

Empoli all but assured itself of safety when it won against fellow struggler Salernitana 2-1, ending the latter's 10-match unbeaten run.

Both sides came into the match eight points above the drop zone.

Nicolo Cambiaghi headed Empoli in front shortly before halftime and Francesco Caputo doubled the home side's advantage in the 63rd.

Krzysztof Piątek pulled one back five minutes from time but it wasn't enough for Salernitana.

Special celebration
Nicolas Dominguez had a special celebration after netting the equalizer for Bologna in a 1-1 draw at Sassuolo.

Dominguez held up the shirt of teammate Adama Soumaoro, whose season ended in a serious knee injury last week.

Domenico Berardi scored the opener in the mid-table clash.

Former Belgium defender Toby Alderweireld was targeted by online hate messages including threats against his family

following a Belgian league match. Alderweireld received the messages on social media after Antwerp rallied past Genk 2-1 in the league's playoffs on Sunday. Alderweireld scored Antwerp's first goal as his team came from behind to win.

"I don't understand why you write this and what you want to achieve with this," Alderweireld asked the abuser after posting screenshots of the hateful messages on Instagram. "Everything has limits. I can take quite a bit, but threatening my family is beyond me."

Alderweireld is the latest high-profile soccer player in a long list to receive online abuse. The scope of hate speech aimed at players was detailed by FIFA last year from research at the European Championship and Africa Cup of Nations tournaments in 2021. It said half of the players received some kind of discriminatory abuse, with most of it coming from their home country.

Genk condemned the abuse of Alderweireld. Antwerp general manager Sven Jaecques said Alderweireld will go after his abuser and file a complaint, local newspapers reported.

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Sampdoria's Tomas Rincon (right) and Torino's Demba Seck battle for the ball during the Serie A soccer match between Sampdoria and Torino at Luigi Ferraris Stadium in Genoa, Italy, Wednesday, May 3, 2023. (AP)

Inter's LuLa 'attack' back to its best for CL derby vs Milan

MILAN, May 9, (AP): Inter Milan's LuLa attack appears back to its best ahead of the Champions League semifinal showdown against city rival AC Milan.

The partnership of Romelu Lukaku and Lautaro Martinez earned the LuLa nickname during the former's first spell at the club, when their goals drove Inter to the Serie A title in 2021.

While Martinez has continued to spearhead the attack since then, Lukaku had struggled with injury and poor form after returning on loan from Chelsea in the off-season.

However, Lukaku has now struck three goals in as many Serie A games - doubling his tally for the season. He has also contributed further with three assists in those matches.

"Romelu is very important for us and we brought him in for this, for the goals he's scoring," Inter coach Simone Inzaghi said Tuesday.

"He had an injury that kept him out for nearly four months, but now he's good, he's scoring and he's helping us. He's an extra weapon for us."

Lukaku is hitting top form at the right time for Inter, which is bidding to reach the final of European soccer's most prestigious club competition for the first time since it won an unprecedented treble of the league, Italian Cup and Champions League under Jose Mourinho in 2010.

And excitement is ramping up in the city ahead of what has been dubbed the "Euroderby." The first leg takes place on Wednesday, with the return match the following Tuesday. "This is 'the' derby, not 'a' derby," Inzaghi said. "We're not hiding

the importance this match has for us, for the fans, for the club."

Lukaku's return to form has coincided with a positive streak for Inter after a miserable run that piled the pressure on Inzaghi.

Inter has won its last five matches in all competitions, scoring 15 goals and conceding just one. Prior to that run, Inter had won just one of its previous nine games in all competitions.

"We had a period in which our strikers weren't scoring," Inzaghi said. "But I was calm then and I am now because we always had the chances."

Inter is also bidding for a treble as it plays Fiorentina in the Italian Cup final on

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May 24. The Nerazzurri beat Milan to lift the Italian Super Cup in January.

While Inzaghi has almost a fully fit squad to choose from, Milan coach Stefano Pioli could be missing a key player.

Rafael Leao limped off in the 11th minute of Saturday's 2-0 win against Lazio in Serie A, shortly after pulling up and clutching the top of his right thigh.

The forward returned to training on Tuesday but worked separately from his teammates. Pioli will wait until the last minute to make a decision.

"Tomorrow he will try to push himself to the maximum to understand if he can take part in the match," Pioli said.

"If I call him up, it will be because he's fit to play. If the tests are fine he could even start."

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Everton's Nathan Patterson (left) and Brighton's Kaoru Mitoma vie for the ball, during the English Premier League soccer match between Brighton & Hove and Everton, at the AMEX, in Brighton, England. (AP)

Sports

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Kuwait Club beat Burgan 31-23 to win 10th consecutive Handball Federation Cup title and 13th overall at the Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Indoor Hall. The win completed a double for Kuwait Club after winning the league title earlier. Kuwait Club are the most successful club, followed by Al-Arabi with 10, while Kazma and Salmiya won the championship eight times, Al-Qadisiyah seven times, Khaitan won it four times, Al-Fahaheel three times and Al-Sulaibkhat twice. Pictured are the players and officials of Kuwait Club celebrating their title. KUNA photo

GSW on brink of elimination

Heat close in on East finals

LOS ANGELES, May 9, (AP): Although Lonnie Walker began the season as a starter for the Los Angeles Lakers, he got injured and slipped all the way out of their rotation after they transformed their roster at the trade deadline.

Walker didn't sulk or complain. He cheered from the bench. Worked even harder in practice. Waited for his chance to shine.

And when it arrived, the unsung pro with inextinguishable confidence out-shot Stephen Curry in the fourth quarter of a playoff win that put his Lakers on the brink of an unlikely trip to the Western Conference finals.

Walker scored all of his 15 points in a phenomenal fourth quarter, and the Lakers rallied late to take a 3-1 second-round series lead with a 104-101 victory over the Golden State Warriors on Monday night.

LeBron James scored 27 points and Anthony Davis had 23 points and 15 rebounds for the seventh-seeded Lakers, who moved one win away from knocking off the champions with their eighth consecutive home victory since March.

Los Angeles overcame Curry's third career postseason triple-double down the stretch largely because of Walker, who has made a seismic impact in returning to the Lakers' rotation in this series. He went 6 for 9 in the fourth quarter, starting with a 3-pointer on the opening possession of the period to cut Golden State's lead to four points.

After sitting out Game 1, Walker contributed nine points in Game 2 and 12 more in Game 3. His emergence in this series is a shocker to most, but not to Walker or his teammates.

Walker eventually hit the go-ahead jumper with 1:53 to play. Curry's lay-up with 1:05 left trimmed the Lakers' lead to one point, but Curry missed a long jumper and a 3-point attempt on Golden State's next possession before



Los Angeles Lakers guard Lonnie Walker shoots during the second half in Game 4 of an NBA basketball Western Conference semifinal in Los Angeles. (AP)

Walker made two free throws with 15 seconds left, and Los Angeles got one last defensive stop to seal it.

Game 5 is Wednesday night in San Francisco.

Curry had 31 points, 10 rebounds and 14 assists in his 13th career triple-double for the sixth-seeded Warriors, who will have to overcome a 3-1 series deficit for only the second time in franchise history to continue their NBA title defense. Golden State also did it in the 2016 Western Conference finals.

The Warriors led by 12 late in the third quarter, but the Lakers chased down the champs and finished them with Walker leading the way in front of even James and Davis, who hugged Walker after the buzzer.

Gary Payton II scored a season-high 15 points in his first start of the season for Golden State, but Klay Thompson had his second straight quiet game in Los Angeles, scoring nine points in 41 minutes. Andrew Wiggins added 17 points for the Warriors, who made just 25 combined 3-pointers in their two games in Los Angeles after making 21 apiece in the first two games in San Francisco.

Kerr switched to a three-guard starting lineup to affect the Los Angeles defense that held the Warriors to 97 points in Game 3, and the changes largely worked: Davis, who blocked 11 shots in the first three games, wasn't able to protect the rim with the same ferocity when his defensive matchups required him to go out to the perimeter,

BASKETBALL

and the Warriors capitalized with 52 points in the paint.

The Lakers compensated: They made all 20 of their free throws, and Austin Reaves added 21 points.

But they won with a gritty, timely effort by Walker, who picked up the Lakers' slack when D'Angelo Russell scored just four points on 1-for-10 shooting after a strong performance in Game 3.

Curry secured the 13th triple-double of his career early in the fourth quarter, but he missed nine of 10 3-point attempts spanning three quarters. The most prolific 3-point shooter in NBA history finished 3 for 14 from distance.

The lead was shaky at times. The shooting went cold. The building got tense. There were moments when the Miami Heat looked like they were about to get themselves into trouble.

And they found a way - again.

The unpredictable ride of the eighth-seeded Heat continues, with Miami on the brink of yet another trip to the Eastern Conference finals. Jimmy Butler had 27 points and 10 assists, Bam Adebayo finished with 23 points and 13 rebounds and the Heat topped the New York Knicks 109-101.

They'll take a 3-1 lead into Madison Square Garden for Game 5 on Wednesday night, one win from wrapping up this East semifinal matchup and returning to the conference finals for the third time in four years.

Chaotic day in EPL Everton, Forest boost survival hopes

LONDON, May 9, (AP): Chaos reigned in the English Premier League's relegation battle on Monday as Everton scored five goals in a surprising win to climb out of the bottom three and Leicester conceded five in a confidence-sapping loss to drop into it.

Southampton's 11-year stay in the top division is surely over, meanwhile, after a 4-3 loss at Nottingham Forest plunged the last-placed team eight points from safety with three games left.

There was a total of 21 goals in

SOCCER

three games involving relegation-threatened teams, who appeared to take the view that attack was the best form of defense with time running out in the fight to avoid the drop.

Everton's goal spree was the most surprising. A 5-1 victory at Brighton came out of nowhere, ending a seven-game winless run at the home of a team that had an outside shot at Champions League qualification.

Even wilder was Fulham's 5-3 win over Leicester, which is in danger of going down just seven years after capturing the league title in one of the greatest sporting stories of all time.

Leicester and Leeds fell into the relegation zone and were tied on 30 points, two behind Everton and three adrift of Forest.

More worrying for Leicester is its tough remaining schedule, with games to come against Liverpool at home, Newcastle away and West Ham at home.

Everton netted after 34 seconds on its way to the huge win at Brighton, with Abdoulaye Doucoure's goal the 10th to be scored in the first minute of a league game this season - a record in the league.

Doucoure volleyed home a second in the 29th and it got even better for the visitors when a cross from Dwight McNeil deflected in off the heel of Brighton goalkeeper Jason Steele for an own-goal in the 35th.

McNeil got his goal in the 76th when he dribbled around Steele at the end of a length-of-the-field counterattack and the winger added the fifth, soon after Argentina midfielder Alexis Mac Allister grabbed a 79th-minute consolation for Brighton.

Brighton stayed in seventh place and eight points off the top four with a game in hand.

Everton is looking to extend its 69-year stay in England's top-flight and has games to come against Manchester City, Wolver-

CAMS world diving championship inaugurated in Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, May 9, (KUNA): CAMS Freediving World Pool Championship was inaugurated in Kuwait with the participation of 350 male and female athletes from 44 coun-

tries.

Representative of Minister of Information and Culture, and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Abdulrahman Al-Mutatri, director general of Public Au-

thority for Sport Yusuf Al-Baydan announced inaugurating the event at Abdullah Al-Dhakhil Complex that will continue until May 13.

The inauguration ceremony was held in the presence of President of Kuwait Olympic Committee Sheikh Fahad Al-Nasser Al-Sabah and some sports dignitaries across the globe.

Kuwait's hosting of this tournament is a gate to host several world sports events, Sheikh Fahad told KUNA in a statement.

He expressed pride to Kuwaitis for organizing one of the biggest championships in the world, stressing that the Kuwaiti team is able to obtain some medals. He welcomed heads and members of international federations.

Meanwhile, head of the Kuwait Diving and Rescue Club Talal Al-Sarhan said organizing this tournament was fruits of the sports strategy set by the minister.

He said Kuwait managed to organize this journey for the first time in the Middle East after making great efforts by the government and the club.

The Kuwaiti male and female team includes Hassan Al-Sharrah, Hamad Al-Kandari, Abdullah Al-Hammad, Mai Al-Bader, Zeinab Al-Wazzan, Maryam Al-Qattan and others.



Kuwait national team participating in the tournament display Kuwaiti flag during the opening ceremony. KUNA photos



Chairman of the Kuwaiti Olympic Committee, Sheikh Fahad Al-Nasser Al-Sabah.



President of the Kuwait Diving and Rescue Club, Talal Al-Sarhan.



Representative of the Minister of Information, Director of the General Authority for Sports, Youssef Al-Baidan.

hampton and Bournemouth.

Leicester trailed 4-0 after 51 minutes before its second-half fightback came up short against a mid-table Fulham team playing for pride.

William and Tom Cairney scored twice each for Fulham along with a goal for Carlos Vinicius at Craven Cottage.

Harvey Barnes and James Maddison - from the penalty spot - scored either side of William's second before Barnes added his second goal in the 89th to cap an end-to-end en-

counter. Maddison is one of a slew of top players facing relegation with Leicester and said his team was "not at it."

"We were not hungry enough to want to win the game," the England playmaker said.

Jamie Vardy also had a penalty saved for Leicester.

Southampton's demotion could be confirmed as early as this weekend - even if it beats Fulham on Saturday - because of the results of its relegation rivals.

Taiwo Awoniyi's double, Mor-

gan Gibbs-White's penalty and Danilo's brilliant team goal earned Forest a second straight win at home, and its that form at the City Ground which could keep Steve Cooper's team up.

Forest is three points above the drop zone with three games to play, against Chelsea, Arsenal and Crystal Palace.

Southampton had goals from Carlos Alcaraz and Lyanco before James Ward-Prowse's penalty in the sixth minute of stoppage time sparked a tense finish.