



ice hockey



baseball

Kuwait mandates Philippines admission of law violation

'Door to negotiations still open'

KUWAIT CITY, May 29, (KUNA): Kuwait's Deputy Foreign Minister Mansour Al-Otaibi stated Sunday that the door is still open for negotiations with the Philippines over a special agreement on hiring domestic workers.

celebrate the national day. Al-Otaibi added that when these practices are halted and a promise is made, negotiations over the agreement can be resumed.

Opinion

Your Highness the Prime Minister ... Should we break our pens and sit in our homes?

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

OUR conviction that development projects are nothing more than ink on paper continues to solidify day after day.

These methods focus on poor implementation of the projects, or exacting change orders that raise the costs to huge amounts.

We today address His Highness the Prime Minister, the Minister of Public Works, the Minister of Finance, and those concerned by saying that we hear news about bribery and corrupt people on a daily basis.

However, to this day there has not been any announcements that those involved have been arrested, or suspicious companies have been prevented from working on state projects.

Your Highness, it was said that there are negotiations with companies from abroad to implement some projects, especially roads.

In neighboring countries, including the UAE, Saudi Arabia, and Qatar, projects are implemented through direct contracting with international companies.

What about Kuwait? The road network today is worse than any country in the world.

Your Highness, the people accuse the government of working based on a mentality that is contrary to its interest.

That is why it is necessary to take a different trajectory from what successive governments are accustomed to.

That is why it is necessary to take a different trajectory from what successive governments are accustomed to.

This matters only if you want reform; but if you do not want it, all you have to do is say "Our screams are in the wilderness, and it is better for us to break pens and stay in our homes."

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NewsWatch

RAMALLAH: A young Palestinian man died of sustained wounds on Monday dawn during the Israeli occupation forces' aggression against Jenin city.

Ashraf Ibrahim, 37, was wounded this morning with two explosive bullets, one in the abdomen and the other in the chest.

Ibrahim was a released prisoner and worked as an officer in the Palestinian General Intelligence Service, local sources said.

TEL AVIV: Jewish settlers in the occupied West Bank said Monday they erected a religious school in a dismantled outpost after Israel's government lifted a ban on settlements in several evacuated areas.

MANILA: Philippine officials began evacuating thousands of villagers, shut down schools and offices and imposed a no-sail ban Monday as Typhoon Mawar approached the country's northern provinces.

MADRID: Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez on Monday called an early general election for July 23 in a surprise move after his Socialist party took a serious battering in local and regional elections.

Supporters of Turkish President and People's Alliance's presidential candidate Recep Tayyip Erdogan wave Turkish flags at the presidential palace, in Ankara, Turkey, Sunday, May 28, 2023.

Damascus hit by 'airstrikes'

BEIRUT, May 29, (AP): Airstrikes attributed to Israel targeted Syria's capital city late Sunday, the first such strikes in nearly a month.

Syrian air defenses responded to the strikes in the vicinity of Damascus and shot down some of them, state news agency SANA reported.

The last suspected Israeli airstrike on Syria was on May 2, targeting the international airport in the northern Syrian city of Aleppo.

Iran 'warms' to ties with Egypt

Khamenei receives Oman Sultan

DUBAI, May 29, (Agencies): Iran's supreme leader said Monday he'd "welcome" the restoration of full diplomatic ties between Egypt and the Islamic Republic, raising the prospect of Cairo and Tehran normalizing relations after decades of strain.

The comments by Ayatollah Ali Khamenei came as a series of websites linked to Iran's presidency bore the images of two leaders of an exiled opposition group

Monday, with others showing the pictures of Khamenei and President Ebrahim Raisi crossed out.

Iranian state television quoted Khamenei's comments as coming from a meeting he held with the visiting sultan of Oman, Haitham bin Tariq.

There have been growing signs of Egypt and Iran potentially restoring ties, particularly as Saudi Arabia and Iran reached a détente in March with Chinese mediation after years of tensions.

There was no immediate reaction from Egypt to Khamenei's comments. Officials in Cairo did not respond to a request for comment.

Egypt under Anwar Sadat cut ties to Iran after the 1979 Islamic Revolution. Sadat had been a close friend to the deposed Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, welcomed him to Egypt just before his death and hosted his state funeral in 1980.

After the 2011 Arab Spring and the election of President Mohammed Morsi, an Islamist who belonged to the Muslim Brotherhood, relations warmed with Iran.

Associated Press journalists accessing the sites found them defaced with images of Massoud Rajavi, the long-missing leader of the Iranian exile group Mujahedeen-e-Khalq.

Iran has been targeted by a series of embarrassing hacks amid the rising tensions over its rapidly advancing nuclear program.

The Mujahedeen-e-Khalq, known by the acronym MEK, called the hack "very extensive" when reached, but did not claim credit for it.

The MEK began as a Marxist group opposing the shah's rule. It claimed and was suspected in a series of attacks against U.S. officials in Iran in the 1970s, something the group now denies.

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Supporters of Turkish President and People's Alliance's presidential candidate Recep Tayyip Erdogan wave Turkish flags at the presidential palace, in Ankara, Turkey, Sunday, May 28, 2023.

Leaders congratulate Erdogan win

Economic recovery remains challenge

ANKARA, May 29, (Agencies): Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has a mandate to rule until 2028, securing five more years as leader of a country at the crossroads of Europe and Asia that plays a key role in NATO.

Erdogan secured more than 52% of the vote in Sunday's presidential runoff, two weeks after he fell short of scoring an outright victory in the first round.

Erdogan thanked the nation for entrusting him with the presidency again in two speeches he delivered in Istanbul and Ankara.

Supporters of Erdogan, a divisive populist and masterful orator, took to the streets to celebrate, waving Turkish or ruling party flags, honking car horns and chanting his name.

Leaders across the world sent their congratulations, highlighting Turkey's, and Erdogan's, enlarged role in global politics.

Western politicians said they are ready to continue working with Erdogan despite years of sometimes tense relations.

Most imminently, Turkey holds the cards for Sweden's hopes to join NATO. The bid aims to strengthen the military alliance against Russia.

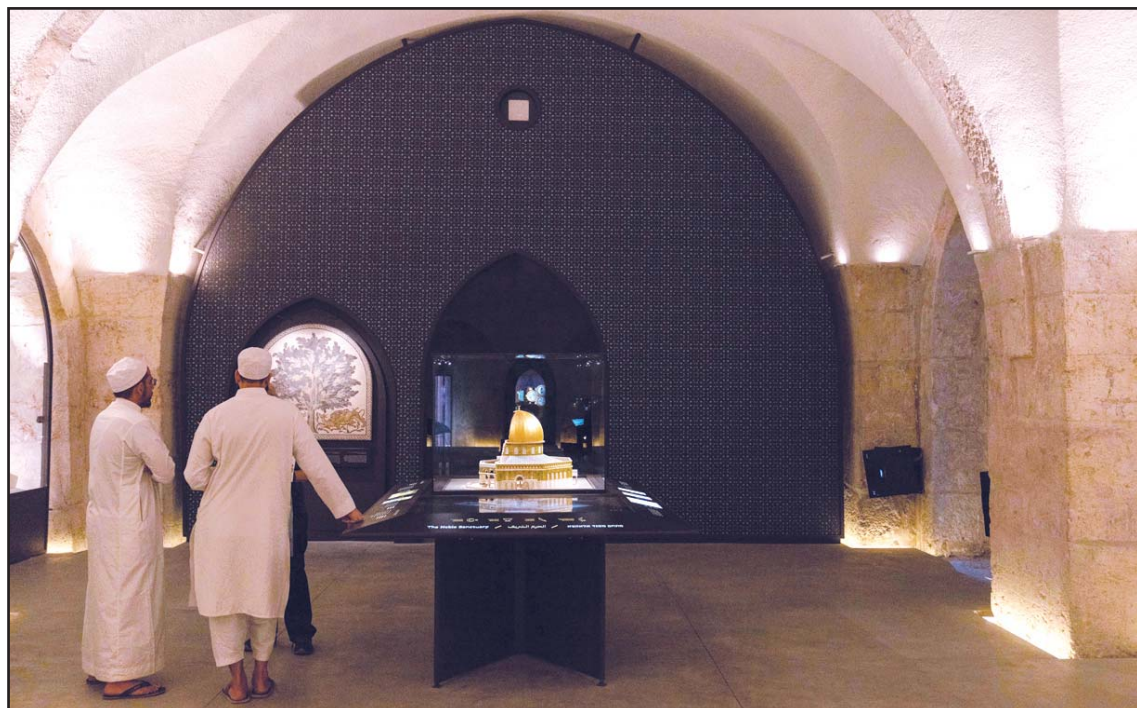
In his victory remarks, Erdogan said rebuilding the quake-struck cities would be his priority.

Erdogan's rival was a soft-mannered former civil servant who has led the pro-secular Republican People's Party, or CHP, since 2010.

Erdogan transformed the presidency from a largely ceremonial role to a powerful office through a narrowly won 2017 referendum that scrapped Turkey's parliamentary system.

Erdogan is now serving his second term as president under the executive presidency. He could run again for another

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Visitors stand near a scaled model of Jerusalem's golden Dome of the Rock in a newly redesigned gallery at the Tower of David Museum in Jerusalem's Old City, on May 22, 2023.

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Prayer Timings

Fajr	03:17	Asr	15:20
Sunrise	..	04:50	Maghrib	..	18:41
Zohr	11:45	Isha	20:11

Local

Expected weather for next 24 hrs:

By Day: Hot and partly cloudy to cloudy with light to moderate freshening at times northwesterly wind to northerly wind with speeds of 15-40 km/h.

Weather

By Night: Rather hot and partly cloudy with light to light northwesterly wind with speeds of 08-30 km/h.

Station	Max Exp	Min Rec
Kuwait City	43	31
Kuwait Airport	44	31

Abdaly	45	30
Jahra	45	30
Salmiyah	38	31
Ahmadi	38	33
Nuwaisib	40	30
Wafra	45	27

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

Teachers found violating rules, helping students

New case of mass cheating at Hawally school

KUWAIT CITY, May 29: After the case of cheating and leaking of high school exam papers during the first semester, which is still pending at the courts, a new case of mass cheating was discovered during the second semester exams at a secondary school in the Hawally Educational Zone, reports Al-Qabas daily.

According to informed sources, the Ministry of Education has decided to completely exclude the administration of a secondary school and all its teachers from invigilating the exams after information was received about mass cheating among the students of the tenth and eleventh grades in the school.

They revealed a state of alert in the Hawally educational district, indicating that a full committee consisting of about 75 teachers from various secondary and intermediate schools in the Hawally Educational Zone was formed to take up the task of monitoring and supervising the remaining exams in

the school. An extensive investigation was opened to find out the circumstances and take legal measures against those whose involvement has been proven in facilitating cheating in the school.

The sources explained that the secondary stage superintendent in the Hawally Educational Zone made a surprise visit on Thursday to the school, as it informed the educational zone director about the presence of a state of chaos and laxity within the examination committees, as well as teachers were seen practicing exam-related violations. Observers in the committees were teachers of the test subject itself, which is an explicit violation of the prevailing regulations.

It also failed to record malpractice reports against students who were caught red-handed with rivets and various cheating tools.

The educational zone had previously received several complaints against the school

as it violated examination and invigilation regulations. The matter was finally investigated, specifically the first semester of the current year.

Directives were issued to withdraw the powers of the school administration and all employees, and to assign an external committee to carry out the management tasks and monitor the upcoming exams for the tenth and eleventh grades of the secondary school. The technical guidance in the educational zone will be used to supervise the correction work.

The sources said they expect the extensive investigations, which are to be conducted by the educational zone's legal affairs department, to reveal tampering with the students' grades, "especially the grades for oral work, and the non-conformity of the observed grades with the grades of the continuous assessment tests in most sections of the academic subjects."



KUNA photo

Deputy Foreign Minister, Ambassador Mansour Al-Otaibi, during his meeting with the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the United Mexican States, Ambassador Carmen Toscano.

Kuwait, Mexico discuss ties

Kuwaiti Deputy Foreign Minister Ambassador Mansour Al-Otaibi met on Sunday with visiting Mexican counterpart Carmen Moreno Toscano.

During the meeting, both sides discussed bilateral ties, issues of common interests and latest regional and international developments.

After the meeting, both sides signed an agreement of cooperation between the Kuwaiti National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters and the Mexican Secretariat of Culture.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-

Jaber Al-Sabah received at Bayan Palace Monday Deputy head of Kuwait National Guard Sheikh Faisal Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received on Sunday His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

His Highness the Crown Prince also received first Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Interior, and Acting Minister of Defense Sheikh Talal Khaleel Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. (KUNA)

Pullout leaves 228 in poll-run

'Will needed to solve housing issue'

By Saeed Mahmoud Saleh

Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, May 29: The number of parliamentary election candidates, who withdrew from the electoral race, reached 19 one day before the deadline for withdrawal of candidacies; while five candidates were disqualified by the concerned committee. This brings the total number of candidates down to 228.

Following are the candidates who withdrew:

First Constituency (one female candidate) — Sara Al-Dabi

Second Constituency (one male candidate) — Hassan Dashti

Third Constituency (three male candidates) — Shamlan Al-Herban, Muhammad Muhammad and Walid Al-Nasser

Fourth Constituency (12 male candidates) — Badr Al-Mutairi, Jamal Al-Mutairi, Jamaan Al-Azmi, Hamad Al-Saeedi, Khalifa Al-Khalifa, Zaid Al-Mutairi, Ali Al-Raheli, Ali Al-Rashedi, Awad Al-Anzi, Majed Mousa Al-Mutairi, Nasser Al-Rashedi and Naif Al-Adwani

Fifth Constituency (two male candidates) — Saad Al-Kandari and Meshabab Al-Sahli.

Meanwhile, former MP and Fourth Constituency candidate Fayez Al-Jomhour said the housing issue can be solved if the decision maker is willing to do so. He pointed out that Kuwait has enough space for housing, since only 10 percent of its total area is occupied.

Regarding the budget for addressing the housing issue, he revealed the estimated cost is almost KD20 billion, which can be loaned in batches for five or 15 years from the country's investment fund. He said the profits of the fund for the recent year was \$50 billion (about KD15 billion). He added this plan will provide 100,000 houses; which means no one will remain on the waiting list.

He went on to say that if the government has a vision, the State budget should have depended on the revenues of the Future Generations Fund and other investment funds, and reserved the entire oil revenues for the future.

On the National Assembly speaker election, Al-Jomhour disclosed that he will vote for former Speaker Ahmed Al-Saadoun if the latter wins in the upcoming parliamentary election.

If he wins in the election, Al-Jomhour intends to resubmit the bills that he submitted during the tenure of the 2020 Parliament, including the bill on viva voce voting for the speaker.

Member of the nullified 2022 Parliament and First Constituency candidate Hamad Al-Medliji said the Amiri amnesty was issued in favor of politicians, not the youths convicted in opinion cases. He promised to represent these youths in the next Parliament, in case he wins in the election.

Former MP and Fourth Constituency candidate Musaed Al-Ardi asserted that His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah is not part of the problem. He also clarified that his position in the opposition does not mean he is totally against the government. "If His Highness the Prime Minister will present a good program and rescue plan for his government; I will support, cooperate and defend him," he added.



KUNA photo

Kuwait's Ambassador to Japan Sami Al-Zamanan with the Japanese Foreign Minister Yoshimasa Hayashi.

Emperor hosts Ambassador Al-Zamanan

'Kuwait, Japan friendship historic'

TOKYO, May 29, (KUNA): The Ambassador of Kuwait to Japan Sami Al-Zamanan participated in a ceremony hosted by the Emperor Naruhito at the Imperial Palace in the Japanese capital, where the Emperor affirmed historic friendship between Tokyo and Kuwait.

During the ceremony, attended by senior officials of the Japanese government and members of the foreign diplomatic corps accredited to Japan, Naruhito had a discussion with Al-Zamanan, during which he conveyed his greetings to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, according to a statement by Kuwait Embassy.

Naruhito, it said, affirmed the strength of the historical friendship between Kuwait and Japan, which is based on mutual trust, recalling his official visit to the Arab Gulf country in 1995 accompanied by his wife when he was crown prince, commending the hospitality and reception he received, which

left him with a "unique impression" of the Kuwaiti people.

Naruhito also discussed the visit of the late Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to Japan on March 2012, which had a "special place in the imperial family."

Meanwhile, during a one-on-one conversation that Al-Zamanan had with the Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, he stressed the importance of the strong friendship between both sides and the keenness of the leaderships of both countries to strengthen bilateral ties in various fields.

This was also confirmed by Japanese Foreign Minister Yoshimasa Hayashi, who appreciated the vigorous exchange between officials and the strength of the distinguished ties between the two countries.

In turn, Al-Zamanan extolled the historical and distinguished Kuwaiti-Japanese relations, which witnessed continuous growth since their establishment in 1961, reiterating his keenness to exercise his utmost efforts to advance these relations.

Restore 5-year 'imams' iqama

KUWAIT CITY, May 29: The Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs has asked its interior counterpart to restore the five-year residency permit validity for imams, preachers and muezzins; instead of one year reports Al-Rai daily quoting a reliable source from the Ministry of Awqaf.

The source informed the daily that the previous five-year validity of the abovementioned residency permit was first reduced to two years and then one year during the Corona pandemic. He said the concerned authorities in the Ministry of Awqaf have coordinated with their counterparts in the Interior Ministry to address this issue and ease administrative procedures.

Reward ordered: First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Interior and acting Minister of Defense Sheikh Talal Al-Khaled issued a directive to award the Military Duty Medal to more than 35,000 officers and non-commissioned officers in Kuwait Army, reports Al-Rai daily.

The minister affirmed that these officers have fulfilled all the merit terms and conditions.

Laws violated

Many health outlets shut

KUWAIT CITY, May 29: The Ministry of Health has taken action against several private health facilities for violating the Law No. 28/1996 of Regulating the Pharmaceutical Profession, as amended by Law No.30/2016, reports Al-Rai daily.

The ministry's decision came following through investigations and recommendations submitted by inspection committees, whose primary aim is to ensure quality and safe healthcare services to the public.

The daily added, in accordance with the findings of the inspection committees and the results of the investigations, the Ministry of Health announced the closure and revocation of licenses of multiple private health establishments.

Last week alone, the daily said, the ministry took action against five private health centers, 40 medical clinics, and 20 pharmacies.

By revoking the licenses of the non-compliant facilities, the ministry aims to maintain the standards expected of private health establishments and safeguard the well-being of patients.

The Ministry of Health sources confirmed it continues to maintain the integrity of the healthcare system, further actions may be taken against non-compliant facilities in the future.

The ministry remains dedicated to its mission of upholding the highest standards of care, professionalism, and patient safety throughout the private health sector.

The Ministry of Health has confirmed the closure of 20 pharmacies for violating Pharmacy Profession Law No. 28/1996 and its amendment — Law No. 30/2016, reports Al-Jarida daily.

In a press statement, the ministry revealed this is the result of intensified efforts to supervise and control institutions in the private health sector; as per the recommendations of the specialized committees and observations of the specialized inspection committees.

It added that Minister of Health Dr Ahmed Al-Awadi issued the closure decision to protect public health, and to maintain the quality and safety of health services.

Violations discovered in Residence Affairs Sector

KUWAIT CITY, May 29: According to reliable sources, the security committee formed by the First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Interior and Acting Minister of Defense Sheikh Talal Al-Khaled to review the transactions completed in the Residence Affairs Sector during the last period discovered 400 unarchived transactions in the Jahra Residency Department, reports Aljarida daily.

They explained that members of the committee, which included officers from the Department of Counterfeiting and Forgery Crimes affiliated to the General Department of Criminal Investigation and officers from the Residence Sector, also uncovered cases of embezzlement of ministry stamps and fines resulting from transactions. They were completed by computer, and no archive was found for them in the administration building. This meant there has been manipulation in collecting fees or in estimating the number of expatriate workers for citizens and Gulf nationals.

The committee also revealed the presence of a female employee of the Jahra Residency Department with residence permits of seven men registered in her name, despite not owning a home. Even if she met the conditions, she would have been granted only a driver and a servant.

It was also discovered that another female employee registered in her name five drivers, even though she is married to a citizen and is not allowed to issue work visas under her own name.

The committee concluded that there are extensions granted to the visit visas of expatriates of various nationalities, as well as to commercial visit visas that exceed the validity. Also, they discovered that a Gulf citizen registered in his name seven Bangladeshi expatriates, and their fees have not been collected.

The sources affirmed that the committee submitted its report to the First Deputy Prime Minister to refer 20 employees, including officers of various ranks, in the Jahra Residency Department to the investigation authorities, after all the illegally completed transactions were documented, and violations committed by male and female employees were documented by increasing the number of migrant workers registered under their names.

Other Voices

The farce of translating 'medicine' into 'Arabic'

By Ahmad alsarraf

In July 2001, I wrote an article entitled "Al-Tanfah Medical Center, related to the "Center for Arabization of Medical Sciences," which emanates from the Council of Health Ministers of 1980.

In 2001, I wrote an article titled, "Center for personal benefits pointing to the Arab Center for Authorship and Translation of Health Sciences (ACMILS) located in Kuwait, established in 1980 and emergent from the Council of Arab Health Ministers.

The aim of ACMILS was to publish the references of medical sciences in Arabic and issue a regular magazine with almost no readers. I mentioned in that article that translation of medicine is not important at all considering the fact that medicine is the richest, most developing and most progressing science.

Moreover, the physician who does not know English will fail to come up with the up-to-date development of medicine. Later on, I wrote another article on the same issue after I had received a reply from one of the beneficiaries of ACMILS who, in a humble way, accused me of rejecting translation in general.

His accusation was totally wrong as large part of sciences is already translated into Arabic and no one objected.

The issue is that translating health sciences is another different story. In 2005, I wrote a third article on the issue where I handled the topic addressed earlier by my colleague Dr Naji Al Zaid about a new component of blood found by a Canadian doctor who named it (chylomicron).

Dr Al Zaid said he did not know the name of that substance in Arabic. For

my part, I call upon ACMILS to find an Arabic name for it. I wrote a fourth article in February 2009 on the scandal of the issuance of a dictionary prepared by large number of beneficiary translators which included tens of thousands of medical terms translated from English into Arabic titled "Illustrated Dictionary for Medical and Health Sciences" under the supervision of late Dr Abdulrahman Al Awadi and his friend who has nothing to do with medicine. A Kuwaiti doctor described this as a treasure of useless information.

Surfing the dictionary, we see English words have been translated into their matching words in Arabic like ability, tube, Abdullatif. Other words like abrin were translated into the same pronunciation in Arabic letters. A term like abdomen was translated as belly, with illustration defining it by the area located between the chest and pelvic. Is there any doctor who needs to know where the abdomen is located?

The editors of the dictionary chose unfamiliar Arabic words to describe English terms. The problem is that the Arabic words they used need to be explained to the native Arabic speakers.

The reason behind writing about that issue after 43 years of the establishment of ACMILS is the story published by Al Rai daily showing the intention of some people to revive the center again after it faded away by the death of the beneficiaries. If the information is true, it is part of triviality and waste of time. Translating sciences to our national language is needed but translating medical and health sciences is wasting of time, money and efforts.

I wondered when some of the supporters of reviving ACMILS said translating health and medical sciences into Arabic represents the future of research and medicine in the Arab world.

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Dr Ahmad Al-Shatti inaugurating the new ambulance center.

More in pipeline: Dr Al-Shatti

New ambulance center inaugurated

KUWAIT CITY, May 29: Within the series of openings to enhance the services of the ambulance centers at the Ministry of Health, the ministry inaugurated West Abdullah Mubarak Ambulance Center A in the presence of the Director of the Medical Emergency Department Dr. Ahmad Al-Shatti, Head of the health center Dr. Sheikh Al-Kandari, and the commander of the Farwaniya ambulance centers Khaled Al-Khabbaz, in addition to supervisors and paramedics from various areas of Kuwait and the emergency crew, reports Al-Qabas daily.

Director of the Medical Emergency Department Dr. Ahmad Al-Shatti explained that the center consists of two floors. The

first floor has a parking area for five ambulances and space for their services in terms of equipment, consumables and sterilization. The second consists of reception areas for communications, offices and rest areas.

The center will operate round the clock in three shifts. It will develop progressively with the population density in the area to accommodate the population of 42,000 housing units. It is responsible for responding to communications in the vicinity of plot 1 to plot 6, and covering Road 6.5 through Abdullah Mubarak Bridge and south of Abdullah Mubarak towards Dajej, and covering the Seventh Road from Route 6.5 towards Al Dhafer, and after Route 6.5 to under Kabd Bridge towards Jahra.

diwaniya دىوانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

'Will 2023 parliament see co-op between 2 authorities?'

"DURING the current period, the National Assembly has been turned into a battleground to fight a proxy war between heavyweights of the Kuwaiti political arena, and I believe that the government has lost the compass in how to work in light of this climate of political tensions, as there is no government in the world that can work without obtaining a comfortable majority in Parliament or at least several different parliamentary blocs that are not linked in order to be able to work through bargaining and creating stability," columnist **Fahd Al-Azmi** wrote for *Al-Jarida* daily.

"The strange thing about the scene is that the government of His Highness Sheikh Ahmed Al-Nawaf, after it was formed after the 2022 parliamentary election did not attend any of the Assembly sessions, although the draft laws that were on the agenda could be discussed and an understanding could be reached about what could be accepted, and it could be returned to the committees for amendment, in order to finally reach the correct consensual formula for its approval.

"On the other hand, we saw that the government did not cooperate with a single parliamentary bloc in the parliament similar to the previous councils. The government of His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled chose to cooperate with a parliamentary bloc that did not obtain a majority in the parliament, and the conflict between the blocs ended up affecting his government for the greater part of the parliament.

"The attack, until the scene ended with the dissolution of the Council of 2020. I believe that His Highness Sheikh Ahmed Al-Nawaf chose neutrality in forming blocs and cooperating with them, and this cast some ambiguity on the parliamentary scene and opened the door to speculation and attack from several parties due to the lack of clarity in the government's direction, and here a question arises: 'Is the future cooperation between the two authorities may be achieved in the Council of 2023?'

"I tend to say a big 'NO', for several reasons, as many of the issues of concern to the Kuwaiti people have not been responded to or clear solutions have been presented to them, except for the strategic alternative with regard to adjusting the salaries of citizens, while many important and urgent issues have not developed specific programs to end these files, with the statements of many of the candidates for the National Assembly are dominated by the nature of lurking and clashing, and not extending a hand of cooperation or activating its supervisory and legislative role, which indicates that the clash is coming, and perhaps in a stronger form, and in light of the great changes within the political scene in Kuwait.

"There are indications of cooperation between parliamentary blocs that were previously different with each other, and the attraction of many personalities and entities to be supportive of them in the next stage. And he weighed the responsibility placed on him to try to pass his work program and his government's plan in the next stage."

Also:

"Whatever the results of the elections, and no matter how negative the intentions of those entering Parliament from among the candidates, the government should not bat an eyelid, for the simple reason that the government has not yet been accused of any suspicion of corruption, not to mention that it is engaged in uprooting the causes of corruption and uprooting its pillars from officials at all levels relentlessly," columnist **Naji Al-Mulla** wrote for *Al-Jarida* daily.

"Yes, there are those who will riot, just a riot, and this does not mean harm, such as embarrassment by presenting populist demands, such as dropping loans in absolute terms, and preventing the state from what is imagined to be harming the citizen.

"Supporting it in legislating all that is required for reform, whether by enacting new laws or making amendments to existing laws, and in general the living forces of political blocs, civil society organizations, and groupings, all of which will help in strengthening the support of the government, and provide it with the necessary opinions, proposals, and projects, and at this time the waves of obstruction and riot efforts will be defeated and all campaigns of skepticism will be broken on this solid rock, and the efforts of the enemies of reform will return to their side.

"What the government has to do to create deterrence, defense and positive attack is to start from now on drawing up its work program in order to achieve Article (98) of the constitution in fruitful partnership with the living forces in society, including activists, in addition to bringing in expert companies with an internationally known reputation to carry out the projects and plans.

"This includes successful projects to plant their projects and experiences on the ground after drawing them in the work program accurately in terms of quantitative and temporary criteria; for rapid implementation, confirmation of credibility among the Kuwaiti people, and proving the seriousness of international companies and governments that will implement mega projects such as China, Japan, Turkey, and Korea, funds must be provided, and this is difficult in light of the structural imbalance in the budget, and in light of the rentier state's philosophy, and the encroachment and even swelling of the public sector.

"It is terrible, and in light of the survival of the private sector in its parasitic situation, which does not create or provide jobs for Kuwaiti workers, does not pay taxes, and benefits from subsidies and state property in an unfair and useless manner.

"If the state's lands, whether industrial, vocational or service, were re-priced, the state's revenue might reach a few billion, as mentioned by former National Assembly member Abdullah Al-Mudhaf."

□ □ □

"Sometimes, questions seem silly and it could be the opinion of many..." columnist **Dr Waleed Al-Taneib** wrote for *Al-Rai* daily.

"Among these questions are: What if we leave the selection of parliamentarians to the government, meaning the government will choose all members of Parliament? Will there be harmony with the work of the Parliament? Will the wheel of development rotate at full speed? Will everyone who embezzled public money be brought to trial? Who holds the forged certificate of justice?"

"Will the level of education and freedoms in the country rise? Will the country witness an economic renaissance? Will sports return to its former glory? Will the country return as a beacon of art? Will...?"

"The questions are many and varied, but we will come to the most embarrassing question: If we leave the selection of the Parliament members to the government without any interference, will the government commit to attending parliamentary sessions, or will it attend whenever it wishes, taking advantage of the custom that parliamentary sessions do not convene in its absence?!"

"We really need a clear legal solution that allows holding parliamentary sessions even if the government is absent, otherwise, the situation remains as it is and the aggrieved party has to resort to the courts..."

□ □ □

"Scientific clubs convey an educational message on achieving comprehensive personal development. They are considered a beacon that guides young people to active and positive participation in social, scientific and practical activities," columnist **Dr Abdulaziz Al-Ahmad** wrote for *Al-Anba* daily.

"Undoubtedly, intellectual hunger is the extreme form of hunger, because it continuously devours the appetizing material produced by the intellectual kitchen. Without a doubt, our present generation needs to increase their scientific and knowledge as a hearty meal from the basic meals they eagerly accept to kill free time with productive and useful work to achieve even a part of the subjectivity they have been searching for a long time. These young people can then implement their scientific innovations in an atmosphere of seriousness and trust.

"We must know that scientific clubs have a sacred message on their capability to hone the multiple talents of young people and provide them with the opportunity to live in a sound scientific climate. This is a fact that we must recognize. Proper scientific planning is one of the most difficult educational plans that are characterized by sensitivity, especially since it requires experts in scientific programs at a high technical level to produce well-thought-out scientific plans that start with the ideas of young people, and make them soar into the sky of science and knowledge.

"We, as leaders, must provide all the capabilities and advanced equipment that young people need to push them into the future with steps full of confidence and hope for the technological construction of Kuwait — past, present and future."

□ □ □

"Without a doubt, people's discussions today focus on the National Assembly election, their candidates, expectations and chances of winning for candidates. Will there be a large turnout on polling day? Will the output this time be different from the previous ones? Will the circumstances and the accompanying push and pull and difference in viewpoints affect the results in general? Do people have the ability to change for the better?" columnist **Zaben Al-Bzal** wrote for *Al-Anba* daily.

"There are many questions, which are legitimate if they are within the limits of reason, logic, etiquette of dialogue and the way people respect each other. Elections should not divide us.

"Rather, we must unite for public interest, not take sides with one party against another, and not erupt into antagonism for the sake of people and ideas that we are not accustomed to. We are known for solidarity and interdependence in times of adversity and difficulties. The evidence is many and known to everyone. We are not going to mention them today.

"The homeland calls and asks us for help by choosing strong and competent people in order to advance our country, stand up to the corrupt, and fix the imbalance that resulted from negligence and brought us to this situation that everyone complains about.

"We will remain helpless, bound and inactive in our society and in our homeland, which has given us so much. The day has come to return its favors by going out on polling day to choose who represents us. We must choose public interest and not pay attention to personal interests that do not build a homeland. Personal interests make the homeland backward, stumble and worsens the situation."

— Compiled by Mai Elsoukary



Some of the participants in the summer club.

KUNA photo

Summer programs for youth

Kuwait Anti-Corruption Authority (NAZAHA) launched on Monday its fifth summer club under the slogan (Youth for Integrity, Partnership and Learning).

The club, held at the authority's head-

quarter, will present a number of activities and cultural programs, in cooperation with Kuwait Transparency Society, aims for highlighting the national role in fighting corruption and emphasizes Integrity. (KUNA)



The seized items.

Bedoun exacts revenge from officer

Salmiya, Hawally raids net 24

KUWAIT CITY, May 29: The Residence Investigation, Public Security and Rescue Police have arrested 24 violators of residence and labor laws during a security check in Salmiya and Hawally, reports *Al-Rai* daily.

The daily added, 21 violators of different nationalities were seized from Salmiya, and three street vendors were picked up from Hawally. They were caught for selling vegetables and electronic devices in front of a mosque.

In another incident the daily said, the security authorities also seized narcotics and alcohol in the Sabah Al-Ahmad Sea City and Port Abdullah area and referred the suspects to the concerned authorities.

Meanwhile, the General Directorate of Rescue Police (Southern Roads Security Department) seized two persons in possession of 18 bottles of alcohol, and they and the seized items were referred to the competent authorities.

□ □ □

Officer's car set alight: Personnel from

the Taima Investigation Department have arrested a Bedoun, who is believed to be in his 40s, for deliberately setting fire to the vehicle of an officer with the rank of captain in one of the regions of Jahra, reports *Al-Rai* daily.

A security source said after a report was received by the Public Relations and Media Department of the Directorate-General of Fire Department (DGFD) firemen rushed to the area and put out the fire.

The vehicle belonged to the officer in the General Administration for Drug Control and after the CCTV cameras where checked from the neighboring houses, a footage showed a masked man creeping up to the vehicle and setting fire to it.

The officer, after conducting investigations zeroed on the accused he was arrested and during interrogation he confessed to committing the crime.

The suspect was earlier arrested and referred for prosecution in a drugs case and this was purely a case of revenge according to sources.

Details on Al-Rashidi's murder

Body found in friend's container in Salmi desert

KUWAIT CITY, May 29: After a long search operation lasting 74 days, officers from the Criminal Security Sector found the body of the missing citizen Mubarak Al-Rashidi in Salmi desert area. The funeral was held on Saturday at the Sulaibikhat cemetery amid a big crowd and official presence, led by the First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Acting Minister of Defense Sheikh Talal Al-Khaled and a number of security leaders, reports *Al-Rai* daily.

On Friday evening, the Ministry of Interior had announced that Al-Rashidi's body had been found after carrying out forensic evidence analyses on the body that was discovered on Thursday inside a "container" in Salmi desert area.

The ministry has started taking necessary measures to refer investigations and information to the concerned authorities.

According to security sources, there were suspicions from the beginning about his friend who was detained in the Central Prison, as he was with Al-Rashidi on the day he went missing in Kabd area.

Minister Talal Al-Khalid, who was following the details of the case, formed a special committee to follow up the progress of the investigations in order to solve the mystery behind the disappearance. Investigations, which involved tracking of movement through communication towers and analyzing the phone calls made by the accused, revealed that he was in contact with a number in the same campsite that he used to frequent with Al-Rashidi in Kabd area. When inquiring about the owner of the number, it was discovered to belong to an Egyptian expatriate who left the country on the second day of Al-Rashidi's disappearance.

Prosecution

The Public Prosecution, which is following up the investigations, received the investigation report, and worked to coordinate with the concerned Egyptian authorities, informing them about suspicions of the Egyptian expatriate's involvement in Al-Rashidi's disappearance. A visit was arranged for a delegation from the Public Prosecution to Egypt to follow up the progress of the investigation.

When interrogated, the Egyptian admitted that he witnessed Mubarak's friend hitting Mubarak with an iron pipe in a camp in Kabd area, after which he took Mubarak in his car, and then returned alone about two hours later. He then asked him to dismantle and burn the tent where the incident took place, and then leave Kuwait.

The Egyptian expatriate said he had no knowledge of the location of Al-Rashidi's body or the presence of a container in Salmi area belonging to the accused.

The sources said a document of sale of the container and solar energy equipment found with the suspect was the tip of the thread that led to the place where the body was hidden.

They explained that the investigations intensified after finding the document, which was found to date back to a few days before Al-Rashidi's disappearance.

The seller was found and interrogated. He reported that he sold the container to the accused, who also asked him for a room with a door, a lock, and lighting that works on solar energy. He took him to Salmi desert area days before Al-Rashidi disappeared.

As a result of the investigations, the location of a livestock pen in Salmi area was found and the container with Mubarak Al-Rashidi's body wrapped in a carpet was found inside. Next to the body were plastic handcuffs and a chain. All evidence was picked up by the forensic evidence team.

In a statement, the Ministry of Interior affirmed that it spares no effort in preserving security and safety and exposing anyone who finds himself being tempted to tamper with the security and safety of the country and the people.

It explained that a wide search campaign for the missing citizen was launched in the middle of last month, from the first moment of the arrival of the missing report, as well as investigations to uncover the circumstances surrounding his disappearance.

Hundreds of security officers, dozens of patrol and search teams participated in the campaign, including officers from the general departments of Criminal Evidence, Investigation, Public Security, Traffic, Helicopter Aviation, the Central Operations and Research Department and many volunteers.

'Drug dealers will face law'

Sheikh Talal offers condolences

KUWAIT CITY, May 29: The First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Interior and Acting Minister of Defense Sheikh Talal Al-Khalid offered condolences to the family of the late citizen Mubarak Al-Rashidi, whose funeral took place on Saturday, and said, "Mubarak's blood is in safe hands," reports *Al-Qabas* daily.

Sheikh Talal Al-Khalid told the father of the victim Mubarak Al-Rashidi, "My sincere condolences to you. May Allah reward you. We are all your children," referring to Kuwait, the country of law and justice where the law applies to everyone, and the perpetrators will be punished.

He added, "We will neither abandon the people of Kuwait, nor will we leave them".

Sheikh Talal Al-Khalid affirmed that drug dealers will be besieged and will not escape punishment.

He called on Allah for help in eradicating this scourge in order to preserve the youth of Kuwait.

Sheikh Talal Al-Khalid said, "Kuwait's youth are our precious wealth, and we will not hesitate to protect them. We have officers in the Ministry of Interior who deal firmly to protect Kuwait and our youth from the scourge of drugs.

So as not to complicate matters, the late Mubarak Al-Rashidi has nothing to do with the drug issue that we are talking about, but we are talking in general about this deadly scourge."

He called on the people of Kuwait to cooperate in combating this negative phenomenon, stressing that every citizen is a sentinel.



Al-Rashidi

Sheikh Talal Al-Khalid asked Allah to shower the deceased with his mercy and bless his family and relatives with patience and solace.

It is worth highlighting that on Saturday, lawyer Nasser Al-Ajmi, who is the lawyer of the family of Mubarak Al-

Rashidi, had announced the funeral of the deceased after the Asr prayer at the Sulaibikhat cemetery.

In a post on his personal Twitter account, he said the forensic evidence report is ready, all procedures have been completed, and the burial permit is ready.

On Friday, the Ministry of Interior announced in a statement, "Based on instructions from the First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Interior and Acting Minister of Defense Sheikh Talal Al-Khalid to continue the search and investigations to find the missing Mubarak Al-Rashidi, the officers of the Criminal Security Sector, represented by the General Directorate of Criminal Investigation, managed to find his body in Salmi area after a great effort by the security services."



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Al-Zour Refinery a 'cornerstone' of KPC's 2040 strategy: ministry

Kuwait's exports of high-quality oil derivatives being enhanced

KUWAIT CITY, May 29, (KUNA): The Ministry of Oil said Monday, that the Al-Zour refinery is one of the largest projects in the oil sector and a fundamental pillar of the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation's strategy for the year 2040, given the major and pivotal role assigned to it in shaping the future of the oil industry in the country.

The Director of Public Relations and Information at the Ministry of Oil, Sheikha Tamader Khaled Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, explained in a panel discussion organized by the ministry on Al-Zour Refinery that the refinery enhances Kuwait's exports of high-quality oil derivatives that conform to international standards.

Guarantees

Sheikha Tamader Al-Sabah added that the Al-Zour refinery guarantees safe and stable supplies of clean fuel supplies to power plants in Kuwait, explaining that with the completion of the construction of the refinery, it will make it one of the largest refineries in the world, with a refining capacity of 615 thousand barrels per day. She stated that the refinery has high flexibility because it is designed to process different types of Kuwaiti crude oil, praising the exceptional role played by national expertise and Kuwaiti youth in the construction of Al-Zour refinery. She stressed that the Al-Zour



Group photo of the panel discussion participants

KUNA photo

refinery represents a major driver for the growth of the oil sector and the Kuwaiti economy as a whole, as well as maximizing the state's oil revenues, and a major energy supplier in Kuwait and global markets.

For his part, Head of the Planning Team in the Comprehensive Planning Group at Kuwait Integrated Petroleum Industries Company (KIPIC), Abdullah Al-Kandari, said that the main objectives of the Al-Zour refinery project focus on achieving local energy self-sufficiency and reducing sulfur oxides emissions from power stations.

Al-Kandari added that the project also aims to enhance the ability to refine Kuwait's heavy oil and produce high-quality petroleum products that meet the standards required in the global market, as well as create new job opportunities for national workers. He stated that the most important

characteristic of the Al-Zour refinery is that it is the largest refinery in the world in terms of the capacity that is constructed in one stage quality with very low sulfur content.

Support

Regarding what has been achieved in the refinery project, he stated that some petroleum products were imported from the Kuwait National Petroleum Company to contribute to speeding up the initial operation, with full support from the Petroleum Corporation.

It also carried out the trial operation of the first crude oil distillation unit, which started on May 11.

Al-Kandari added that this unit has refined 2.5 million barrels of crude oil, thus securing an important and main stock of oil derivatives that contributed to the smooth operation of the rest of the units.

For her part, Rawa Bouftin, senior planning engineer at the Comprehensive Planning Group in Quebec, said that the products of Al-Zour refinery currently reach 18 countries around the world through 68 oil shipments.

Bouftin stressed the importance of the human element as the key to excellence and one of the pillars of the oil industry and its renaissance in the State of Kuwait, and one of the most important pillars of the KPC strategy for the year 2040, which is based on building Kuwaiti human cadres, qualifying them with high skills, raising their efficiency and providing them with the opportunity for creativity and development.

She pointed out that Al-Zour Refinery provided many job opportunities for national cadres, as the percentage of Kuwaitisation, according to the plans and policies adopted by the company, reached 95 percent.

HH Crown Prince, PM send greetings

HH Amir congratulates Nepal on National Day

KUWAIT CITY, May 29, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent on Monday a cable of congratulations to the President of Nepal Ram Chandra Poudel on his country's National Day.

His Highness the Amir wished Poudel lasting good health and his country more progress and prosperity. Meanwhile, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-

Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent on Monday a cable of congratulations to President Ram Chandra Poudel on his country's National Day.

His Highness the Crown Prince wished Poudel lasting good health.

In the meantime, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah also sent a cable of congratulations to President Poudel on his country's National Day.

Written message handed over

Deputy FM meets Czech ambassador

KUWAIT CITY, May 29, (KUNA): Kuwait's Deputy Foreign Minister, Ambassador Mansour Al-Otaibi, met on Monday with Czech Ambassador Jaroslav Siro.

During the meeting, Ambassador Siro handed a written message addressed to Kuwait's Foreign

Minister Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al-Sabah from his Czech counterpart Jan Lipavsky on the occasion of the two countries 60th anniversary of establishing diplomatic relations as well as discussing issues of common interest and enhancing bilateral relations.



Kuwait's Deputy FM meets Ambassador Siro.

KUNA photo

Minister gives approval to list of conditions to occupy higher posts

KUWAIT CITY, May 29: Minister of State for Municipal Affairs and Minister of State for Communications Affairs Fahd Al-Shoula, has reportedly approved a list of conditions for those who occupy supervisory positions at the Ministry of Communications, says spokesman for the Ministry Dr. Ahmed Al-Husseini, reports Al-Qabas daily.

Al-Husseini said this decision comes within a series of reform decisions taken by Minister Al-Shoula since assuming the portfolio in his belief that developing work and correcting the path can only come through placing the right person in the right place, while at the same time stressing on the need to support competent citizens to assume supervisory positions to enhance the role of expertise within the ministry in the future.

Al-Shoula has stressed on the need to advertise all vacancies and given a sufficient time, using all available means, which guarantees equal opportunities for all in accordance with the conditions of its occupation, said Dr Al-Husseini.

Labor subsidy: First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Interior and acting Minister of Defense Sheikh Talal Al-Khaled has asked the Council of Ministers to amend Resolution Number 391 of 2001 in order to disburse the national labor subsidy for owners of independent and small enterprises specified by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry;

PAAET new services launched on 'Sahel'

KUWAIT CITY, May 29: The spokesperson for the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training, Siham Al-Enezi, announced the activation of 3 new services, through the unified government application for electronic services "Sahel", for the comprehensive mechanization of all work procedures, reports Al-Jarida daily.

Al-Enezi stated that the new automated services which include "submitting a request for a true copy of the certificate for graduates of colleges (basic education, commercial studies, health sciences, technological studies, and nursing, is a qualitative, successful and smooth shift towards safe electronic environment."

She added the services also include "submitting a request for a duplicate certificate for graduates of the Higher Institute for Communications and Navigation, Nursing, the Industrial Institutes in Sabah Al-Salem and Shuwaikh, the Higher Institute for Energy, Vocational Training, Construction Training, and the Higher Institute for Administrative Services."

provided that the owners are 21 years old and above, reports Al-Jarida daily.

Economic recovery

Continued from Page 1

term if parliament - where his ruling party and allies hold a majority - calls early elections. The number of terms was a point of contention ahead of the elections when critics argued Erdogan would be ineligible to run again since he had also held the office before the system change but he pointed to the constitutional amendments that brought in the executive presidency as justification.

The first half of Erdogan's tenure included reforms allowing the country to begin talks to join the European Union, as well as economic growth that lifted many out of poverty.

But he later moved to suppress freedoms and the media and concentrated more power in his own hands, especially after a failed coup attempt that Turkey says was orchestrated by the U.S.-based Islamic cleric Fethullah Gulen. The cleric denies involvement.

KUWAIT CITY: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent Sunday a cable to Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan to congratulate him on re-election and wining of a third term in office.

His Highness the Amir wished Erdogan success and everlasting well-being as well as further development and prosperity to the two friendly countries.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah also sent Sunday a cable to Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan to congratulate him on re-election and wining of a third term in office.

His Highness the Crown Prince wished President Erdogan success and

everlasting well-being.

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah sent a similar cable to Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan to congratulate him on re-election and wining of a third term in office.

Iran 'warms'

Continued from Page 1

It supported the 1979 Islamic Revolution, but soon had a falling out with Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini and turned against the cleric. It carried out a series of assassinations and bombings targeting the young Islamic Republic.

The MEK later fled into Iraq and backed dictator Saddam Hussein during his bloody eight-year war against Iran in the 1980s. That saw many oppose the group in Iran. Although largely based in Albania, the group claims to operate a network inside Iran.

In other news, Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei held talks on Monday with the visiting Sultan of Oman Haitham bin Tariq Al-Said, as the latter embarks on his first visit to the Islamic Republic since taking the throne.

Looking forward to more progress in relations within the Islamic world, Iran's supreme leader told the Omani ruler that bilateral relations are "deep-rooted and exemplary," while closer ties would bode well for both nations, state television reported.

Underlining Muscat's desire to reach out to regional neighbors, Oman's Sultan agreed that ties with Tehran are on an upward trajectory, pointing out that the talks covered varied topics.

The Omani Sultan arrived in Tehran a day earlier for a two-day visit.

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LOCAL

System to receive complaints, suggestions

Jaber Cultural Center starts Tawasul electronic platform

KUWAIT CITY, May 29: The Jaber Cultural Center will inaugurate on May 30, the electronic platform to receive complaints from citizens and residents, reports Al-Rai daily.

The government has invited senior officials from government institutions, including undersecretaries, assistant undersecretaries, information systems officials and personnel from the citizen service departments, to attend the workshop, which comes in the context of accelerating the launch of the "Tawasul" platform which specializes

in receiving complaints and suggestions from citizens and residents, says the daily.

Informed sources told the daily the views of ministries and government institutions were taken into consideration regarding the platform to be launched, and it was confirmed that it comes within the framework of the directives of the Prime Minister. His Highness Sheikh Ahmed Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, as an integrated presentation was prepared that won the approval of the Council of Ministers about 3 weeks ago.



The Minister of Information honors the participants in the forum.



Minister of Information Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi delivers a speech during the opening ceremony.



Participants in the session.

KUNA photos

TGS presents Ambassador of India

KUWAIT CITY, May 29: This Thursday, The Guest Show (TGS) on Radio Kuwait is honoured to present Dr Adarsh Swaika, Ambassador of India.

Dr Swaika is a career diplomat who joined the foreign service in 2002. He has a PhD in Chemistry from Delhi University. His overseas postings include Russia, Bulgaria, China and Bangladesh.

Before his posting in Kuwait, the ambassador was Joint Secretary (Eurasia) responsible for bilateral relations with Russia, Ukraine, Central Asia and the Caucasian region. Kuwait is Ambassador Swaika's first posting in the Mid-

East. Not only is he looking forward to learning more about the complexities of the region, but he is eager to strengthen and improve bilateral ties and mutual cooperation between Kuwait and its traditional ally, India. For this, he has been engaged in constant and proactive dialogue with various stakeholders and interlocutors since his arrival.

In this episode of The Guest Show, he speaks to Chaitali B. Roy about his journey as a diplomat, shares his experiences of different cultures and the legacy of shared cooperation and collaboration between India and Kuwait that he is determined to build on.



The Guest Show poster.

Shipments of personal nature exempted from referral to PAI

KUWAIT CITY, May 29: The Director General of the General Administration of Customs, Sami Al-Kandari, has issued a decision according to which shipments of a personal nature will be exempted from being referred to the Public Authority for Industry, reports Al-Rai daily.

These goods, the sources told the

daily are classified as non-commercial shipments. The decision pointed out that this step comes based on the directives of the Prime Minister's Office to the ministers, each in his field, which includes the necessity of facilitating and accelerating the procedures of the General Administration of Customs to clear goods of personal nature imported from abroad.

Kuwait-hosted gathering shines light on Arab media resurgence

Al-Mutairi calls for enhancing constructive cooperation

KUWAIT CITY, May 29, (KUNA): A gathering of Arab journalists and media experts assembled in Kuwait on Sunday to discuss a recent upsurge in the industry, sponsored by His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

The two day talks focused on more "transparency and accuracy" on the part of media bodies in a bid to avoid providing readers with fallible information, in light of the emergence of "virtual media," Ziad Makary told the Arab Media Forum.

Relying on "reputable sources" to convey daily news to the public is now imperative at a time where many media bodies fall into the pitfall of employing untrusted sources, according to the Bahraini King's special advisor Nabil Al-Hamr.

Media resurgence

Describing "liberty" in the profession as the starting point for a media resurgence, Saudi Arabia-based Al-Jazeera newspaper's chief editor Khaled Al-Malek emphasized the need to push forward a digital drive in the current age of social media.

Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi inaugurated Sunday the 18th edition of the Kuwait-hosted Arab Media Forum.

During the inauguration, the minister conveyed greetings of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, the forum's sponsor.

Al-Mutairi referred to challenges facing the Arab media and called for enhancing constructive cooperation between Arab countries to overcome them.

KUNA, ANSA renew media co-op deal

KUNA photo
KUNA Director-General, Dr. Fatima Al-Salem and Italian Ambassador Carlo Balducci on sidelines of the signing.

KUWAIT CITY, May 29, (KUNA): Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) and Italian News Agency (ANSA) re-signed Monday the media cooperation agreement between the two sides.

KUNA Director-General, Dr. Fatima Al-Salem and ANSA Commissioner Director, Stefano D'Alessandri, signed the agreement via video conference, in the presence of the Kuwaiti Ambassador to Italy, Nasser Al-Qahtani, and the Italian Ambassador to Kuwait, Carlo Balducci.

For her part, Dr. Al-Salem praised the distinguished ties between Kuwait and Italy, stressing the joint keenness to strengthen them in various fields, including the media in all its aspects.

Dr. Al-Salem stressed KUNA's keenness to build a wide network of relations with ANSA and to anticipate an advanced future for the media sector and innovative means that advance it while preserving its mission, values and goals.

In turn, Ambassador Balducci affirmed that this agreement expresses the common desire to enhance understanding and mutual media cooperation, especially in the field of communication, information and exchange of journalistic and technical expertise between the two parties.

The two agencies signed their first cooperation agreements in 1994, and they were renewed in 2008 and 2015.

Meanwhile, the forum's secretary general Madhi al-Ghamis said the event discusses some modern issues like cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, media variables and others.



Group photo during the Investiture Ceremony at SIMS.

SIMS conducts investiture ceremony

KUWAIT CITY, May 29: 'Indeed the words of John Quincy Adams are so true, "If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more and become more, you are a leader."

The Salmiya Indian Model School, upholding the tradition, held its Investiture Day ceremony, Thursday, May 25, to recognize and celebrate the investiture of leaders in various roles within the institution, highlighting their commitment, responsibility, and dedication to their respective positions.

The ceremony featured an introductory speech by the event host, Ms. Jennifer Thomas, emphasizing the significance of the occasion, followed by recitation of the Holy Quran and singing of the Kuwait National Anthem.

The Chief Guest was Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al Sabah (the grandson of the owner of the school Dr. Sheikh Maymoonah Khalifa Al Sabah), the young and dynamic manager of the school, and other management members -- Ms. Mashaal Al Aqeel the assistant management supervisor and

senior counselor, Ahmed Ibrahim Dashti, staff members, and the parents of the leaders.

The Director and Principal of the school, Dr. Anis Ahmad, in his welcome address felicitated the new leaders for the 2023-2024 session. He emphasized on three important aspects -- Lead, Inspire and Succeed -- saying leading by example is the key to success for all the leaders.

The ceremony included -- a spellbinding "nasheed" glorifying the beauty of the school presented by the students of grades seventh and eighth, followed by the school choir who intoned a musical song for the same; students of grade eighth presented an enthralling dance on stage and students mimed a meaningful and eloquent message which conveyed the importance of discipline in our lives.

The investiture ceremony formed the centerpiece of the event, where students were officially recognized and invested with their respective roles and received their badges, flags and titles.

The Chief Guest also delivered a motivating keynote speech, felicitating the leaders; and emphasizing the significance of leadership and the responsibilities that come with it. He assured the Senate Members of all possible support in discharging their duties.

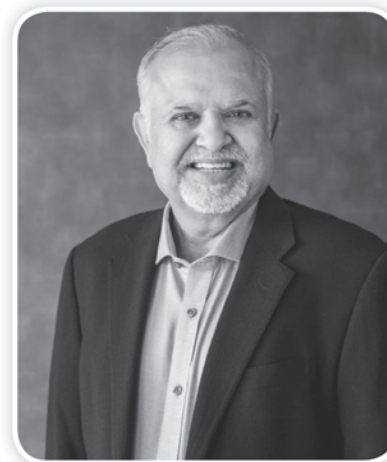
The auditorium echoed by a round of applause and congratulatory messages from attendees, signifying their support and appreciation for the newly invested leaders. The program ended with a vote of thanks by Ms. Sajitha Menon, the senior wing Vice Principal and officiating Primary Principal, followed by the singing of the Indian National Anthem.

The ceremony ended on a very good note when Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al Sabah personally interacted with the members of the students council in the library. During this interaction he answered many questions from enthusiastic members and reassured them of his support.



Photo from the Investiture Ceremony at SIMS.

Landmark Group Announces the Passing of Founder Chairman Mukesh "Micky" Jagtiani



The Landmark Group announced that its eminent Founder and Chairman, Mukesh "Micky" Jagtiani, has passed away peacefully, surrounded by his loving family.

Micky Jagtiani leaves behind a formidable legacy of a leading family-owned business conglomerate in the GCC region and beyond, that he founded and managed for several decades. Renowned for his exceptional leadership, unwavering customer-centric approach, and deep market understanding, his visionary spirit and strategic foresight helped the Landmark Group and its brands become a household name in the community. He will always be known for his inspiring leadership

and even more so, for his humility and genuine concern towards all the lives he touched.

From its humble beginnings with a single store in Bahrain in 1973, Micky Jagtiani was the driving force in shaping the conglomerate's extraordinary journey. His strategic acumen enabled the Landmark Group to emerge as the region's foremost retail and hospitality conglomerate, with over 2,200 stores in 21 countries across the Middle East and Africa, as well as the Indian Subcontinent, and Southeast Asia.

He is fondly remembered by his family -- his wife- Renuka, his children - Aarti & Savitar, Nisha & Kabir, and Rahul, his grandchildren Samar, Nikhil, Yohan and Aliya - and his beloved Landmark Group community. He leaves behind enduring friendships, partnerships, and bonds with the Group's senior management, the industry and wider community, whose lives he touched profoundly.

The Landmark Group remains committed to carrying forward his spirit and ensuring the continuing success of his ambitions and dreams.

	Change	Closing pts		Change	Closing pts
UAE - DFM	+0.06	3,543.62	SAUDI - Tadawul	-0.02	11,135.67
JAPAN - Nikkei	+1.03	31,233.54			
PAKISTAN - KSE 100	+0.85	41,350.25			
PHILIPPINES - PSEI	+0.96	6,593.16			
EGYPT - EGX 30	+0.47	17,211.84			

Business

Some on political right jeer deal

Debt ceiling agreement gets thumbs up from business groups

WASHINGTON, May 29, (AP): The reviews are starting to come in as details emerge about the debt ceiling agreement reached by President Joe Biden and House Speaker Kevin McCarthy.

Even before seeing those details, some lawmakers were criticizing the deal as not doing enough to tackle the nation's debt, while others worried it's too austere and will harm many low-income Americans.

The legislation will probably need support from a significant number of lawmakers from both parties to clear the closely divided House and gain the 60 votes necessary to advance in the Senate.

Many lawmakers said they were withholding judgment until they see the final details, many which did not come out until Sunday evening. That's when the 99-page bill that resulted from the Biden-McCarthy negotiations was made public.

A look at how the agreement is going over so far:

Early concerns

Some of the earliest objections are coming from the most conservative members of Congress, particularly members of the hardline House Freedom Caucus that often clashes with GOP leadership.

"I think it's a disaster!" tweeted Matt Rosendale, R-Mont. "Fake conservatives agree to fake spending cuts," tweeted Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky.

"This 'deal' is insanity," tweeted Rep. Ralph Norman, R-S.C. "A \$4T debt ceiling increase with virtually no cuts is not what we agreed to. Not gonna vote to bankrupt our country. The American people deserve better."

GOP leaders knew all along that they would lose some members' support in any compromise with a Democratic-led White House and Senate. The question has always been whether the deal would pick up enough Democratic support to offset those defections.

Democrats weigh in

As much as some Democrats dislike what is roughly a spending freeze on non-defense programs next year and chafe at work requirements being extended to

more food stamp recipients, initial reaction has been circumspect as they await more details.

Rep. Annie Kuster, D-N.H., and chair of a center-left group known as the New Dems, which has roughly 100 members, said the group is "confident" that White House negotiators delivered a "viable, bipartisan solution to end this crisis."

Sen. Chris Coons, D-DeI., said he believed it was the best deal that could be reached given the demands coming from House Republicans.

"To my colleagues who have serious misgivings about this deal, I say this is far better than defaulting," Coons said.

The likeliest opposition will come from the more liberal members of the caucus. Rep. Pramila Jayapal, D-Wash., has been voicing opposition to additional work requirements for some of those getting food and cash assistance. She called it terrible policy Sunday on CNN's "State of the Union."

But she said she is also waiting for legislative text to determine the level of exemptions to the work requirements that Biden was able to win for veterans, homeless people and people coming out of foster care.

"And so what do the numbers look like at the end of the day, I'm not sure," said Jayapal, chair of the Congressional Progressive Caucus. "However, it is bad policy. I told the president that directly, when he called me last week on Wednesday, that this is saying to poor people and people who are in need that we don't trust them."

Asked if the Democrats at the White House and in the congressional leadership have to worry about whether the progressive caucus will support the bill, Jayapal said: "Yes, they have to worry."

A provision that expedites the approval of the Mountain Valley Pipeline, a natural gas pipeline in West Virginia and Virginia, also adds to the consternation many Democrats will have about the bill. They had succeeded in keeping it out of prior bills, but Sen. Joe Manchin, D-W.V., and other members of the West Virginia delegation prevailed in getting it included in the debt limit bill. Environmental groups

were harshly criticizing its inclusion Sunday evening.

Business group backing

With the nation roughly a week away from the risk of a default that could roll the global economy, major business groups have been urging Washington to act quickly on a debt-ceiling increase.

The Business Roundtable, a group of more than 200 chief executive officers, called on Congress to pass the bill as soon as possible.

"In addition to raising the debt ceiling, this agreement takes steps toward putting the U.S. on a more sustainable fiscal trajectory," said the group's CEO, Joshua Bolten. "This deal also makes a down payment on permitting reform, helping to clear the path for new energy infrastructure projects."

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce also urged a yes vote and noted that the vote will be included when the group rates or "scorecards" members of Congress based on how they vote on business priorities.

Economists have been clear that the economy would be roiled with even a short-term breach in the nation's ability to fully pay its bills as interest rates would rise and financial markets swoon.

"The gravity of this moment cannot be overstated," said Suzanne Clark, the business group's president and CEO.

Watchdog groups approve

Some advocacy groups have long warned of the propensity of Congress to enact policy priorities without fully paying for them. Their concerns generally go unheeded. But some see the agreement as a step in the right direction.

The Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget noted that if the legislation passes, it would be the first major deficit-reducing budget agreement in almost a dozen years.

"The process was tense, risky and ugly, but in the end, we have a plan to enact savings and lift the debt ceiling, and that is what is needed," said Maya MacGuineas, the group's president.

Markets mostly 'higher' after Biden-McCarthy deal on debt

US markets closed for Memorial Day holiday

NEW YORK, May 29, (AP): World shares were mostly higher Monday after President Joe Biden and House Speaker Kevin McCarthy reached a final agreement on a deal to raise the U.S. national debt ceiling, though the measure requires approval by Congress.

Paris, Frankfurt, Tokyo, Sydney and Shanghai advanced while Hong Kong fell. Markets in London and Seoul were closed for a holiday and U.S. markets were closed Monday for Memorial Day.

The agreement on the U.S. debt eased what had been a potentially huge threat to markets worldwide. Biden and McCarthy worked over the weekend to try to ensure enough support in Congress to pass the measure before a June 5 deadline and avert a disruptive federal default.

"Markets are so far reacting cautiously. Buoyed, but cautious," Clifford Bennett, chief economist at ACY Securities, said in a commentary.

"This agreement merely rolls the issue to potentially more politically friendly times post the Presidential election in two years. Nothing is certain in this regard, and it is possible resolution will be even more difficult than, than it has been on this occasion," Bennett said.

Higher

Germany's DAX rose 0.2% to 16,010.98 and the CAC40 in Paris edged 0.1% higher. The futures for the Dow Jones Industrial Average and the S&P 500 were 0.3% higher.

In Asian trading, Tokyo's Nikkei 225 index jumped about 2% early on but closed 1% higher, at 31,233.54. The S&P/ASX 200 in Sydney jumped 0.9% to 7,217.40. The Shanghai Composite index added 0.3% to 3,221.45.

In Hong Kong, the Hang Seng slipped 1% to 18,551.11.

Taiwan's benchmark gained 0.8% while India's added 0.5%.

Investors have another busy week of U.S. economic updates ahead, including data on consumer confidence and employment.

On Friday, technology stocks powered solid gains for Wall Street. Chipmaker Marvell Technology surged a record-setting 32.4% after the chipmaker said it expects AI revenue in fiscal 2024 to at least double from the prior year. On Thursday, fellow chipmaker Nvidia soared when it forecast huge upcoming sales related to AI.

The S&P 500 rose 1.3% and the Dow industrials gained 1%. The tech-heavy Nasdaq notched the biggest gains, surging 2.2%. The index rose 2.5% for the week.

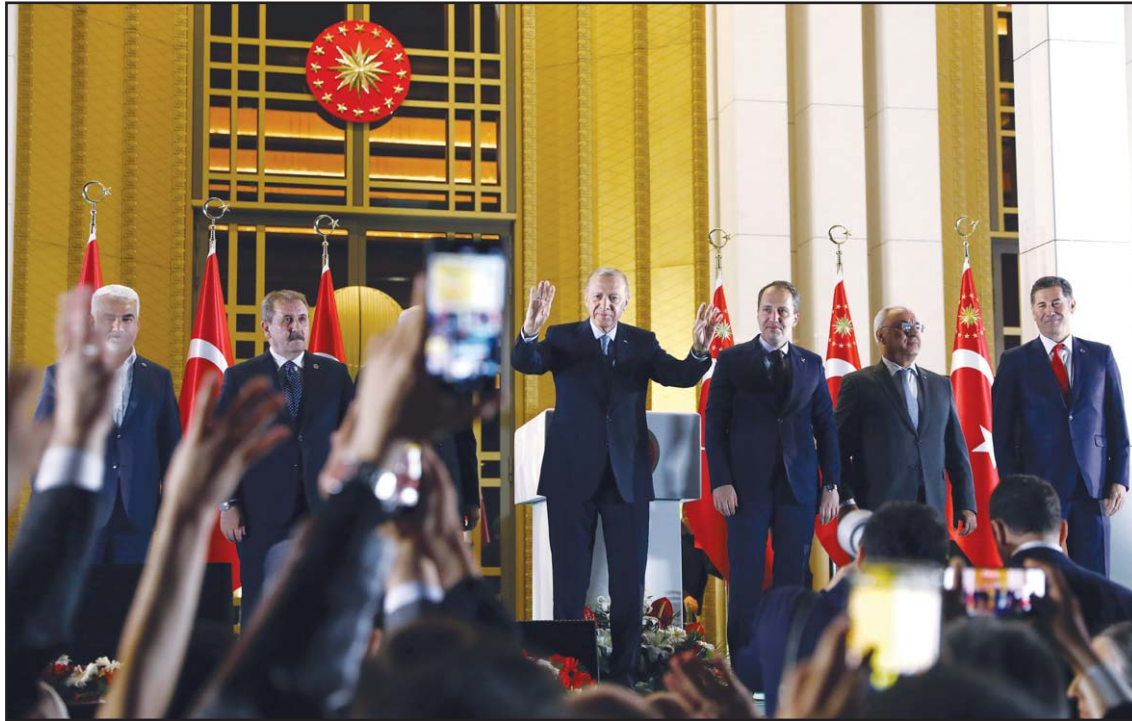
The revolutionary AI field has become a hot issue. Critics warn that it is a potential bubble, but supporters say it could be the latest revolution to reshape the global economy. The nation's financial watchdog, the Consumer Finance Protection Bureau, said it's working to ensure that companies follow the law when they're using AI.

Wall Street and the broader economy already had a full roster of concerns before the threat of the U.S. defaulting on its debt became sharply highlighted on the list.

A key measure of inflation that is closely watched by the Federal Reserve ticked higher than economists expected in April.

The persistent pressure from inflation complicates the Fed's fight against high prices. The central bank has been

Erdogan retains power, now faces challenges over the economy and 'earthquake recovery'



Turkish President and People's Alliance's presidential candidate Recep Tayyip Erdogan, (center), gestures to supporters at the presidential palace, in Ankara, Turkey, Sunday, May 28, 2023. Erdogan won re-election Sunday, extending his increasingly authoritarian rule into a third decade as the country reels from high inflation and the aftermath of an earthquake that leveled entire cities. (AP)

World leaders send in their congratulations

ANKARA, Turkey, May 29, (AP): Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has a mandate to rule until 2028, securing five more years as leader of a country at the crossroads of Europe and Asia that plays a key role in NATO. He must now confront skyrocketing inflation that has fueled a cost-of-living crisis and rebuild in the aftermath of a devastating earthquake that killed more than 50,000 people.

Erdogan secured more than 52% of the vote in Sunday's presidential runoff, two weeks after he fell short of scoring an outright victory in the first round. His opponent, Kemal Kilicdaroglu, had sought to reverse Erdogan's increasingly authoritarian leanings, promising to return to democratic norms, adopt more conventional economic policies and improve ties with the West. But in the end, voters chose the man they see as a strong, proven leader.

Erdogan thanked the nation for entrusting him with the presidency again in two speeches he delivered in Istanbul and Ankara.

"The only winner today is Turkey," Erdogan said outside the presidential palace in Ankara, promising to work hard for Turkey's second century, which he called the "Turkish century."

The country marks its centennial this year. Kilicdaroglu said the election was "the most unjust ever," with all state resources mobilized for Erdogan.

"We will continue to be at the fore-

front of this struggle until real democracy comes to our country," he said in Ankara.

Supporters of Erdogan, a divisive populist and masterful orator, took to the streets to celebrate, waving Turkish or ruling party flags, honking car horns and chanting his name. Celebratory gunfire was heard in several Istanbul neighborhoods.

Leaders across the world sent their congratulations, highlighting Turkey's, and Erdogan's, enlarged role in global politics. His next term is certain to include more delicate maneuvering with fellow NATO members over the future of the alliance and the war in Ukraine.

Western politicians said they are ready to continue working with Erdogan despite years of sometimes tense relations. Most imminently, Turkey holds the cards for Sweden's hopes to join NATO. The bid aims to strengthen the military alliance against Russia.

Turkey is also central to the continuity of a deal to allow Ukrainian grain shipments and avert a global food crisis.

In his victory remarks, Erdogan said rebuilding the quake-struck cities would be his priority. He also said a million Syrian refugees would go back to Turkish-controlled "safe zones" in Syria as part of a resettlement project being run with Qatar.

Erdogan has retained the backing of conservative voters who remain devoted to him for lifting Islam's profile in Turkey, which was founded on secular

principles, and raising the country's influence in international politics.

Erdogan's rival was a soft-mannered former civil servant who has led the pro-secular Republican People's Party, or CHP, since 2010. The opposition took months to unite behind Kilicdaroglu. He and his party have not won any elections in which Erdogan ran.

In a frantic outreach effort to nationalist voters in the runoff, Kilicdaroglu had vowed to send back refugees and ruled out peace negotiations with Kurdish militants if he was elected.

Erdogan and pro-government media portrayed Kilicdaroglu, who received the backing of the country's pro-Kurdish party, as colluding with "terrorists" and supporting what they described as "deviant" LGBTQ rights.

In his victory speech, Erdogan repeated those themes, saying LGBTQ people cannot "infiltrate" his ruling party or its nationalist allies.

Erdogan transformed the presidency from a largely ceremonial role to a powerful office through a narrowly won 2017 referendum that scrapped Turkey's parliamentary system of government. He was the first directly elected president in 2014 and won the 2018 election that ushered in the executive presidency.

Erdogan is now serving his second term as president under the executive presidency. He could run again for another term if parliament - where his ruling party and allies hold a majority - calls early elections.

The dollar slipped to 140.26 Japanese yen from 140.59 yen. The euro fell to \$1.0717 from \$1.0724.

and it is projected to accelerate to a 2% pace in the current April-June quarter.

The impact from inflation and worries about a recession on the horizon have been hitting corporate profits and forecasts. The latest round of company earnings is nearing a close with the profits for companies in the S&P 500 contracting about 2%.

Brent crude, the standard for international trading, advanced 5 cents to \$77.03 per barrel.

Currencies

The dollar slipped to 140.26 Japanese yen from 140.59 yen. The euro fell to \$1.0717 from \$1.0724.

Takeaways on debt ceiling

McCarthy's balancing act, Biden's choice and the challenges ahead

WASHINGTON, May 29, (AP): It's a deal no one in Washington claims to really like. But after weeks of negotiations, President Joe Biden and House Speaker Kevin McCarthy have struck an agreement to raise the debt ceiling and avert a potentially devastating government default.

The stakes are high for both men - and now each will have to persuade lawmakers in their parties to vote for it. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said last week that the United States could run out of cash to pay the bills and default on its obligations if the debt ceiling is not raised by June 5.

The ultimate agreement, hammered out by Biden, McCarthy and a small group of their deputies, is a two-year budget deal that would essentially hold spending flat for 2024, while boosting it for defense and veterans, and capping increases at 1% for 2025. It would suspend the debt limit until January 2025, after the next presidential election. Republicans had insisted on reducing spending and had passed their own bill with much larger cuts last month.

The package would also make policy tweaks, including by adding work requirements for some food aid recipients and streamlining an environmental law that Republicans say has made it harder to build energy projects.

Takeaways from the deal, and from the negotiations that led up to it:

McCarthy's delicate balancing act

Ever since McCarthy won the House speakership on the 15th ballot in January, it was clear that the debt ceiling negotiations would be his first and perhaps biggest test.

Known more for strategy than policy, McCarthy has had a challenge that seemed almost insurmountable, with a narrow majority and a sizable group of hard-right conservatives certain to oppose anything he negotiated with Biden. And he could still find himself in the middle of a crisis if too many in his caucus revolt when the House votes on the package this week.

Through it all, the Californian has exhibited his typical laid-back vibe, projecting confidence about the bill and its success. He said Sunday that he will win a majority of Republicans on the bill and some Democrats.

In a conference call on Saturday night, McCarthy said, more than 95 percent of the members in his conference "were overwhelmingly excited about what they see."

But some House Republicans were publicly slamming the deal, arguing it did too little to cut the deficit. Rep. Dan Bishop of North Carolina tweeted a vomit emoji, complaining that some Republicans on the call were praising the speaker for getting what he said is "almost zippo in exchange" for the debt-ceiling hike.

Biden's reluctant compromise
For months, Biden and his aides had a mantra: There would be no negotiation on the debt limit. But then he negotiated anyway.

It's not where Biden, a veteran of the nasty 2011 debt-limit battle that saw the nation's credit rating downgraded for the first time in history, wanted to be. But it was a likely scenario - with a Republican-controlled House that had made it clear from the start that it would not raise the borrowing authority under a Democratic president without extracting spending curbs or other policy concessions.

There was no way Biden, who is running for re-election next year, would want a historic default on his watch.

Biden has continued to insist that he was negotiating on the budget, not the debt ceiling. But pushed by a reporter Sunday evening who noted

that was precisely what Republicans were seeking in exchange for lifting the debt limit, the president seemed to break from his talking point.

"Sure, yeah," Biden said, chuckling slightly. "Can you think of an alternative?"

Now he will have to sell it to House Democrats, who must vote for it in big enough numbers to make up for defecting Republicans. Many progressive members in the House have appeared skeptical of the deal, but they remained mostly quiet over the weekend as they waited for more details.

But the deal won early praise from another key Democratic group. The New Democrat Coalition, which has roughly 100 members, praised Biden as having negotiated "a viable, bipartisan solution to end this crisis."

Long-sought GOP policy

Republicans were able to win some policy changes they have sought for years, however modest, including on food aid. The bill would raise the age limit for existing work requirements in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, also known as food stamps. It would also create a new agency to develop and streamline environmental reviews that Republicans have complained about for decades.

The new work requirements for able-bodied SNAP recipients without dependents would phase in by 2025 and expire by 2030. And a provision pushed by Biden would take some vulnerable recipients - like veterans and the homeless - off work requirements entirely. But Republicans made clear that pushing more people to work in exchange for government benefits was a major victory for them, even if mostly symbolic.

The bill also would amend the National Environmental Policy Act and designate "a single lead agency" to develop environmental reviews, in hopes of streamlining the process.

Republicans had hoped for a much broader permitting package that would make it easier to build and develop energy projects. But Louisiana Rep. Garret Graves, a McCarthy ally who was one of the negotiators, said the bill brings "transformational changes into the permitting and environmental review process" for the first time in four decades.

Senate quiet, waiting to close

McCarthy has said the House will vote on the package Wednesday. If passed, it will then head to the Democratic-led Senate where leaders will have to get agreement from all 100 members to speed up the process and avert a default by next Monday.

The White House briefed Democratic senators Sunday and McCarthy briefed Republicans. But most senators remained quiet on the deal as they waited for the full text and to see if McCarthy can navigate it through the House.

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., and Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky cut themselves out of the negotiating process early on, saying it should be a negotiation between the White House and McCarthy.

McConnell issued a statement supporting the legislation on Sunday but some in his caucus have criticized it. The two leaders will have to navigate any potential objections over the coming week as they seek to win full support to move quickly on the deal.

"With Republicans like these, who needs Democrats?" tweeted Utah Sen. Mike Lee on Saturday, aligning himself with the House Republicans who say the deal is not conservative enough.

See Also Page 7

Lyнк & Co now opens in Saudi Arabia

Lyнк & Co, the Chinese-Swedish automobile brand, has officially launched in Saudi Arabia, bringing a range of products including the 03, 03+, 01, and 05 models, and opening its first local showroom in Dammam on May 22, 2023.

At the launch event, Lyнк & Co's Director, Mr. Fred Shang, expressed confidence in the brand's unique approach and its resonance with the Saudi Arabian market. Lyнк & Co cars will be distributed

in Saudi Arabia through Al Jabr, whose Managing Director, Mr. Abdulsalm Mohammad Al-Jabr, acknowledged the alignment of Lyнк & Co with luxury, quality, and the market's needs.

The launch event showcased Lyнк & Co's product range, including the 03, 03+, 01, and 05 models, all built on the Compact Modular Architecture (CMA) platform. The 03 and the 03+ are the pioneering works in the sport se-

dan category and serve as the championship cars that contributed to Lyнк & Co's three consecutive titles in the prestigious WTCR racing series, while the 01 was the official vehicle of the Olympic Council of Asia in 2021. A year later, the Lyнк & Co 05 began gaining popularity in the Asia-Pacific market. Additionally, it is anticipated that the flagship model, Lyнк & Co 09, will launch in the Middle East later this year.

UAE's Falcon 40B dominates leaderboard: Ranks #1 globally

Falcon 40B, the UAE's first large-scale open-source, 40-billion-parameter AI model launched by Abu Dhabi's Technology Innovation Institute (TII) last week, soared to the top spot on Hugging Face's latest Open Large Language Model (LLM) Leaderboard. Hugging Face, an American company seeking to democratize artificial intelligence through open-source and open science, is

considered the world's definitive independent verifier of AI models.

This press release features multimedia. View the full release here: <https://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20230529005045/en/>

Falcon 40B ranks 1st globally in Hugging Face Open LLM Leaderboard. (Graphic: AE-TOSWire)

Falcon 40B managed to beat

back established models such as LLaMA from Meta (including its 65B model), StableLM from Stability AI, and RedPajama from Together to achieve the coveted ranking.

The index utilizes four key benchmarks in all from the Eleuther AI Language Model Evaluation Harness, a consolidated framework that assesses generative language models. (Business Wire)

In co-op with GUST, KFH launches first-of-its-kind certified real estate appraiser program in Kuwait

Program consists of six modules

KUWAIT CITY, May 29: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) has signed an agreement with Gulf University for Science and Technology (GUST) to launch the the First-of-its-kind Certified Real Estate Appraiser program. This professional certificate features the latest technical and professional methods in the field and is accredited locally and internationally by the competent authorities.

On this occasion, KFH Group Human Resources Officer, Zeyad Al-Omar expressed his pleasure at launching the Certified Real Estate Appraiser program, the first of its kind in Kuwait.

Al-Omar stressed the importance of the program as a comprehensive study major by itself that constitutes a significant pillar under universities curricula, pointing out that the program is prepared by KFH's professional real estate appraisers, as well by experts and professors from GUST.

He explained that the program consists of six modules including real estate appraisal requirements, trainees' skills enhancement, development of the real estate market and related activities, as well as other factors and updates such as the multiple types of properties, jurisdictions of competent authorities, real estate transactions follow-up and the diversity of related legislations and decisions.

Al-Omar also revealed that KFH is granting five seats for free under KFH scholarships program in order to attract the interest of students to this field of study.

He commended the efforts of KFH's real estate appraisers and GUST professors for designing and preparing the program.

KFH Group Chief Operations Officer – Abdulla Abu Alhous

KFH Group Chief Operations Officer, Abdulla Abu Alhous said that the program is the result of the integrated efforts by KFH's Human Resources and Real Estate Valuation departments in collaboration with GUST, adding that the program has been launched in accordance with the directions of KFH's BoD and is part of its social and national responsibility. The program also contributes to business governance and performance improvement in line with the considerations and standards followed in this profession and approved by regulators.

As part of its pioneering role in developing the real estate market, Abu Alhous noted that KFH seeks to strengthen its efforts by launching programs and utilizing KFH's expertise as well as the academic capabilities of GUST, which will enhance the real estate appraisers and stakeholders such as bank employees and customers.



A group photo of the participants in the launch ceremony of the real estate resident program.

He added that the program is a cornerstone for the beginning of a long and insightful journey in cooperation with government bodies such as the Ministry of Commerce and the Central Bank of Kuwait to ensure the implementation of the program in an optimal manner, pointing out that the real estate appraisal processes that are issued professionally contribute generally to the flow of real estate financing operations in Kuwait.

KFH Executive Manager Real Estate Valuation – Ahmed Alfathan

KFH Executive Manager, Ahmed Alfathan, said that the partnership with GUST to launch the Program adds great value to it by combining KFH's professional experience with GUST's academic knowledge.

He pointed out that this program will be part of a series of specialized courses in the real estate field, indicating that the real estate market requires this type of programs due to their scarcity on the one hand, and the great demand for real estate appraisal services by government bodies, banks, private sector institutions and individuals on the other.

Al-Farhan stressed KFH's interest in developing the mechanisms for real

estate appraisal in view of its important role in maintaining the rights and assets of institutions, companies, banks and interested customers, in addition to averting any risks related to real estate financing by ensuring the governance of work in the real estate offices under unified and transparent methods and standards that avoid conflicts of interest in order to achieve growth and stability for real estate holdings that are vital to customers' transactions and national economy.

GUST Chairperson of the Executive Education, Dr. Osama Alfalah

Chairperson of the Executive Education at GUST, Dr. Osama Alfalah said "we are pleased to launch the Certified Real Estate Appraisal with KFH. We believe this type of program is vital due to its qualitative and unique nature, not to mention its being a necessity for the labor market."

Alfalah commended the strategic partnership with KFH, adding that it is based on a long-term cooperation. He explained that the Certified Real Estate Appraisal Program contributes to consolidating the relationship between the two parties, stressing that KFH is a leader in the real estate field.

Computex 2023

Phison showcases pioneering storage solutions & 'high-speed' transmission

SAN JOSE, Calif., May 29, (BUSINESS WIRE)

Phison Electronics (8299 TT), a global leader in NAND controllers and storage solutions, will showcase its high-speed transmission and storage solutions at the annual Taipei International Computer Show (COMPUTEX) in Taiwan. At COMPUTEX, Phison will illustrate the future of intelligent storage. The show kicks off on Tuesday, May 30 through Friday, June 2.

Phison Showcases Full Range of Storage Solutions and High-Speed Transmission at Computex 2023 (Image: Phison)

Building upon its globally acclaimed flagship PCIe 5.0 SSD P55026-E26 storage solution, Phison Electronics will unveil its latest offering at COMPUTEX. The new addition is the PCIe 5.0 DRAM-less SSD controller PS5031-E31T, featuring a 7nm process that ensures low power consumption. With an impressive maximum read/write performance of 10.5GB/s, it represents a PCIe 5.0 SSD storage solution that excels in performance and power efficiency. In addition, Phison will introduce the next-generation PCIe 4.0 DRAM-less SSD controller P55027-E27T, engineered with a 12nm process and offering a remarkable maximum read/write speed of 7400/6400 MB/s. It is anticipated that the PCIe 5.0 PS5031-E31T and PCIe 4.0 P55027-E27T SSD storage solutions will comprehensively meet the diverse needs of PC OEM partners and customers.

Phison will also demonstrate the company's suite of enterprise SSD storage solutions, designed to accommodate the intensive data associated with the rise of AI servers and cloud services. These include the PCIe 4.0 SSD X1 and P1 storage solutions, which support Dual-port and Single-port, respectively, and offer a maximum capacity of 32TB. Additionally, Phison will present the PCIe 5.0 P55026-E26DC and PCIe 4.0 PS5018-E18DC storage solutions in the new E1.5 form factor. These offerings are designed to assist enterprises, data centers, cloud services, and AI servers in overcoming various challenges in enterprise storage applications.

"Technology is advancing at a tenfold pace and countries worldwide are increasing their investments in the semiconductor field after experiencing chip shortages," said K.S. Pua, Phison's CEO. "Technological innovation has become one of the most important topics globally. Storage and high-speed data transmission play a crucial role in all technological innovations. Leveraging the success of being the first in the world to receive PCI-SIG certification for the PCIe 5.0 PS7101 Redriver IC, Phison has introduced the next generation of PCIe 5.0 Redriver ICs: the PS7102 (8-Channel) and PS7103 (16-Lane). These new solutions are specifically designed to assist global customers in overcoming signal attenuation issues in high-speed applications."

Pua further adds, "The rise of generative AI such as ChatGPT will positively impact the demand for AI servers and storage by becoming ubiquitous in vari-

ous NAND storage applications, including mobile voice recognition, computer-assisted software, industrial automation, and autonomous driving systems. All of these applications are closely related to NAND storage products. In response to these emerging demands, Phison has introduced NAND storage solutions that cater to various applications, including the PS8361 controller, Phison's first UFS 4.0-compliant controller suitable for high-end mobile devices; the next-generation industrial-grade PCIe 4.0 SSD storage solution P55021-E21TI that can withstand harsh environments; the high-end PCIe 4.0 PS5021-E21TI MPT5 BGA SSD; and UFS 3.1 PS8317 MUM7 storage solutions that comply with AEC-Q100 automotive standards. These offerings provide comprehensive support for customers in creating value-added NAND storage solutions, and contribute to Phison's future growth."

More than 1,000 global brands are expected to exhibit, focusing on six major themes: high performance, computing, artificial intelligence applications, next-gen connectivity, hyper-reality, innovations and startups, and sustainability.

If you would like to learn more, please click on the following links:

If you would like to receive PHISON press release or announcement, please register our IR distribution application form from the link: Phison IR Distribution List

Phison Electronics Corp. (TPEX:8299) is a global leader in NAND Flash controller IC and storage solutions. We provide a variety of services from controller design, system integration, IP licensing to total turnkey solutions, covering applications across SSD (PCIe/SATA/PATA), eMMC, UFS, SD and USB interfaces, reaching out to consumer, industrial and enterprise markets. As an active member of industry associations, Phison is on the Board of Directors for SDA, ONFI, UFSA and a contributor for JEDEC, PCI-SIG, MIPI, NVMe and IEEE-SA.

To know more about Phison, please visit Phison Website or Phison Q&A for details. Read more on our blog: www.phisonblog.com

Information included in this press release that are not historical in nature are "forward-looking statements". Phison cautions readers that forward-looking statements are based on Phison's reasonable knowledge and current expectations, and are subject to various risks and uncertainties.

Actual results may differ materially from those contained in such forward-looking statements for a variety of reasons including without limitation, risks associated with demand and supply change, manufacturing and supply capacity, design, win-time to market, market competition, industrial cyclicality, customer's financial condition, exchange rate fluctuation, legal actions, amendments of the laws and regulations, global economy change, natural disasters, and other unexpected events which may disrupt Phison's business and operations.

GIGABYTE's AI servers shine at Computex

The Conversation

Superchips redefine a new era of computing

Debt ceiling negotiators reach a deal: five essential reads about the tentative accord

Brinkmanship and the danger of default

By Bryan Keogh and Matt Williams

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



President Joe Biden and House Speaker Kevin McCarthy on May 27, 2023, agreed in principle to a tentative deal that would raise the debt ceiling while capping some federal spending at current levels.

The accord, if approved by both houses of Congress, would avert an unprecedented default that threatens to derail the economy and put hundreds of thousands of Americans out of work. Negotiators agreed to lift the ceiling for two years - past the 2024 presidential election - while putting a temporary cap on most nondefense spending at 2023 levels. It would also reduce planned funding for the IRS, impose new work requirements on some people who receive benefits from the federal program known as SNAP and claw back billions of unspent funds from pandemic relief programs.

The Conversation has been covering the debt ceiling drama since January, when Republicans took over the House, raising fears that brinkmanship would lead to an economic catastrophe. Here are five articles from our archive to help you make sense of a couple key aspects of the tentative deal and provide context on the debt ceiling fight.

First some basics. The debt ceiling was established by the U.S. Congress in 1917. It limits the total national debt by setting out a maximum amount that the government can borrow.

Steven Pressman, an economist at The New School, explained the original aim was "to let then-President Woodrow Wilson spend the money he deemed necessary to fight World War I without waiting for often-absent lawmakers to act. Congress, however, did not want to write the president a blank check, so it limited borrowing to US\$11.5 billion and required legislation for any increase."

Since then, the debt ceiling has been increased dozens of times. It currently stands at \$31.4 trillion - a figure reached in January. The Treasury has taken "extraordinary measures" to enable the government to keep borrowing without breaching the ceiling. Such measures, however, can only be temporary - meaning at one point Congress will have to act to lift the ceiling or default on its debt obligations, which is expected to happen by June 5, according to Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen, if the deal isn't approved in time.

One of the biggest sticking points toward the end of negotiations was work requirements for recipients of government aid. The tentative deal would raise the age for existing work requirements from 49 to 54 years on able-bodied adults who have no children. This is less than what Republicans had earlier sought. There are exceptions for veterans and the homeless.

But if the goal is to help people find jobs and make more money, work requirements don't actually do the

job, wrote Kelsey Pukelis, a doctoral student in public policy at Harvard Kennedy School who has studied the issue. Rather, they make it much harder for people who need food aid to get it.

"Our findings do suggest that work requirements restrain federal spending by reducing the number of people getting SNAP benefits," she explained. "But our work also indicates that in today's context, these savings would be at the expense of already vulnerable people facing additional economic hardship at a time when a new recession could be around the corner."

The deal also takes aim at a big boost in spending Congress gave the Internal Revenue Service beginning in 2022 to crack down on tax cheats and upgrade its software. Democrats agreed to a Republican demand to cut the extra IRS funding from \$80 billion to \$70 billion.

Back in August 2022, Nirupama Rao, an economist at the University of Michigan, explained why Democrats included all that funding in their Inflation Reduction Act and how it would help the IRS collect more tax revenue, since the agency does not fully collect all the taxes that are owed.

"The main target of this spending is the so-called tax gap, which is currently estimated at about \$600 billion a year," she wrote. "While an \$80 billion investment that returns \$204 billion already sounds pretty impressive, it may be possible that it's a conservative estimate."

It took a long time for Republicans and Democrats to get the current agreement.

Yellen warned in January that the government was about to hit the debt limit and would be unable to pay all its bills by May or June. McCarthy and House Republicans, who hold a razor-thin majority, appeared unwilling to raise the debt ceiling unless they could extract deep spending cuts. Meanwhile, Biden refused to negotiate, insisting on a clean debt ceiling bill. Both of those positions were dropped during negotiations.

Why did it take so long for them to reach a compromise?

Blame political trends that have been accelerating for decades, explained Laurel Harbridge-Yong, a specialist in partisan conflict and the lack of bipartisan agreement in American politics at Northwestern University. Many Republicans come from very safe districts, which means their primary against other conservatives is more important than the general election. This makes it more important to stand firm and fight until the bitter end.

"So you now have many Republicans who are more willing to fight quite hard against the Democrats because they don't want to give a win to Biden," she wrote. "Democrats are also resistant to compromising, both because they don't want to gut programs that they put in place and also because they don't want to make this look like a win for Republicans, who were able to play chicken and get what they wanted."

NVIDIA, which allow data centers to benefit from optimized performance, flexibility, scalability, and efficiency.

The development of network communication has spurred the rise of the Internet of Things (IoT). At Compu-

tex, GIGABYTE is showcasing how IoT can utilize AI technology to modernize manufacturing, retail, autonomous vehicles, healthcare, and other sectors. The key technology on display includes industrial motherboards, em-

bedded systems, microcomputers, AI image recognition systems, and the Internet of Vehicles, leveraging next-generation chip technology to unlock boundless opportunities through digital transformation.

FTC becomes exclusive distributor of Redox

Leading automotive distributor Federal General Trading & Contracting CO. W.L.L. is proud to announce its partnership with Redox, a top European car battery brand that has been in the business for over 40 years.

As the exclusive distributor of Redox batteries in Kuwait, Federal General Trading & Contracting CO. W.L.L. is committed to providing its customers with the highest quality products and services.

According to Mr. Ashish Tandon, General Manager of Federal General Trading & Contracting CO. W.L.L., "We are excited to partner with Redox and bring their high-quality batteries to our customers in

Kuwait. Redox's commitment to quality and durability aligns perfectly with our values at FTC, and we are confident that our customers will be impressed with the performance of these batteries."

Mr. Ismail Abdelrahman, Divisional Manager of Federal General Trading & Contracting CO. W.L.L. added, "Redox batteries are a game-changer in the automotive industry. Their exceptional durability and resistance to harsh conditions make them stand out from the crowd. We are proud to offer these premium batteries to our customers, knowing they will exceed their expectations."

Mr. Issa Abdallah, Marketing Manager of Fed-

eral General Trading & Contracting CO. W.L.L. said, "Our team is thrilled to bring Redox batteries to Kuwait. We look forward to working with our customers to provide them with the best products and services."

Redox batteries have passed rigorous tests, including water consumption, corrosion, and endurance cycle tests, to ensure that they meet the highest standards of quality. Additionally, they are maintenance-free and come with a 15-month warranty. Redox batteries are available in a range of models, from 35Ampere to 160Ampere, to fit all vehicle types and sizes.



A flyer depicting premium car battery brand 'Redox'

30 September 2023, is the last chance to deposit and participate in the annual draw

Gulf Bank's KD1.5 million AIDanah grand prize is now KD 2 million



A flyer of Gulf Bank's KD2 Million AIDanah grand prize

Unique shopping experience enjoyed

Burgan Bank sponsors the 19th International Jewelry Exhibition

KUWAIT CITY, May 29: Burgan Bank recently participated in and sponsored the 19th International Jewelry Exhibition, which concluded on a high note. The event drew many local, regional, and international visitors to the International Fair grounds in Mishref over the course of six days, from May 24 to 29, 2023. The Bank's sponsorship of the prominent fair is an extension of its dedicated efforts to support organizations that boost trade and commerce activities across Kuwait and are vital to the local economy.

As part of its sponsorship and participation, representatives of Burgan Bank were present with a booth to highlight the Bank's diverse range of products and services that suit all customer segments. More importantly, Burgan Bank encouraged visitors to enjoy a comfortable, easy, and convenient shopping experience throughout the exhibition by facilitating various financial services through its KNET and point-of-sales machines. The Bank also collaborated with the General Administration of Customs and the Ministry of Commerce and Industry to process fee collection, bringing convenience to international exhibitors participating in the fair.

This year's edition of the International Jewelry Exhibition brought together manufacturers, suppliers, collectors, and buyers under one roof to discuss the latest market trends, learn about new industry developments, and form successful business relationships. The visitors also enjoyed a unique shopping experience with a grand display of fine jewelry collections, contemporary designs, custom and fashion jewelry, precious stones, and gems. Other features included luxury giftware, watches, clocks, packaging, and display services from world-renowned suppliers.

It serves to note that Burgan Bank strongly believes in the importance of international trade activities and events to help develop the local economy and achieve the New Kuwait Vision 2035. To this end, the Bank remains committed to promoting organizations involved in the trade and commerce industry in the country. It also seeks to continue showcasing Kuwait's readiness and ability to host local, regional, and international events that attract visitors from all over the world.

About Burgan Bank
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 custom-



Flyer of the 19th International Jewelry Exhibition.

KUWAIT CITY, May 29: As part of its keenness to reward its customers, and in celebration of the 25th anniversary of the AIDanah account, Gulf Bank announced an increase in the annual grand prize value of the AIDanah account – from KD 1.5 million, to KD 2 million – making it the world's largest cash prize linked to a bank account.

Gulf Bank will announce the first multimillionaire at the annual grand draw on 18 January, 2024, under the supervision and in the presence of representatives from both the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, and Ernst & Young. The last chance to deposit and participate in this draw is September 30, 2023.

The AIDanah Millionaire account is one of the most rewarding and prestigious savings accounts in Kuwait, with periodic draws that have been creating millionaires since its launch in 1998 – now offering an annual grand prize worth KD 2,000,000, monthly opportunities for ten lucky winners to win KD 1,000, in addition to quarterly draws with KD 100,000 prizes each.

On this occasion, Gulf Bank's General Manager of Consumer Banking, Mr. Mohammed Al-Qattan, said: "This decision comes as part of Gulf Bank's continuous efforts to encourage a culture of savings – rewarding savers with monthly, quarterly, semi-annual and annual draws – which motivates them to maintain the habit of saving and en-

couraging to follow through."

Al-Qattan also stated that "Al Danah account is one of the best savings accounts in Kuwait, with periodic valuable prizes and advantages for account holders," noting that Gulf Bank will continue to launch many events and activities in 2023, to keep pace with the Central Bank of Kuwait's directions aimed at promoting a culture of savings across society.

He continued: "As part of Gulf Bank's 2025 strategy, we are working to provide the best services and products to raise customer satisfaction levels; by launching simple, sophisticated and innovative products and services



Mohammad Al-Qattan – General Manager Consumer Banking.

that meet the requirements and needs of various groups. We are also aiming to consolidate Gulf Bank's position as Kuwait's leading bank of the future."

Participation Conditions

Gulf Bank's AIDanah account is open to both Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti residents in Kuwait. A minimum of KD 200 is required to open an account, and the same amount must be maintained for customers to be eligible for the upcoming AIDanah draws. If the customer's account balance falls below KD 200 at any given time, a KD 2 monthly fee will be charged to the account, until the minimum balance is met. Customers who open an account and/or deposit more will enter the daily draw within two days.

Gulf Bank encourages AIDanah customers to raise their chances of winning by increasing their depositing amount, using the electronic payment service available through the bank's website and mobile application.

The Al Danah Millionaire account is one of the oldest and most prestigious savings accounts in Kuwait and was designed to encourage a culture of savings in society, and reward customers for their commitment to saving on a regular basis. Hence, Gulf Bank encourages everyone to open an AIDanah Millionaire account to start saving and to enjoy the multitude of benefits the account has to offer.

Numerous Features

Amongst the many advantages enjoyed by Al Danah Millionaire ac-

count, is that it is the only account that rewards customers for their loyalty, by providing loyalty chances. The loyalty chances are the total chances gained in the previous year, which are then transferred to the current year to reward customers for their loyalty to the bank. All chances gained by existing AIDanah clients in 2021 (from January 1 to December 31, 2021), have been transferred and added to the 2022 chances – taking into consideration the terms and conditions.

The AIDanah account provides a multitude of valuable services to its customers, including access to an exclusive AIDanah ATM card, that is ideal for depositing money into their accounts at any time. Account holders can also calculate their chances of winning the monthly, quarterly, and annual draws using the AIDanah calculator, available on Gulf Bank's online website and mobile application.

To participate in the upcoming quarterly and annual AIDanah draws this year, customers can visit one of Gulf Bank's branches or transfer directly through Gulf Bank's Online/Mobile Banking services. They can also direct their queries via WhatsApp on 1805805 for round-the-clock assistance from Gulf Bank representatives or call the Customer Contact Center on the same number. Additionally, customers can visit the dedicated AIDanah account website to learn more about the account and its winners.

Markaz concludes webinar on how GCC equities evolving as important 'opportunity' within EMs

Weightage of GCC stocks in MSCI EM index witnesses a steep rise



M. R. Raghu – CEO, Marmore MENA Intelligence.



Mohammed Talib Behbehani, Head of Private Banking.

er 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.

KUWAIT CITY, May 29: Kuwait Financial Centre "Markaz" concluded its recent webinar titled 'GCC Markets: An Attractive EM Allocation Play,' presented by Mr. M. R. Raghu – CEO, Marmore MENA Intelligence, the research arm of Markaz. The webinar brought out key attributes that differentiate GCC from other Emerging Markets (EMs) and highlighted how they stand out as an attractive investment opportunity.

The webinar stated that GCC

Capital Markets have taken large strides in the past decade to meet international standards and support the diversification efforts of their respective economies. The focus of foreign investors on GCC equity markets has gradually risen in recent times as the GCC region holds unique characteristics that are quite different compared to a typical Emerging Market. Strong Economy, low debt, lack of currency risk, and high reserves are some attributes that help them stand out. GCC equities are also generally considered a strong oil play by certain fund managers due to their economic growth being largely

driven by oil revenues.

The weightage of GCC stocks in the MSCI EM index witnessed a steep rise from 0.85% at the end of 2014 to 7.3% at the end of April 2023. The favorable economic and business environment in the GCC is likely to increase the weightage of GCC companies within the MSCI EM index in the years ahead. GCC markets have a strong pipeline of IPOs, mainly focusing on State-owned entities. These companies are likely to expand the presence of GCC companies forming a part of the MSCI EM index.

The webinar concluded with the key takeaway that GCC markets present an interesting island of opportunities within the Emerging market space that can be tapped by fund managers.

About Kuwait Financial Centre

"Markaz"

Established in 1974, Kuwait Financial Centre K.P.S.C "Markaz" is one of the leading asset management and investment banking institutions in the MENA region with total assets under management of over KD 1.13 billion as of 31 March 2023 (USD 3.67 billion). Markaz was listed on the Boursa Kuwait in 1997. Over the years, Markaz has pioneered innovation through the creation of new investment channels. These channels enjoy unique characteristics and helped Markaz widen investors' horizons. Examples include Mumtaz (the first domestic mutual fund), MREF (the first real estate investment fund in Kuwait), and Forsa Financial Fund (the first and only options market maker in the GCC since 2005), all conceptualized, established, and managed by Markaz.

'This strategic initiative is a testament to the bank's unwavering commitment'

ABK provides private banking services at Al Shaab branch

KUWAIT CITY, May 29: Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) recently developed a designated floor at its Al Shaab branch to cater to its esteemed Private Banking clientele. The move intends to reinforce the Bank's commitment to providing exceptional services that assure utmost comfort to high-net-worth customers during their banking transactions, reflecting the institution's overarching passion for excellence and superior service delivery.

This initiative is part of the Bank's endeavors to provide banking services which attract customers with significant financial means and offer existing customers a unique banking experience crafted based on the highest international standards to meet needs and aspirations, thereby further cementing the Bank's reputation.

Mohammed Talib Behbehani, Head of Private Banking at ABK, lauded the Bank's recent move to cater to its valued Private Banking clientele at Al Shaab branch. He emphasized, "This strategic initiative is a testament to the Bank's unwavering commitment and profound care for its esteemed segment of customers. Through a specially assigned Relationship Officer, clients' needs are immediately met through swift service delivery and utmost comfort with priority appointments upon arrival."

He continued, "We strive to offer the highest levels of privacy and security during banking transactions, thereby elevating the institution's standing in the industry." Behbehani further assured Private Banking customers that more branches, designed to enhance their banking experience, would follow across Kuwait, underscoring the Bank's unrelenting drive to increase customer satisfaction by



Al Shaab branch

expanding the range of products and services it provides.

Moreover, Behbehani discussed the unparalleled value proposition ABK's Private Banking customers enjoy. He highlighted the Bank's readiness to deliver expert guidance on investments, asset management, and the best possible returns from a highly experienced team of specialists. He said, "The team leverages wealth by providing informed advice on the most attractive opportunities available in the global market, be it locally or internationally."

The Al Shaab branch is strategically located to provide customers with convenient access to their banking services, with state-of-the-art facilities to offer a seamless banking experience. With the launch of Al

Shaab branch's new Private Banking section, ABK is committed to providing customers with high-quality services that match their individual needs, allowing them to achieve their financial goals.

In line with the Bank's unwavering focus on offering exceptional value, Behbehani pointed out that ABK liaises with a host of leading companies from various sectors to present Private Banking customers with lucrative products and discounts. This includes concierge companies to facilitate the completion of official transactions in the Kuwaiti market. Furthermore, Private Banking clients are offered the convenience of being exempt from any of the Bank's credit card annual fees.

The upcoming period will witness further offers that contribute to attracting more Private Banking clients as part of the Bank's ongoing plans to enhance its competitive position in the Kuwaiti banking sector. Behbehani further emphasized ABK's strategic imperative to consistently stay attuned to the evolving needs and preferences of high-net-worth customers where the Bank affirmed its steadfast commitment to earning and maintaining their trust.

Behbehani concluded, "Our new section is designed to create a unique and exclusive banking experience for our high-net-worth clients, offering a range of customized solutions tailored to their specific requirements. We are committed to providing our customers with the highest levels of personalized services and support, where the Al Shaab branch will enable us to enhance our position as a leading provider of customized banking solutions in Kuwait."

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

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

talabat, NBK provide offers to Al Shabab, Al Thahabi cardholders

talabat, the leading e-commerce platform in Kuwait and the region collaborated with Kuwait National Bank to provide exceptional offers for its customers. On that note talabat had signed an agreement with National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) in March 2023 to offer an exceptional shopping experience for NBK customers when using NBK Al Shabab visa prepaid card and Thahabi card.

Every Thursday, the first 200 orders in talabat by NBK Al Shabab Visa prepaid cardholders will receive KD 3 discount on

their orders as well as the first 200 orders by Al Thahabi cardholders will receive KD 7 off their order amounts.

Speaking on this offer, Mr. Mohammad Akram Hashim, Head of Segments at National Bank of Kuwait said: "It is a pleasure to collaborate with talabat on this offer that covers multiple customer segments and we look forward to growing this partnership and always giving our customers the best."

"We seek to ensure that our customers get an exceptional shopping experience

through the offers that suit their consumer needs and lifestyle" he added.

Abdullah Almansour, Head of Comms, PA & CR - talabat Kuwait, said - "We are very excited to work with NBK once again to continue providing the best offers and the best customer experience to our customers"

"talabat goal has always been to build strategic partnerships that enable our customers to have the best experience, as this is our top priority" - added Almansour.



talabat and NBK provide exceptional offers for its customers.

Kuwait Airways aims to provide best services to its valued customers

KAC, Acibadem partner to offer medical services for Premium Class

KUWAIT CITY, May 29: Within the framework of Kuwait Airways' relentless endeavours to provide the best services to its valued customers, and with the advent of the summer travel season of 2023, along with the growth of passenger traffic, KAC announced the signing of an agreement with the Turkish healthcare group, Acibadem Hospitals, to provide discounts on medical services and to examine emergency cases for its Premium Class customers of Royal, First, and Business classes in the city of Istanbul from 1st July 2023.

In this regard, the Head of the Medical Center at Kuwait Airways, Dr Mohammad Al-Qenai stated, "Kuwait Airways continues its unremitting efforts to provide various diverse services to its valued customers, as the company signed an agreement with Acibadem Hospitals, one of the largest



Muhammad Al-Fawwaz (center) with KAC and Acibadem Hospitals officials.

providers of health care services and treatment regionally. This service will be provided to Kuwait Airways' customers from the start of the summer travel season of 2023, witnessing the growth of travel and passenger traffic. This is a continuation of many services provided by Kuwait Airways to its valued customers, from the start of the current year and with a chain of hospitals with which agreements will be signed shortly and in addition to such services in Bangkok, Dubai, Riyadh, and Jeddah."

Al-Qenai explained, "Kuwait Airways is currently studying the expansion of similar agreements with health care providers in numerous cities around the world, especially in Europe such as London, Manchester, Paris, Geneva and other important cities in Europe."

Al-Qenai pointed out that this step comes within the company's objective to meet the requirements of Kuwait Airways' passengers of the Premium classes and to provide them with various solutions and services. Moreover, this is in line with the directives of the Board of Directives and the Executive Management to provide the best amenities and services as befits the National Carrier of the State of Kuwait.

Al-Qenai concluded his statement by emphasizing on Kuwait Airways' continuous keenness to introduce various distinguished services in response to the preferences of its esteemed customers. He also expressed his thanks to the officials at Acibadem Healthcare Group for their efforts and cooperation towards the agreement, which will be beneficial to both sides.



A photo from the event.

2nd consecutive win, 18th overall title

Kuwait SC officially crowned as the Champions of Zain Premier League

KUWAIT CITY, May 29: Zain recently joined in officially crowning Kuwait SC as Champions of the Zain Premier League (Dawri Zain) during the special ceremony held at Kuwait Stadium in Kaifan during the closing round of the 2022/2023 season. The event was attended by scores of Kuwait SC fans who were eager to see their favorite team lift the top tier's trophy.

Zain took to the field to join in crowning the Champions during the ceremony that was attended by Kuwait Football Association Chairman Abdullah Al Shaheen, Zain Kuwait Chief Corporate Affairs and Relations Officer Waleed Al Khashiti, KFA Vice Chairman for Financial Affairs Ahmad Al Enzi, Kuwait SC Chairman Khalid Al Ghanim, and the club's board members.

The company congratulated Kuwait SC players and officials on attaining the championship title for the second consecutive year, finishing on top with a total of 55 points.

In addition, the team recorded a historic achievement by becoming the club with the most Kuwait Premier League titles with 18 titles in its history. Kuwait SC secured the title two weeks before the season's last match, and the official crowning and trophy presentation came in the last match of the closing round.

Competitions

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

As the Official Sponsor, Zain offers KD 50,000 worth of prizes for athletes and fans per season, which is the biggest prize pool ever to be distributed in the Kuwaiti League's history. By dedicating cash prizes for athletes, the company seeks to encourage players to pursue excellence and elevate the league's performance.

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

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



Photos from the event.

Exciting promotions

Lulu 'Shop & Win' concludes with prize distribution event

KUWAIT CITY, May 29: Lulu Hypermarkets and Black and Decker delighted customers with their recent Shop and Win promotion, which ran from February 8th to March 21st, 2023. Customers who made a purchase of 20 KD or more of Black and Decker products were eligible to enter a draw for the chance to win two Chery Tiggo 4 Pro and 2 Pro cars, as well as 600 KD Lulu gift vouchers. The promotion received an overwhelming response, and the prize distribution ceremony was held on May 29th at the Lulu Hypermarket Alrai outlet.

The electronic draw for the promotion was conducted on April 2nd at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, and Lulu Hypermarkets and Black and Decker management were thrilled to present the prizes to the lucky winners. The ceremony was a joyous occasion, with three winners walking away with fantastic prizes.

This partnership with Kuwait's top football competition comes to strengthen the leadership role Zain plays in the local sports scene and is

The partnership between Lulu Hypermarkets and Black and Decker was instrumental in the success of the Shop and Win promotion. The two brands share a commitment to providing high-quality products and excellent customer service, and the promotion was a testament to this shared vision.

Lulu Hypermarkets is proud to offer innovative and exciting promotions to its customers, and the Shop and Win promotion was no exception. The company provides its customers with the best possible shopping experience, and this promotion was a fantastic way to reward their loyalty. The success of the Shop and Win promotion is a testament to the strong relationship between Lulu Hypermarkets and Black and Decker. The two companies will continue to work together to offer customers more exciting promotions in the future.

perfectly in line with the company's sustainability and social responsibility strategy towards the sports and youth sectors.

'We're training young gen to kickstart careers in STEM'

GE Kuwait Tech Center nurtures a 'new generation of engineers'

KUWAIT CITY, May 29: Aside from providing cutting-edge gas turbines, services and upgrades, GE Gas Power continues to play its part in Kuwait's future of energy and economic evolution by developing local, high-value professionals through the GE Kuwait Technology Center (GEKTC). The GEKTC is a first-of-its-kind facility, serving customers home and abroad including local and regional utilities and oil and gas companies, and it uniquely includes a Training Center, a Tooling Center, and a division for progressive R&D. With all of this knowledge, learning, and ingenuity focused in one place, the GEKTC is enabling some key objectives of Kuwait Vision 2035.

Currently led by a Kuwaiti female chemical engineer, GEKTC's capabilities go beyond Kuwait to cover the region, with a host of various trainings to support the power sector, a cutting-edge R&D Center, a Tooling Center that can maintain and modify power-generation tech - including integrated hydrogen solutions for greater plant performance - the GEKTC is poised to steer the future of energy in Kuwait. Kuwait's emergence as a centre for know-how and its pioneering role in enabling women to be equal contributors to the economy have paved the way for the young generation in the country to fulfil their aspirations in diverse roles across all sectors.

Mariam Alrushiha, a Chemical Engineer from Kuwait University, Senior Services Director of GEKTC, is at the helm and she says, "No jobs are created to be performed only by men or women. Here, in Kuwait, it is your skills, capabilities and knowledge that counts." Today, this flagship, first-of-its-kind facility in Kuwait continue to serve our customers in the country and abroad".

Interest

Growing up in a family engaged in the oil field also helped her find her true calling and fostered a lifelong interest in science, eventually guiding her career path in the STEM field, she adds.

"Irrespective of their gender, every individual must be evaluated based on their unique knowledge and skills," says Alrushiha. Having a curious and inquisitive bent of mind is what led her to discover the joys of science while growing up, she explains. "Even as a young child, I was interested in discovering the why and had an innate sense of wonder of how things work. I nurtured my interest by exploring and learning - just out of a passion to know and understand the reason behind so many everyday phenomena."

13 years after graduating and having worked in multiple roles and across different locations in the oil and gas industry, Mariam Alrushiha still has a child-like curiosity about new discoveries and scientific knowledge that continue to shape human life. In her current role as Senior Services Director at the 6,000 sqm GE Kuwait Technology Center, she is fulfilling her passion of connecting more individuals to the joy of science.

"What drew me to GE is its culture of diversity and inclusion across its entire operational framework," says Alrushiha. "GEKTC is the first of its kind facility outside of the US for GE and is designed to serve three core areas in the power sector - training, tooling, and engineering. At the Training Center, we offer both theoretical and hands-on training in operation and maintenance of gas turbines, steam



GE Kuwait Technology Center (GEKTC) training center.



Royal Enfield Hunter and Scram.

KAICO brings Royal Enfield Hunter & Scram to Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, May 29: KAICO, the exclusive distributor for Royal Enfield in Kuwait, is thrilled to announce the availability of the latest Royal Enfield motorcycle models, the Hunter and Scram, in Kuwait.

Royal Enfield is an iconic Indian motorcycle brand known for its classic designs and modern engineering. The Hunter is a versatile roadster, perfect for commuting or cruising around town, while the Scram is a capable off-road bike that can handle any terrain with ease. Both motorcycles are built on Royal Enfield's new J Platform, which features a modern frame, suspension, and braking system, making for a smooth and comfortable ride.

KAICO is proud to bring the Hunter and Scram to Kuwaiti riders and be a part of this new chapter in Royal Enfield's journey.

"The Hunter and Scram are exceptional bikes, and we are confident that they will be a hit with the Kuwaiti riding community," said Ashish Tandon, GM of KAICO.

To make these exceptional motorcycles available in Kuwait, KAICO has partnered with Royal Enfield, one of the fastest-growing motorcycle brands in the world.

"We are delighted to display the Hunter and Scram in our showroom, and bring these motorcycles to Kuwaiti riders," said Vinukumar Nair Head of Royal Enfield Sales. "The Hunter and Scram embody the spirit of adventure and freedom that Royal Enfield is known for, and we're excited to see them on Kuwaiti roads."

The Hunter and Scram are available now at Royal Enfield showrooms in Kuwait, located at Ardiya.

turbines, generators, aeroderivative gas turbines, and more."

GEKTC's Tooling Center serves as a repair hub and delivers timely and quick service support for local and international customers while the R&D Center addresses critical technology areas by leveraging the skills and facilities of the engineering community in Kuwait and across the region.

Alrushiha describes GEKTC as a unique project where through 24x7 remote monitoring of GE's gas turbines installed at numerous power plants across the Middle East, Africa and India, the entity is able to respond quickly to complex control issues and help improve plant reliability. She says: "In my role, I also oversee the operational functions of the Center including EHS, finance, sales, and general administration, and manage several teams across the organization to ensure that our goals are all in alignment."

Describing the initial phase of her career, Mariam Alrushiha says, "When I first ventured out into the field on work, there were many who said that it wasn't an environment suited for women. I challenged the traditional conviction and proved to myself and

others that yes, women can work in any environment, and nothing should prevent them from working in challenging situations anywhere, as long as they are equipped with the skills for it."

She adds: "Today, at GEKTC, we are training the young generation - men and women included - to kickstart their careers in the power sector, one of the greatest engineering advancements of modern times. And I am proud that we have many women engineers working in the field at GE Gas Power."

Alrushiha, who is passionate about seeing more women take up STEM streams and pursuing careers in non-traditional fields, has a word of advice for young female professionals who are exploring opportunities in engineering and scientific disciplines.

"Believe in yourself, empower yourself, and advocate for yourself," she advises. "There may be many times in your career that you feel like you are being treated unfairly, or that you are not good enough to succeed. Nothing is more powerful to combat imposter syndrome and unfair critics than a healthy sense of your own worth."

The Conversation

Sleep education requires employer support

Health care workers poor sleep may turn stress into depression

By Yuan Zhang
UMass Lowell

Health care workers often put the health and safety of their patients first, neglecting to take care of themselves. By providing continuous services around the clock, many experience short and poor-quality sleep, risking not only their own health and safety but also increasing the risk of making errors that can affect patient safety.

I am an occupational health researcher who studies work, sleep and health among health care workers. My research has found that emotional labor – such as using fake smiles to hide true feelings – and work-family conflict – such as clashing demands between roles at work and at home – are both linked to depressive symptoms among health care workers. And poor sleep quality can amplify the effects of these stressors, resulting in worse mental health.

Shift work and long hours are common components of a health care job. Night or rotating shifts that require being awake during the night and sleeping during the day can misalign the biological clock, which is typically oriented to wake during the day and sleep during the night. This mismatch can result in sleepiness and impaired performance at work, along with poor and shortened sleep during the day.

Moreover, health care workers can face many other work stressors, such as exposure to infectious diseases and chemical hazards, bullying and violence, high physical workloads and time pressure. These require learning to manage emotions and feelings during interactions with patients and co-workers.

Even so, some professionals in various fields may need to repress their own emotions in order to do their work effectively. In our study of over 1,000 US public sector health care workers who directly and indirectly work with patients, my research team and I found that over half had to mask their feelings at work without addressing them, and increasing levels of emotional labor were linked to increasing symptoms of depression.

In addition, health care workers often experience conflicting demands between their work and family roles. For example, a parent may need to take time off from work to take care of a sick child. Research on US workers has found that work-family conflict can have adverse physical and mental health effects.

Conflicts

In our study, about half of the health care workers we surveyed reported that their work interfered with their family life, while about 30% experienced family life interfering with work. Importantly, these conflicts were linked to poor mental health such as depression.

The US National Health Interview Survey, an annual household interview of adults conducted by the US Census Bureau, found that 36% of workers had an average sleep duration of less than seven hours a day in 2018. A minimum of seven hours of sleep is recommended for optimum health and well-being. Sleep deprivation is increased among health care workers, affecting 45% of those surveyed. Our research found an even higher rate: Over half of the health care workers we studied

reported fewer than seven hours of sleep per day, and one-third complained of sleep disturbances.

Moreover, we found that one-quarter of these health care workers experienced depressive symptoms, a rate three times higher than the depression prevalence of the general US population.

Sleep plays a critical role in mental health. Short or poor sleep is a strong risk factor for depression and poor mental well-being. And it is well known that stress can interfere with sleep quality. Our study found that disturbed sleep intensified the effect of work stressors such as emotional labor and work-family conflict on the depressive symptoms of health care workers. That is to say, these work stressors may both directly affect health care workers' mental health and indirectly affect mental health by harming their sleep.

Recommendations

The most common nondrug-based recommendations to improve the sleep of shift workers include scheduling, bright light exposure, napping, sleep hygiene education and cognitive behavioral therapy.

There is no concrete evidence yet available on the best sleep schedule for health care workers on night or rotating shifts. However, while most night workers begin their daytime sleep shortly after returning home in the morning, laboratory studies on older adults found better night shift alertness and performance and longer sleep duration with an afternoon-evening sleep schedule.

Based on those findings, my research team is currently testing the effectiveness of an afternoon-evening sleep schedule in real-world settings for health care workers who are regularly working nights. We are also exploring whether such a sleep schedule is acceptable to health care workers and easy enough to integrate into their daily lives.

Building a healthy work environment is a critical and meaningful way to improve sleep. A large number of work stressors – such as shift work, work demands, lack of social support, workplace hazards and negative behaviors of co-workers – all contribute to the poor sleep of health care workers.

Evidence-based workplace programs that prevent workplace violence, provide emotional support after difficult incidents and offer flexible scheduling could all help reduce the underlying problems behind poor sleep. Workplaces may consider an integrated approach that both reduces work-related stressors and promotes the sleep and health of their workers. For example, a healthy workplace may allow their employees to select their own work schedules and provide training on sleep hygiene.

Moreover, many sleep promotion programs need the workplace to get involved. Sleep education requires employer support, and light exposure and nap rooms require environmental changes in the workspace. Allowing workers to participate in the decision-making process may encourage them to get involved and take action to improve their own health, which could transform sleep and overall health for workers, especially those in the medical field. (AP)

First breakthrough therapy commences in France

ZAP-X Gyroscopic Radiosurgery provides non-invasive treatment for brain tumors

SAN CARLOS, Calif., May 29: ZAP Surgical Systems, Inc., a leading innovator in the field of surgical robotics, has announced that Centre de Cancérologie de la Porte de Saint-Cloud (CCPSC) in Boulogne, France, has initiated patient treatments with the ground-breaking ZAP-X® Gyroscopic Radiosurgery® platform. CCPSC is the first in France to offer ZAP-X and is part of the renowned American Hospital of Paris, known for offering the most innovative technologies and most advanced treatment methods. CCPSC treated three patients on their first day, each with a single brain metastasis.

As a non-invasive and painless treatment for select primary and metastatic brain tumors, stereotactic radiosurgery (SRS) has proven to provide equivalent to superior outcomes compared to costly and potentially debilitating surgeries. SRS is typically delivered in one to five brief outpatient visits and patients often return to normal activity the same day as the procedure.

"Because of the significant percentage of cancer patients who develop brain metastases, it was imperative we support our radiation oncology program with a dedicated SRS solution such as ZAP-X," said Dr. Bacem Belghith, radiation oncologist at the CCPSC.

"As ZAP-X is designed specifically for cranial radiosurgery it allows us to treat the most challenging cases with confidence," added Dr. Alain Allaw, radiation oncologist at the CCPSC. "And unlike multi-purpose radiotherapy devices, ZAP-X provides patients with potentially lower healthy brain exposure to radiation, and thus enables greater flexibility for our clinical team to treat recurring brain metastases patients."

The ZAP-X system uses unique gyroscopic mobility to direct radiosurgical beams from hundreds of angles to precisely concentrate radiation on the tumor target. This pioneering approach supports the clinical objective of protecting healthy brain tissue and patient cognitive function.

Eliminates

As the first and only vault-free and cobalt-free dedicated SRS delivery system, ZAP-X also eliminates the expense of building costly shielded radiation treatment rooms, and removes the need to maintain, secure and regularly replace live radioactive isotopes.

"As the first center to retrofit an existing shielded radiotherapy suite, ZAP-X has seamlessly integrated into CCPSC's busy radiation oncology department, and now serves as the centerpiece of an elite SRS program," said Hakan Baraner, ZAP Surgical's Senior Vice President for Europe, India, Middle East, and Africa (EIMEA). "ZAP is incredibly honored to support CCPSC in bringing world-class care to their patients."

ZAP Surgical Systems, Inc. designs and manufactures the ZAP-X® Gyroscopic Radiosurgery® platform. ZAP was founded in 2014 by Dr. John R. Adler. In addition to being CEO of ZAP, Dr. Adler is Emeritus Dorothy & TK Chan Professor of Neurosurgery and Radiation Oncology at Stanford University. Dr. Adler is also renowned

Paragon 28 launches supramalleolar osteotomy system

Croda Pharma and BSI partner for vaccine adjuvant QS-21 production

DAVIS, Calif., May 29: Croda Pharma and BSI have announced that they have entered into a strategic collaboration agreement to support the sustainable sourcing of pharmaceutical grade adjuvant QS-21, a potent component of adjuvant systems.

QS-21 is used in several innovative vaccines against diseases such as shingles, malaria and RSV, plus promising new vaccine and immunotherapy treatments such as cancer. This partnership sees the two organizations share expertise to bring to market QS-21 from Quillaja saponaria plant cell culture, delivering the most sustainable source of the adjuvant from plantlets in contrast with conventional methods that harvest mature trees to extract material from the bark. Furthermore, the partnership allows Croda to tackle further the industry challenge of limited supply sources for this critical component, helping customers to better secure their supply chain for QS-21.

This new partnership is aligned with Croda's commitment to be the most sustainable supplier of innovative ingredients across its growth markets, and Daniele Piergentili, President Life Sciences at Croda, explains his excitement about the partnership. "It provides opportunity to build a scalable, and truly sustainable supply chain of QS-21 to the pharmaceutical industry. The plentiful supply of QS-21 enables the production of next generation adjuvant systems for new vaccine development."

According to Gaston Salinas, CEO at BSI, "BSI and Croda Pharma are natural partners with a shared vision on removing the barriers that have prevented mass

adoption of QS-21 for developing highly efficacious modern vaccines. Through this very exciting partnership we aim to supply kilogram-quantities of sustainable GMP QS-21."

Expanding

The announcement is in line with Croda's strategy to "Empower biologics delivery" and follow news on previous investments to continue expanding Croda Pharma's manufacturing capabilities in both US and UK, in order to enable the next generation vaccines and therapeutic drugs with their high purity excipients, lipids and adjuvant systems.

Peter Tygesen, Croda Managing Director Adjuvant Systems, also commented: "BSI's unique and innovative processes for growing Quillaja saponaria biomass in their labs and then extracting the QS-21 from these young plants is a game changing approach. We look forward to partnering with BSI and creating a robust, scalable, and sustainable supply chain for QS-21, enabling our customers to work with this gold standard vaccine adjuvant."

Croda's Pharma business is a leading partner for the development of excipients and the supply of high purity materials for pharmaceutical formulations, committed to enabling the next generation of drug delivery systems. The business is focused on empowering biologics drug delivery, through its adjuvant systems, small molecule, protein, and nucleic acid delivery platforms. With a wide range of solutions for both human and animal health markets, our pharmaceutical portfolio is unsurpassed in its excellence for drug

and vaccine delivery. Croda's products, along with its in-house formulation and regulatory expertise, allow the business to meet its customers' most demanding formulation needs.

BSI, a Delaware Corporation, has a proprietary R&D platform for truly sustainable and improved production of consistent and high-quality Advanced Botanical Materials (ABM). ABM-01 is the first ABM produced by the company, based on a tissue cultured plant called Quillaja saponaria. ABM-01 is the active ingredient used in two gold standard products, BSI's biopesticide Quilibrium® and the adjuvant QS-21, used in modern vaccine development.

Also:

ENGLEWOOD, Colo.: Paragon 28, Inc. (NYSE: FNA) has announced the launch of its Gorilla® Supramalleolar Osteotomy (SMO) Plating and Preserve SMO Allograft System which were developed to provide surgeons versatility in plate selection and surgical approach for supramalleolar osteotomies. The system includes patent pending drilling and cutting guides to facilitate repeatable and controlled anterior dome, medial opening, and closing wedge osteotomies. The system also includes a patent pending allograft cutting jig designed to shape the Preserve™ SMO Allograft Wedge to match the intended correction while reducing time and technicality of the procedure. Six plates are included in the system for anterior or medial approaches and include multiple spanning distances to accommodate varying correction.

as the inventor of the CyberKnife® system and founder of Accuray, Inc. The ZAP-X platform incorporates a unique vault-free design that typically eliminates the need for costly shielded treatment rooms. ZAP-X also utilizes a modern linear accelerator to eliminate legacy use of Cobalt-60.

Founded in 1906, the American Hospital of Paris is a private, not-for-profit institution recognized as being of public utility, whose mission is to deliver the best of French and American medical practices to its French and international patients. The American Hospital of Paris offers global expertise, combining the most innovative investigative technologies, the most advanced treatment methods and customized care on a single site, allowing patients to benefit from personalized care in a very short timeframe. The American Hospital of Paris is recognized both in France and in the United States for the quality of its care by the Haute Autorité de Santé and by the Joint Commission according to the

standards applied in the United States. The American Hospital of Paris acquired CCPSC in 2017 to establish the American Hospital of Paris group.

Also:

NAPLES, Fla.: Catalyst OrthoScience Inc. (Catalyst), a medical device company focused on the upper extremity orthopedics market, has announced that internationally recognized orthopedic surgeon Theodore Blaine, MD, has completed the first series of total shoulder arthroplasty procedures using the Catalyst Stemmed CSR TSA fully convertible system with an ellipsoid humeral head.

"Total shoulder arthroplasty continues to advance and convertible stem implants have gained significant momentum. The Catalyst Stemmed CSR TSA is the first fully convertible system to feature an anatomical ellipsoid humeral head," said Dr. Blaine. "This is an important distinction because the ellipsoid head allows for more accurate restoration of the natural joint

kinematics compared to spherical head designs."

The fully convertible Catalyst Stemmed CSR TSA system, which can convert to a reverse shoulder as needed, received 510(k) clearance in the U.S. in early 2023. Catalyst is now the only company to offer anatomically shaped non-spherical heads in both stemmed and stemless solutions.

"Dr. Blaine is recognized nationally and internationally for his expertise in orthopedics and shoulder surgery. He was a key influencer, along with a select group of highly skilled orthopedic surgeons, in our development of the fully convertible Catalyst Stemmed CSR TSA system with ellipsoid humeral head," said Carl O'Connell, CEO and president of Catalyst. "Our modern approach to shoulder replacement surgery is focused squarely on designing solutions that better match the patient's own anatomy, reduce complications and support the needs of surgeons for precision, accuracy and repeatability."

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Ramos, Fishback lead 'Transformers' from Brooklyn to Peru

Film

LAS VEGAS, May 29, (AP): Anthony Ramos and Dominique Fishback had been dreaming about writing something together for a few years. The two actors, both native New Yorkers, would meet up from time to time and talk about what it could be. They knew that it would have to be "epic" and "so Brooklyn." But they would have never predicted that their first chance would come in the form of a "Transformers" movie.

"We had no idea it would be this epic and this Brooklyn," Fishback told The Associated Press, sitting beside Ramos, her friend and "Transformers: Rise of the Beasts" co-star in Las Vegas last month.

They'd made the journey to attend CinemaCon, a convention of the world's theater owners to help drum up buzz for the new film that debuts June 9. Though technically the seventh "Transformers" movie, "Rise of the Beasts" is both a franchise prequel, set in 1994, and sequel to 2018's "Bumblebee," which was set in the 1980s.

Director Steven Caple Jr. ("Creed II") took the helm for this globetrotting film that pairs the Autobots with the Maximals, another faction of transformers, in the fight to save Earth. Peter Cullen returns to voice Optimus Prime in a diverse cast that also includes Ron Perlman, Peter Dinklage, Michelle Yeoh, Michaela Jaé Rodriguez, Pete Davidson, Colman Domingo and Cristo Fernández.

Caple didn't know when he started casting that Ramos ("In the Heights") and Fishback ("Judas and the Black Messiah") knew one

another. They were both just separately on his list to read for Noah, an ex-military man and electronics expert, and Elena, an artifacts researcher at a museum.

That they came in as friends meant that the chemistry test was great. But early in filming, Caple had to remind them that their characters don't know each other well yet.

"We were too familiar," Ramos laughed.

The two actors met around 2017, when Ramos performed a reading of something Fishback had written. They started piecing together their six degrees of separation, with Ramos having grown up in Bushwick and Fishback in East New York, and all the times they (asterisk)could(asterisk) have met.

Blockbuster

But even after a major blockbuster that took them from Montreal to Machu Picchu, they're still learning things about one another. Both, they realized during the interview, had been rejected by LaGuardia, the famed New York performing arts school.

"High five," Fishback said. "Team reject, baby!"

Ramos grew up watching Transformers on Saturday mornings. One of his first toys was even the Stingray Transformer, one of the characters from the Beast Wars storyline that the new movie draws on, which made him feel like a kid again.

"I would wait every weekend for the newest episode to drop,"

Ramos said earlier on stage. "Being a part of Transformers universe is beyond my wildest dreams. My 13-year-old self would be like, 'Yo, that's fire.'"

Fishback came in a little reticent, knowing that sometimes character can get lost in big, GCI-driven spectacles.

"Sometimes they're toying with the idea of adding a person of color, but you don't really know if they're going to go into who the person actually is," Fishback said. "Steven affirmed that that was not the case. He wanted it to be authentically Brooklyn, he wanted Elena to have autonomy over her body, her mind and the things that she wanted to achieve in life, and that we would know that she had things that she wanted to achieve. And that was important."

One of the highlights of the shoot was filming in Peru, at Machu Picchu. They used local kids as extras, had a Shaman come to bless the production and had oxygen tanks at the ready for anyone having trouble acclimating to the elevation.

And they're excited about the possibility for more films, but that all depends on the audience.

"Steven's already working on the next one," Ramos said. "But it all comes down to whether people go see it. It seems like people are really excited by the trailer. So hopefully they take that excitement and get some tickets to go see it in a movie theater. Tell your friends, take your family. This is a movie you can see multiple times."

Variety

Features

ARABIC TIMES

TUESDAY, MAY 30, 2023



This image released by Disney shows Halle Bailey as Ariel and Jonah Hauer-King as Prince Eric in 'The Little Mermaid.' (AP)

Film

Disney's live-action film lacks sparkling awe

Disenchantment in 'Little Mermaid'

By Lindsey Bahr

It's not Rob Marshall's fault that Disney's latest live-action retread doesn't really sing. "The Little Mermaid," a somewhat drab undertaking with sparks of bioluminescence, suffers from the same fundamental issues that plagued "The Lion King," "Aladdin" and "Beauty and the Beast." Halle Bailey might be a lovely presence and possesses a superb voice that is distinctly different from Jodi Benson's, but photorealistic fins, animals and environments do not make Disney fairy tales more enchanting on their own.

The essential problem is that the live-action films have prioritized nostalgia and familiarity over compelling visual storytelling. They try to recreate beats and shots from their animated predecessors, defiantly ignoring the possibility that certain musical sequences and choices were enchanting and vibrant because they were animated, not in spite of it.

There was, in the 1989 film, a sparkling awe to everything. The underwater castle. The mermaids. Eric's ship. Even Ariel's bright red hair. Combined with the wonderful songs and lyrics by Alan Menken and Howard Ashman, it's not hard to understand why it helped fuel a Disney Animation renaissance.

Anyone who has gone through the recent Disney's live-action library would be right to approach "The Little Mermaid" with caution. Still, there's excitement as the camera takes us underwater to give us our first glimpse of the mermaids - even after a somewhat ominous quote from Hans Christian Anderson that begins the movie ("But a mermaid has no tears, and therefore she suffers much more"). You can't help but be hopeful. But the first mermaid that comes into focus doesn't so much evoke wonder as it does a flashback of Ben Stiller's merman in "Zoolander." The technology is better, sure, but the result is about the same. Worse, as we

spend more time with them, following Ariel's multicultural sisters as they gather around their father King Triton (Javier Bardem), it's hard to shake a distinctly uncanny valley feeling. It's like gazing in on a roundtable of AI supermodels with fins.

For all its pizzazz, everything about this "Little Mermaid" is just more muted. Miranda's new songs are odd, too, and don't seem to fit. Prince Eric's (Jonah Hauer-King) makes sense, maybe even Ariel's in-her-head anthem after she gives her voice to Melissa McCarthy's Ursula, but did Scuttle really need a song, too?

Depictions

Speaking of Scuttle, the cute cartoons that stood in for Ariel's seagull, crab and fish friends have been replaced with horrifyingly accurate depictions of said animals. Awkwafina's comedy charms can only go so far while looking like an actual seagull who might be after your chips at the beach. Close-ups of its beady blue eyes are unsettling, though it was probably a good call to go blue over gold, which looks a bit demonic even in the cartoon. Sometimes it seems as though the editor is trying to minimize the unpleasantness by quickly cutting away from Scuttle. Flounder (Jacob Tremblay, who also voiced Luca) doesn't have this problem as much, mainly because once they go out of the water he's essentially hidden under the surface. Daveed Diggs' Sebastian gets off easy, looking the most pleasantly cartoonish. But then there's that Jamaican accent that they decided to carry over (and this in a movie that adds a line about consent to "Kiss the Girl").

Visibility is a problem for more than just Flounder, too. Sometimes "The Little Mermaid's" underwater sequences just look too underwater. Things are cloudy and dull and hard to see, once again probably in the name of authenticity, but straining to see what Marshall and the scores of VFX teams

have labored on for years is not a pleasant experience. This could be a projection issue - I wasn't in an especially high-tech theater with color enhancing upgrades. But that also means anyone without access to things like Dolby Vision around the world will have this issue, too. When Sebastian brings out the most colorful fish he can find for the "Under the Sea" number, you even start to empathize with Ariel a little bit. It is the exact opposite of the "Avatar: The Way of Water" experience.

"The Little Mermaid," a Walt Disney Co. release in theaters Friday, is rated PG by the Motion Picture Association for "action/peril, some scary images." Running time: 135 minutes. Two stars out of four.

Also:

LOS ANGELES: Greta Lee cried through her first reading of Celine Song's "Past Lives," out June 2. The writer-director had written a deeply personal story about childhood friends, and possible soulmates, who reconnect in New York decades later. Nora's in a relationship but wondering "what if" in this aching romance.

"Telling a love story from that point of view felt so radical to me," Lee said. "It read so quiet, but I was struck by how cosmic it was too. It's connective. It's universal. It's just about life and how short life is and how do we reconcile this."

Lee, a stylish chameleon with comedic chops, has always made the most of every scene she's in, whether it's cooing "Sweet Birthday Baby" hundreds of times to Natasha Lyonne in "Russian Doll," frustrating Marni as Soojin in "Girls" or telling the divas of "The Morning Show" the hard truth. But Nora would be something different.

"There is a hiding in plain sight-ness in character work, with costume or the way people talk," Lee said. "This felt so emotionally X-rated to me, so brutally exposing in a way. It was utterly terrifying." (AP)

ing nostalgic adults were essential. "The multi generational component of this cannot be overstated," Dergarabedian said.

Critics were more lukewarm. The movie is currently at 67% on Rotten Tomatoes. In her review, Lindsey Bahr of The Associated Press called it "a somewhat drab undertaking with sparks of biolu-



Marshall



McCarthy

minescence" that like too many of the Disney remakes "prioritized nostalgia and familiarity over compelling visual storytelling."

She said Bailey, half of the sister R&B duo Chloe x Halle, still shone with a "lovely presence" and "superb voice."

Directed by Rob Marshall with a reported budget of \$250 million

before marketing, "The Little Mermaid" tells the story of a yearning, wayward daughter who cuts a devil's deal to swap her fins for a pair of legs. It features the songs from Alan Menken and Howard Ashman, including "Part of Your World" and "Under the Sea," that helped the original film spark a Disney animation renaissance in

the 1990s. Fourth place went to Universal's "The Super Mario Bros Movie," which keeps reaching new levels in its eighth weekend. Now available to rent on VOD, it still earned \$6.3 million in theaters. Its cumulative total of \$559 million makes Mario and Luigi the year's biggest earners so far. (AP)

People & Places

Television

'No winners'

Fans of 'Succession' react to series end

WASHINGTON, May 29, (AP): With the end of the critically acclaimed drama's fourth and final season, dedicated fans of "Succession" now know the answer to the series' central question: Which of the Murdochesque Roy family siblings will prevail?

Oh, and - for those who haven't yet watched, here's the spoiler alert.

The whopping 88-minute finale on Sunday evening, which concluded HBO's hit series chronicling a billionaire media mogul and his children's struggles to take over the family company, Waystar Royco, left viewers reeling - because none of the Roy siblings won.

HBO series "Succession" starred Jeremy Strong as Kendall Roy, Sarah Snook as Shiv Roy, center, and Kieran Culkin as Roman Roy.



Snook

In the episode, Shiv Roy took one final turn against her brother Kendall, blowing up his plans to keep their late father's company and become CEO by voting to let their media empire be acquired by a Swedish tech giant, GoJo.

The series-long tussles between the three key siblings turned into an actual tussle, as a screaming match descended into a wrestling match, with the nihilistic Roman declaring the trio "nothing" in the end. And Shiv's no-longer-estranged husband and soon-to-be-baby-daddy, Tom Wambsgans, triumphed as the new chief executive, with Cousin Greg by his side despite last-minute treachery.

In the finale's closing shot, Kendall stares in despair toward the water. And the credits roll.

"I put my marker down on Tom and Greg," said Jennifer Gould, an Oregon-based trusts and estates lawyer, minutes after she finished watching the show, "and I was right."

"Succession" always has been about the membership of its audience, not its size, and its popularity among the coastal media and agenda-setting groups that the show depicts and attracts means the finale will likely leave a cultural mark.

Discussion

#Succession was trending No. 1 on Twitter on Sunday night, followed by Shiv, Kendall, Greg and Tom Wambsgans.

The Emmy-winning show even permeated the discussion around the debt limit in Washington on Sunday when a deal was reached just hours before the finale aired. A White House official ended a call with reporters by telling them to "enjoy Succession."

More recent prestige TV finales are a better analogue for "Succession" than those of the network behemoths of decades past. For example, "The Sopranos" suddenly cutting back to the song "Don't Stop Believin'" in 2007 set the standard for both talkability and inscrutability.

But "Succession" left its own unanswered questions. Did far-right presidential candidate Jeryd Mencken, who the Roys' network questionably declared the winner, actually ascend to the White House? Will the GoJo deal really be finalized? Do Tom and Shiv make their marriage work?

"I will be thinking about this for a while," Gould said.

Pamela Soin, a management consultant in New York City, and a group of friends have watched every "Succession" episode this season with a serious ritual, but Soin only watched the final episode with her father - a new convert - because of the Memorial Day holiday weekend in the US.

"I feel like it was the closest thing to a succession if they didn't pick one of the siblings," Soin said.

Soin's father, who had only watched the pilot earlier Sunday before dozing intermittently during the finale, declared his hope for a family reunion to save their dad's company.

Not so much. "Where we left it is: Those three kids with all their personalities - they lost control of everything due to their characters and who they are as people," Soin said.

Conclusions to hit TV series can be hit-or-miss. The bloody 2013 ending of Walter White's story on "Breaking Bad," and Don Draper's more zen ending on "Mad Men" in 2015 generally satisfied their finicky fans. The 2019 conclusion of "Game of Thrones" - the last big finish for an HBO show - generally did not. Endings are hard to pull off, and disappointment tends to be the norm, to which the makers of "Seinfeld" and "Lost" can attest.

For Kendall fans who assumed he would ultimately succeed, Sunday's finale was a shock.

"A lot of people will be very upset with this ending," Soin said.

Suraj Nandy, a 20-year-old college student from Bengaluru, India, said he was counting down the hours until Sunday's finale. While the episode aired at 6:30 a.m. local time, Nandy won't be able to tune in for a few hours because he had to take his sick cat to the veterinarian.

Also:

NEW YORK: The popular television western "Yellowstone" with Kevin Costner will end this fall and be replaced almost immediately by a sequel. But like any good drama, there's some mystery involved.

The sequel, still untitled, will premiere December on the Paramount cable network, which also televises "Yellowstone," Paramount said on Friday.

Behind Costner, who plays Montana rancher John Dutton, series creator Taylor Sheridan launched a phenomenon. The opening of its fifth season last November was seen by 12.1 million viewers on the night of its debut, more people than any other scripted series last fall - a remarkable feat for a show not on a broadcast network.

"We've been able to create a show that didn't start out being popular but did it on its own terms," Costner told The Associated Press last fall.

"Yellowstone" will wrap up with new episodes airing in November; how many was not announced on Friday. Those episodes haven't been filmed yet, and it's not clear whether Costner will participate following reports that he may want out of the series.

Paramount would not comment on that Friday, with a spokesperson saying only, "Kevin Costner is a big part of 'Yellowstone' and we hope that's the case for a long time to come."

David Glasser, CEO of 101 Studios, which produces "Yellowstone" with MTV Entertainment, said the new series "will be picking up where 'Yellowstone' leaves off in another epic tale." While the series hasn't been named, the word "Yellowstone" will be part of the title - an important distinction because that wasn't the case for spinoffs like "1883" or "1923."



This image released by Apple TV+ shows Rose Byrne, (left), and Seth Rogen in a scene from 'Platonic.' (AP)

Television

Byrne and Rogen are just best friends in new series

Extraordinary buddy tale in 'Platonic'

LOS ANGELES, May 29, (AP): Can men and women be friends? 1989's "When Harry Met Sally" said no, but Rose Byrne and Seth Rogen disagree.

The pair co-star in the new Apple TV+ series "Platonic," debuted recently, about longtime best friends who, as the title suggests, are just that. In fact, the actors had conversations early on to make sure the characters never cross a line.

"I honestly don't like things about infidelity," Rogen said in a recent interview. "I just don't like it. That was something that I was like so clear (on) and something we talked about a lot... 'How do we signal to the audience, 'that's not a thing we have to worry about'? They can enjoy the show, laugh and not have this nagging thing in the back of their heads of like, 'Is she going to cheat on her husband with this guy?'"

Both Byrne and Rogen, who are each married, say they have longtime friends of the opposite sex.

"I have a lot of friendships with women that I've had for decades and decades and decades," he said. "I still am on a text chain with two girls who I went to an elementary school and summer camp with."

Byrne recalls a "very intense" friendship she had with a male years ago when they were both struggling actors. The two were also roommates and leaned on each other, as friends do. What brought them comfort was a hot topic among outsiders.

"The amount of people that could not believe that we were not together or hooking up or had hooked up or were going to hook up, it was extraordinary," she said, adding that they still share a bond. "We're still very, very close friends 20 years later, but it's harder now. I have kids and a family; we live on other sides

of the world."

The conflict in "Platonic" arises because Rogen and Byrne's characters, Will and Sylvia, are rekindling their friendship after an argument created a yearslong wedge between them.

"They reunite in very different chapters in their life," said Byrne.

Sylvia is happily married with three kids. Will is recently divorced and has more freedom. The will they-won't they trope is more about will they be able to be the kind of friends they once were after so much time has passed.

Relationship

There's also an issue of how Will and Sylvia behave when they're together. They revert back to their younger selves, pulling pranks, staying out late and partying. Sylvia's husband, Charlie, played by Luke Macfarlane, is envious that Sylvia is more carefree with Will, while their lives are cluttered with the things they have to do, not want to do. Will and Sylvia also argue about who is more stuck at middle age and not living up to their potential. (The answer: They both are.)

And while Billy Crystal's Harry in 1989's "When Harry Met Sally" was adamant that men and women can't be friends, relationship experts say it's a silly debate.

"It's kind of wild we're even asking that question in 2023," said Allison Raskin, a bestselling author and mental health advocate. Her book "Overthinking About You: Navigating Romantic Relationships When You Have Anxiety, OCD, and/or Depression" addresses these topics.

"I don't think that just because you happen to be attracted to whatever gender presentation the person you're friends with have, that that means there's a romantic connection there or a sexual one."

Tara Ceranic Salinas is a professor and chair at the University of San Diego's Knauss School of Business who studies ethics and behavior in a variety of settings. She cites a recent US surgeon general's report that called loneliness an epidemic as a reason why friendships of all kind are vital.

"If people really think men and women can't be friends, you're eliminating half of the population from your friend groups," argued Salinas. "You're missing out on social connection, and it actually harms your health."

The experts also argue that a romantic couple that doesn't allow for outside friendships is a signal of a problem.

"That says something about your relationship," said Raskin. "It says you think that your partner should be able to get everything they need from just you, when we've really seen that's not possible. It puts a lot of unnecessary pressure on couples to be everything and provide everything."

Also:

LOS ANGELES: A new miniseries offers a history lesson on the 32nd president, Franklin D. Roosevelt, who was elected to four terms in office. Co-executive produced by Bradley Cooper and biographer Doris Kearns Goodwin, "FDR" delves into some of the most pivotal times in Roosevelt's life including when he contracted Polio disease and was permanently paralyzed from the waist down, when U.S. forces stormed the beaches of Normandy, France on D-Day, June 6, 1944, and his marriage to Eleanor Roosevelt who became a champion for human rights. The three-night miniseries premiered its first episode Monday, May 29 on History.



Flora Anna Buda, winner of the short film Palme d'Or for '27,' poses for photographers during a photo call following the awards ceremony at the 76th international film festival, Cannes, southern France, May 27. (AP)



Grant



Hanks

Variety

LONDON: A London court recently rejected an attempt by the publisher of The Sun tabloid to throw out a lawsuit by actor Hugh Grant alleging that journalists and investigators hired illegally snooped on him.

Justice Timothy Fancourt said a trial will have to determine whether Rupert Murdoch's News Group Newspapers carried out unlawful information gathering that included tapping Grant's home phone, bugging his car and breaking into his home.

"If true - which will be a matter for the trial due to take place in January 2024 - these allegations would establish very serious, deliberate wrongdoing at NGN, conducted on an institutional basis on a huge scale," Fancourt wrote. "Of particular relevance ..., they would also establish a concerted effort to conceal the wrongdoing by hiding and destroying relevant documentary evidence, repeated public denials, lies to regulators and authorities, and unwarranted threats to those who dared to make allegations or notify intended claims against The Sun."

During a hearing last month, News Group argued that claims of unlawful information gathering by Grant and Prince Harry should be thrown out because they weren't brought within a six-year time limit.

The ruling didn't address the Duke of Sussex's case because the judge wants to hear more at a hearing in July about Harry's allegations that he was prevented from bringing his phone hacking claims much sooner because of a "secret agreement" between Buckingham Palace and News Group executives.

The judge dismissed Grant's phone hacking claims on time limitation grounds, saying the actor, who has played a key role in the Hacked Off press reform group, was well aware of the voicemail interception scandal and could have brought such a claim much sooner.

Grant previously settled a phone hacking case with News Group's former publication News of the World. That paper was closed in 2011 at the height of the hacking scandal after it was revealed

that the tabloid had intercepted voice-mails of a murdered girl, in addition to those of celebrities, athletes, politicians and members of the royal family. (AP)

CAMBRIDGE, Mass: Tom Hanks told graduates of Harvard University to be superheroes in their defense of truth and American ideals, and to resist those who twist the truth for their own gain.

"For the truth to some is no longer empirical. It's no longer based on data, nor common sense, nor even common decency," said the two-time Academy Award winner during his keynote address. He invoked the Latin word for truth, "veritas," Harvard's motto.

"Telling the truth is no longer the benchmark for public service," he said. "It's no longer the salve to our fears, or the guide to our actions. Truth is now

considered malleable, by opinion and by zero sum endgames."

That left the more than 9,000 graduates at Harvard's 372nd commencement with a choice to make, said the Hollywood icon, who has played an astronaut, a soldier, a little boy in a man's body and even a Harvard professor in a decades-long movie career.

"It's the same option for all grownups who have to decide to be one of three types of Americans: Those who embrace liberty and freedom for all; those who won't; or those who are indifferent," he said. "Only the first do the work of creating a more perfect union, a nation indivisible. The others get in the way." Near the end of the speech, he drove the point home to a group that included not just undergraduates but those who graduated from Harvard's professional and extension schools.

"The responsibility is yours. Ours. The effort is optional. But the truth, the truth is sacred. Unalterable. Chiseled into the stone and the foundation of our republic," he said.

"It's not fair, but please don't be embittered by this fact," Hanks said. "Now, without having done a lick of work, without having spent any time in class, without once walking into that library - in order to have anything to do with the graduating class of Harvard, its faculty, or its distinguished alumni - I make a damn good living playing someone who did," he said in reference to his depiction of fictional Harvard professor Robert Langdon in three movies based on Dan Brown's novels - "The Da Vinci Code," "Angels & Demons" and "Inferno." (AP)



Bollywood music composer and singer A.R. Rahman arrives to attend the 23rd International Indian Film Academy (IIFA) awards in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, Saturday, May 27. (AP)

Space

A new space race

Chinese astronauts to land on moon by 2030

BEIJING, May 30, (Agencies): China plans to land astronauts on the moon before 2030, in what would be another advance in what's increasingly seen as a new space race pitting the Asian autocracy against the United States and its democratic allies.

The US aims to put astronauts back on the lunar surface by the end of 2025.

Deputy Director of the Chinese Manned Space Agency Lin Xiqiang confirmed China's goal at a news conference Monday but gave no specific date.

China is first preparing for a "short stay on the lunar surface and human-robotic joint exploration," Lin said.

"We have a complete near-Earth human space station and human round-trip transportation system," complemented by a process for selecting, training and supporting new astronauts, he said. A schedule of two crewed missions a year is "sufficient for carrying out our objectives," Lin said.

China's space agency also introduced the new crew heading to its orbiting space station in a launch scheduled for Tuesday and said the station will be expanded. The Tiangong space station was said to have been finished in November when the third section



Lin

was added. The fourth module will be added "at an appropriate time to advance support for scientific experiments and provide the crew with improved working and living conditions," Lin said.

The trio being launched aboard the Shenzhou 16 craft will overlap briefly with the three astronauts who have lived on the station for the previous six months conducting experiments and assembling equipment inside and outside the vehicle.

The fresh crew includes a civilian for the first time. All previous crew members have been in the People's Liberation Army, the military wing of the country's ruling Communist Party.

Gui Haichao, a professor at Beijing's top aerospace research institute, will join mission commander Jing Haipeng and spacecraft engineer Zhu Yangzhu as the payload expert.

Development (cross head)

Speaking to media at the launch site outside the northwestern city of Jiuquan, Jing said the mission marked "a new stage of application and development," in China's space program.

"We firmly believe that the spring of China's space science has arrived, and we have the determination, confidence, and ability to resolutely complete the mission," said Jing, a major general who has made three previous space flights.

China's first manned space mission in 2003 made it the third country after the former Soviet Union and the US to put a person into space.

China built its own space station after it was excluded from the International Space Station, largely due to US objections over the Chinese space programs' intimate ties to the PLA.

Space is increasingly seen as a new area of competition between China and the United States - the world's two largest economies and rivals for diplomatic and military influence. The astronauts NASA sends to the moon by the end of 2025 will aim for the south pole where permanently shadowed craters are believed to be packed with frozen water.

Plans for permanent crewed bases on the moon are also being considered by both countries, raising questions about rights and interests on the lunar surface. US law tightly restricts cooperation between the two countries' space programs and while China says it welcomes foreign collaborations, those have thus far been limited to scientific research.

In addition to their lunar programs, the US and China have also landed rovers on Mars and Beijing plans to follow the US in landing a spacecraft on an asteroid.

Other countries and organizations ranging from the India and the United Arab Emirates to Israel and the European Union are also planning lunar missions.

The U.S. sent six crewed missions to the moon between 1969 and 1972, three of which involved the use of a drivable lunar rover that China says it is now developing with tenders in the private sector.

While America currently operates more spaceports and has a far wider network of international and commercial partners than China, the Chinese program has proceeded in a steady and cautious manner reflecting the country's vast increase in economic power and global influence since the 1980s.

Also:

NEW DELHI: The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) successfully launched on Monday a second-generation navigation satellite onboard Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV) rocket in South Indian state of Andhra Pradesh.

After 19 minutes flight, the (NVS-01) satellite was injected precisely into a Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit, and the "GSLV-F12/ NVS-01 Mission is accomplished," the (ISRO) said in its official Twitter account.

The 51.7-metre-tall, three-stage (GSLV) took off from the second launch pad at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota in south Indian state of Andhra Pradesh at 10.42 local time carrying the navigation satellite.

The rocket deployed the 2,232 kg satellite into the intended Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit at an altitude of about 251 km.

It would help augment the India's regional navigation system by providing accurate and real-time navigation for both civilian and strategic purposes.

WASHINGTON: Students from southern New Mexico schools will have an opportunity to hear from NASA astronauts aboard the International Space Station.

The Earth-to-space call will air live at 11:30 a.m. EDT Tuesday, May 30, on NASA Television, the NASA app, and the agency's website.

NASA astronauts Steve Bowen and Frank Rubio will answer prerecorded questions from students through a collaboration with the New Mexico Museum of Space History. The museum is dedicated to telling the story of space exploration and has engaged several school districts in southern New Mexico to participate in the downlink. The museum's educators traveled to each district and presented information about the space station and its Expedition 69 crew, then worked with the students to develop the questions posed to the astronauts.

For more than 22 years, astronauts have continuously lived and worked aboard the space station, testing technologies, performing science, and developing the skills needed to explore farther from Earth. Astronauts living in space aboard the orbiting laboratory communicate with NASA's Mission Control Center in Houston 24 hours a day through the Space Communications and Navigation (SCaN) Near Space Network.

Important research and technology investigations aboard the International Space Station benefit people on Earth and set the groundwork for future exploration. As part of Artemis, NASA will send astronauts to the Moon to prepare for future human exploration of Mars. Inspiring the next generation of explorers - the Artemis Generation - ensures America will continue to lead in space exploration and discovery.



Chinese astronauts for the upcoming Shenzhou-16 mission Jing Haipeng, (center), speaks next to Gui Haichao, (left), and Zhu Yangzhu, (right), as they meet the reporters at a press conference at the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center ahead of the launch mission from Jiuquan in northwestern China, Monday, May 29. China's space program plans to land astronauts on the moon before 2030, a top official with the country's space program said Monday. (AP)

The Conversation

Deaths caused by candida infections also rising

Deadly fungus spreading in US hospitals

By Arif R. Sarwari
West Virginia University

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

In late March 2023, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention highlighted the threat posed by a rapidly spreading fungus called *Candida auris* that is causing infections and deaths among hospital patients across the country. The unexpected rise of this recently discovered pathogen is part of a larger trend of increasing fungal infections in the US.

Arif R. Sarwari is a physician and professor of infectious diseases at West Virginia University. Amid rising concerns among doctors and public health officials, Sarwari helped explain what *Candida auris* is, how it is spreading and how worried people in the US should be.

Candida auris is a recently identified, single-cell fungus that can infect humans and is moderately resistant to existing antifungal drugs. You might be familiar with superficial fungal infections - like athlete's foot or vaginal yeast infections - which are quite common and don't pose significant risks to most people. In contrast, *Candida auris* and other related fungi can cause infections within a person's body and are much more dangerous.

Candida auris is a type of yeast that was first identified in 2009 and is one of a number of species in the *Candida* family that can infect people. In the past, most invasive *Candida* infections were caused by *Candida albicans*. Recently, though, infections with species of *Candida* that are much more resistant to drugs than *Candida albicans* - like *Candida auris* - have shot up, with a nearly fivefold increase since 2019.

For the most part, healthy people do not have to worry about invasive *Candida* infections. There are two groups of people who are most at risk for dangerous *Candida* infections: first are patients in intensive care units who also have central intravenous catheters and are receiving broad spectrum antibiotics. Patients with weak immune

systems, such as cancer patients on chemotherapy or patients with human immunodeficiency virus, are also at high risk of *Candida* infection.

Nearly all people have *Candida* fungi growing in their guts and on their skin as part of their microbiome. When a person is healthy, *Candida* numbers are low, but the fungi can proliferate rapidly and overcome a person's immune system when a patient is sick and on antibiotics.

If *Candida* cells on a person's skin contaminate an intravenous line, the fungus can get into a patient's bloodstream and cause often deadly bloodstream infections. *Candida* species are the fourth most-common cause of hospital associated bloodstream infections.

There are three classes of antifungal drugs that can be used to fight invasive *Candida* infections. *Candida albicans* is susceptible to all three and easier to treat than *Candida auris*, which is moderately resistant to all three classes of antifungals.

Infections

The CDC estimates that in the US, around 25,000 patients get *Candida* bloodstream infections every year.

Candida bloodstream infections are best understood as a tale of two eras. In the past, they were almost always caused by drug-susceptible *Candida albicans* that arose endogenously from a patient's own microbiome. There was no concern about infections spreading to other patients.

The recent emergence of drug-resistant and more transmissible *Candida auris* is raising alarms among health professionals. Because this species can contaminate surfaces and easily spread from patient to patient, the fungus is causing outbreaks both within and between hospitals.

Fungal infections have been rising in the US in recent years, especially infections caused by *Candida auris*. The pathogen only caused a few infections each year between 2013 and 2016, but starting in 2017, infections began to rise rapidly with 2,377 confirmed cases recorded in 2022 according to

the CDC. Deaths caused by all *Candida* infections are rising, too, from 1,010 in 2018 to nearly 1,800 in 2021.

The reasons for this increase are complicated, but I think there are two main drivers: more, sicker patients in hospitals and a stressed health system, both of which got worse during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Hospitals are seeing more very sick patients with weak immune systems, especially as the population ages. This means there are more susceptible patients at hospitals to begin with.

Additionally, any time the health system is stressed - like during a pandemic - drug-resistant bacterial and fungal infections increase. This is because very sick patients are usually in crowded wards and exposed to many antibiotics. In addition, loss of hospital staff and increased workload results in lower quality sanitation - causing more spread of resistant pathogens.

I view the rise of drug-resistant fungi like *Candida auris* through the same lens as worsening antibiotic resistance. The more antibiotics people use, the greater the chances a resistant strain will become dominant.

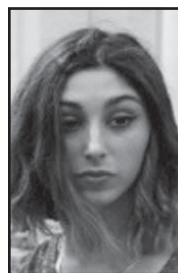
There are a few options for fighting the rise of drug-resistant *Candida auris*.

The most effective measures are good infection control practices. These behaviors and protocols include practicing good hand hygiene before and after each patient contact, wearing isolation gowns and gloves that are carefully discarded in a patient's room, and taking measures to detect *Candida auris* infections early and isolate patients to prevent the spread. Though relatively simple, these actions are key to preventing the spread of all antibiotic-resistant pathogens, not just fungi.

The second option is to develop better drugs to treat new, antifungal-resistant strains of *Candida*. Many new antifungal drugs are already under development. However, prevention through sound infection control will always remain foundational, as further drug development is akin to an arms race. (AP)



A pair of young red-crested Amazon parrots investigate their environment at the Rare Species Conservatory Foundation in Loxahatchee, Fla., Friday, May 19. According to a criminal complaint, a smuggler was caught with 29 parrot eggs at Miami International Airport when the eggs began hatching in his carry-on bag while in transit. The RSCF is raising the 24 surviving red-crested and yellow-naped parrots while looking for a long-term home for the birds. (AP)



Goffi



Viero

Discovery

'Never intended to hurt statue': Two environmental activists told the Vatican's criminal court they never intended to damage an ancient statue in the Vatican Museums when they glued their hands to its marble base, in one of a series of flash protests across Europe to draw attention to climate change.

The activists, Guido Viero and Ester Goffi, are on trial in the Vatican City State, accused of aggravated damage and face up to three years in prison and some 3,000 euros (\$3,227) in fines, according to the Last Generation environmental group. A third defendant who filmed the protest, Laura Zorzini, is accused of failing to follow police orders but was not in the courtroom.

On Aug 18, Viero and Goffi entered the Vatican Museums and glued their hands to the base of Laocoon statue, one of the most important ancient statues in the collection that is believed to date from the 1st century B.C., and hung up a banner reading: "Last Generation: No gas and no carbon." After their hands were unglued, they were arrested and subsequently charged by Vatican prosecutors.

The first operative hearing of the trial came on the same day that German police raided 15 properties linked to the German Last Generation climate activist group in a further sign of government impatience over their protests.

In the Vatican tribunal, Viero strongly defended the Last Generation cause, saying he felt an obligation as a father and grandfather to draw attention to Italy's failure to halt global warming. He cited as evidence the 15 people who died in floods last week in northern Italy in what scientist say was a case of climate change-induced extreme weather.

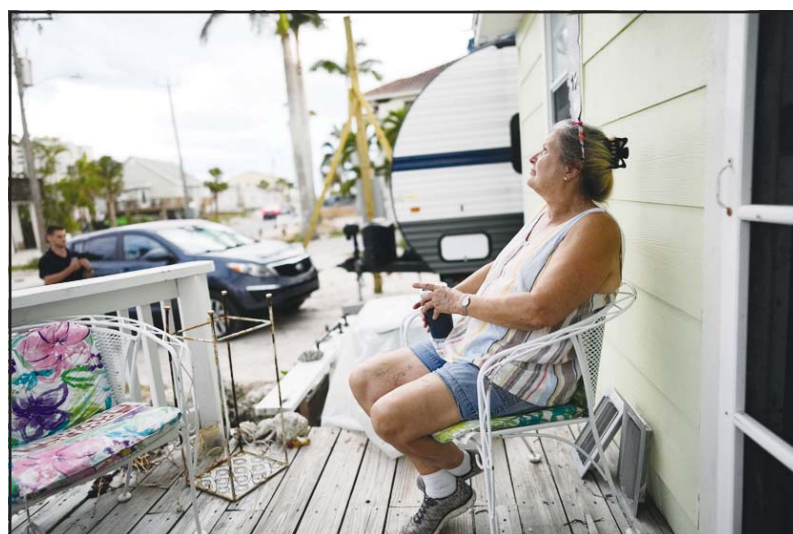
When Judge Giuseppe Pignatone pointed out that the Vatican doesn't invest in fossil fuels and is a separate state from Italy, Viero concurred that the protest in the Vatican Museums was more "mediatic" than anything else.

He and Goffi said their protest never intended to harm the statue, as Vatican prosecutors allege.

Goffi, who has a degree in art restoration, recalled she had brought a glue remover in her purse, but that Vatican restorers and a nurse summoned to the scene instead used acetone, the key in-

redient in nail polish remover. She said she had been assured by colleagues that the glue and remover she had brought wouldn't cause permanent damage to the marble. (AP)

Bag filled with parrot eggs: The 24 bright green baby parrots began chirping



Jacquelyn Velazquez sits on the front porch of her family's home, which had to be gutted after Hurricane Ian sent storm waters to within inches of the ceiling and damaged the house's roof, in Fort Myers Beach, Fla., Wednesday, May 24. The Velazquez family feels lucky to have survived the storm, which they rode out on the second floor of a neighbor's home, and to be permitted by FEMA to rebuild their historic wooden house rather than tear it down. (AP)

a day in a room filled with large cages.

At just 9 weeks old, these parrots have already survived a harrowing journey after being snatched from their nests in a forest. They are almost fully feathered now and the staff has started transitioning them from a special formula to a diet of food pellets and fruit.

"You ready to meet the children?" asked Paul Reillo, a Florida International University professor and director of the foundation, as he led visitors Friday into a small building tucked behind a sprawling house in Loxahatchee, a rural community near West Palm Beach.

"They are hand-raised babies," he said, as the chicks squawked and looked inquisitively at the visitors. "They've never seen mom and dad; they've been raised by us since they hatched."

It was the hatchlings' faint chirping inside a carry-on bag at the Miami airport that brought them to the attention of a U.S. Customs and Border Protection officer. The passenger, Szu Ta Wu, had just arrived on TACA Airlines flight 392 from Managua, Nicaragua, on March 23, and was changing flights in Miami to return home to Taiwan, according to a criminal complaint filed in U.S. District Court in Miami.

Officers stopped Wu at a checkpoint. He was asked about the sound coming from his bag, which Reillo later described as a "sophisticated" temperature controlled cooler.

Wu reached in and pulled out a smaller bag and showed the officer an egg, the complaint said. The officer then looked inside and saw more eggs and a tiny featherless bird that had just hatched. (AP)

SPORTS

Braves dominate Phillies to split 4-game series

Rays top Dodgers

ATLANTA, May 29, (AP): Ronald Acuña Jr. drove in three runs with four hits, including a two-run single in Atlanta's seven-run first inning, and the Braves beat the Philadelphia Phillies 11-4 on Sunday night to split the four-game series.

Matt Olson hit a pair of two-run homers for Atlanta, and Spencer Strider (5-2) became the fastest pitcher in modern history to reach 100 strikeouts in a season.

Acuña hit a run-scoring triple in the fifth before Olson's second homer to center. Acuña had two singles in the first when the Braves sent 11 batters to the plate, collected seven hits and opened a 7-0 lead. Led by Acuña and Olson, who had three hits, the Braves set a season high with 20 hits.

Brandon Marsh and Kyle Schwarber each hit a two-run homer for Philadelphia. Dylan Covey (0-1) got the loss.

Rays 11, Dodgers 10

In St. Petersburg, Isaac Paredes homered and drove in four runs as the MLB-best Rays topped the NL West-leading Dodgers.

Luke Raley beat out an infield single leading off the seventh and scored on Wander Franco's grounder, giving the Rays an 11-10 advantage.

Chris Taylor homered twice, and Max Muncy, Trayce Thompson and J.D. Martinez also connected for the Dodgers. Victor González (1-2) was charged with the loss.

Muncy left in the third with a left hamstring cramp, which occurred running the bases. He will have an MRI exam on Monday.

Jalen Beeks (2-2) got the win, and Jason Adam earned his seventh save.

Rays closer Pete Fairbanks was warming up in the bullpen but left for the dugout after his hip locked up.

Orioles 3, Rangers 2

In Baltimore, Austin Hays singled in the go-ahead run in the eighth inning to cap a three-hit performance, and Baltimore avoided a three-game series sweep.

After Texas tied the game in the top of the eighth, Cedric Mullins opened the bottom half with a walk against Cole Ragans (2-2). Adley Rutschman followed with a single, and Hays greeted Joe Barlow with a sharp grounder up the middle against a drawn-up infield.

Danny Coulombe (2-1) got the win, and Félix Bautista struck out the side in the ninth for his 13th save in 17 tries.

Despite the loss, Texas has won 10 of 14 and gone 8-1-1 in its last 10 series.

Yankees 10, Padres 7

In New York, Anthony Rizzo hit a go-ahead RBI single in New York's seven-run third inning before injuring his neck on a pickoff play.

Rizzo was injured when Kyle Higashioka picked off Fernando Tatis Jr. to end the sixth. As the first baseman leaned back to apply the tag, Rizzo collided with Tatis. Rizzo stayed on the ground for a few minutes and headed back to

BASEBALL

the clubhouse as the Yankees batted.

The team said Rizzo's exit was for precautionary reasons. Aaron Judge and Harrison Bader homered for New York. Higashioka had three hits and two RBIs.

Yankees ace Gerrit Cole (6-0) allowed six runs, five earned, and four hits in six-plus innings.

San Diego's Yu Darvish (3-4) was tagged for seven runs and seven hits in 2 2/3 innings.

Jake Cronenworth and Rougned Odor went deep for the Padres.

Blue Jays 3, Twins 0

In Minneapolis, Toronto's José Berríos pitched around a season-high five walks and into the sixth inning, beating his old team.

Alejandro Kirk hit a two-run single in the second that held up for Berríos (5-4), who has allowed two or fewer runs in seven of his last nine turns after a rough start.

Daulton Varsho scored from first base on Kirk's hit and was solid in the outfield, a day after he twice had a leaping catch attempt turn into a Twins home run.

Playing center, Varsho assisted on the third out of the



Juventus' Juan Cuadrado (left), and AC Milan's Rafael Leao (right), vie for the ball during the Serie A soccer match between Juventus and AC Milan at the Turin Allianz stadium, Italy. (AP)

Verona draw 1-1 against Empoli

Milan pip Juventus to secure spot in CL

MILAN, May 29, (AP): AC Milan secured its spot in next season's Champions League by winning 1-0 at Juventus on Sunday - barring any off-field developments.

Olivier Giroud's goal late in the first half was enough for Milan to secure a spot in the top four in Serie A as it left the Rossoneri six points above fifth-place Atalanta with just one match remaining.

Milan also moved eight points above Juventus. However, the Bianconeri could still appeal the 10-point penalty it was given for false accounting.

Coming into the match, Juventus was the only side that could possibly replace Milan in the top four in the Italian league.

But its hopes had imploded last week after the points deduction and a 4-1 loss at Empoli.

Milan knew a point would be enough and both sides had chances before Giroud broke the deadlock,

five minutes before the break, when he peeled away from his marker to head Davide Calabria's cross into the far bottom corner.

Juventus almost snatched an equalizer late on as Danilo's volley from a corner appeared to be heading into the back of the net from close range but Milan defender Pierre Kalulu cleared it off the line.

SOCCER

Former Juventus and Inter coach Antonio Conte was in the stands, fueling speculation he will replace Massimiliano Allegri at the end of the season after a second straight season without silverware.

The fight to avoid relegation from Serie A will go down to the final day of the season - and possibly beyond - after Hellas Verona drew 1-1 against Empoli.

Verona appeared to be heading for

a vital victory thanks to Adolfo Gaiich's second-half strike but defender Giangiacomo Magnani deflected the ball into his own net in the sixth minute of stoppage time.

That left Verona still in the relegation zone but level on points with 17th-place Spezia.

Verona visits Milan on the final day of the season, while Spezia travels to Roma. If both are level, under new rules, there will be a playoff to decide which one remains in Serie A.

Lecce secured its spot in Serie A next season with a late 1-0 win at 10-man Monza.

Lorenzo Colombo converted a penalty with the last kick of the match following Christian Gytkjær's handball. Gytkjær earlier had a penalty saved.

Elsewhere, Bologna fought back from two goals down to draw 2-2 against Serie A champion Napoli and Lazio moved into second spot with a 3-2 victory over Udinese.



Atlanta Braves' Eddie Rosario (8) hits a double in the first inning of a baseball game against the Philadelphia Phillies in Atlanta. (AP)

MLB Results/Standings

American League				National League				
East Division				East Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	W	L	Pct	GB	
Tampa Bay	39	16	.709	—	Atlanta	32	21	.604
Baltimore	34	19	.642	4	Miami	28	26	.519
New York	32	23	.582	7	New York	27	27	.500
Boston	28	25	.528	10	Philadelphia	25	28	.472
Toronto	28	26	.519	10-1/2	Washington	23	30	.434
Central Division				Central Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	W	L	Pct	GB	
Minnesota	27	26	.509	—	Milwaukee	28	25	.528
Detroit	25	26	.490	1	Pittsburgh	26	26	.500
Cleveland	23	29	.442	3-1/2	Cincinnati	24	29	.453
Chicago	22	33	.400	6	St. Louis	24	31	.436
Kansas City	16	38	.296	11-1/2	Chicago	22	30	.423
West Division				West Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	W	L	Pct	GB	
Texas	33	19	.635	—	Los Angeles	32	22	.593
Houston	31	21	.596	2	Arizona	30	23	.566
Seattle	28	25	.528	5-1/2	San Francisco	27	26	.509
Los Angeles	28	26	.519	6	San Diego	24	29	.453
Oakland	10	45	.182	24-1/2	Colorado	24	30	.444

Nashville SC rally to beat Columbus

NASHVILLE, Tenn., May 29, (AP): Fafa Picault, Teal Bunbury and Hany Mukhtar scored second-half goals and Nashville SC rallied to beat the Columbus Crew 3-1 on Sunday night after falling behind two minutes into the match.

Nashville (8-3-4) has won four straight at home for the first time. The club had three previous three-match win streaks but finished in draws the next time out all three times.

Yaw Yeboah staked Columbus (5-6-3) to a very early lead when he took a pass from Cucho Hernández and scored for a second time this season. Hernández joined Federico Higuain (2017) as the only Crew players with assists in four straight matches.

Picault scored the equalizer for Nashville, using an assist from Mukhtar in the 56th minute to notch his fourth goal.

Bunbury put Nashville on top in 80th minute. Daniel Lovitz picked up an assist on Bunbury's second goal of the season.



Embassy of India
Kuwait

TENDER No. - KUW/ADM/872/01/2023 DATED-30th MAY 2023

TENDER NOTICE FOR REFURBISHMENT OF AUDITORIUM

Embassy of India, Kuwait invites bids from interested companies for refurbishment of its Auditorium including upgradation of acoustics, lighting, audio video equipment and all other technical requirements with other required minor civil work.

Prospective / Interested companies are advised to inspect the area and present their offers in a sealed cover marked "Offer for refurbishment of Auditorium- to be opened by addressee only" and addressed to the "Head of Chancery, Embassy of India, Diplomatic Enclave, Arabian Gulf Street, Safat 13015, Kuwait." The bid must be submitted at the Embassy on or before 26th June 2023.

A pre bid meeting with all prospective/interested bidders will be held at 1430 hrs on 11th June 2023 in the Embassy of India, Kuwait.

The detailed tender document along with its annexure may be downloaded from Central Procurement Portal <https://procure.gov.in/cppp/> and also the official website of the Embassy of India, Kuwait from <https://indembkuwt.gov.in/tender-kuwait-in-india.php>. (please scan QR)



For any other clarification please contact Mr. S. James Jacob, Attache (Administration) on any working day (Sunday - Thursday) between 0800 hrs 1630 hrs on +96522513498 or email to: adminkuwait@mea.gov.in.

URGENT REAQUIREMENT

Social Media Marketing Executive

The Candidate should have expertise in: Content Writer Managing social media accounts.

Responsibilities :

- Create content pieces that appeal to our audiences, attract customers and boost our brand awareness.
- Produce content marketing campaigns to drive leads and subscribers.
- Develop different content types, social media posts, blogs, a regular basis.
- Manage social media accounts: reply to messages, post, Arrange PR events.
- Assure all-around consistency for textual styles, pictures, fonts, and tones in the content.

Requirements

- Excellent understanding of digital marketing
- Outstanding writing and editing skills
- Excellent interpersonal skills.
- Strong communication skills.
- Ability to work independently.
- Confident and reliable individual.
- Bilingual Male/ Female (Kuwaiti agent) Age limit: 23 - 30
- Salary: Negotiable share

resume: hr4u.q8@gmail.com

Pavlyuchenkova, a finalist in 2021, breezes past Czech teenager

Stephens leads 4 American women into 2nd round of French Open

PARIS, May 29, (AP) — Back on her "favorite court in the world," Sloane Stephens looked sharp in her opening match at the French Open with a 6-0, 6-4 win over \major finalist Karolina Pliskova.

While Stephens' only Grand Slam title came at the 2017 U.S. Open, she's also had sustained success at Roland Garros, finishing as a runner-up to Simona Halep in 2018 and reaching two quarterfinals on the red clay in Paris - including last year.

"This is my favorite court in the world, so I'm super happy to be back," Stephens told the crowd on Court Philippe Chatrier. "To start a Slam on your favorite court, your favorite surface, is always incredible."

She helped American women go 4-0 through the first few hours of play on Day 2 of the tournament after a 1-4 start on Sunday, when the only U.S. victory came in a match between two players from the country: Jessica Pegula beat Danielle Collins.

Madison Keys, the runner-up to Stephens in New York six years ago and a semifinalist at Roland Garros in 2018, beat Kaia Kanepi 6-1, 3-6, 6-1 on Monday to improve her career record in the first round of majors to 35-5.

Keys next plays American qualifier Kayla Day, who eliminated French wild-card entry Kristina Mladenovic 7-5, 6-1.

Also, Croatian-born American Bernard Pera beat former No. 2-ranked

Anett Kontaveit 7-6 (6), 6-2.

Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova, a finalist in Paris in 2021, breezed past Czech teenager Linda Fruhvirtova 6-2, 6-2; and 22nd-seeded Donna Vekic beat qualifier Dayana Yastremska 6-2, 7-5.

Stephens was down a break in the second set against Pliskova but then won three straight games to close it out.

Stephens had a 19-16 edge in winners and committed only 10 unforced errors to 31 by Pliskova, who lost in the finals of the U.S. Open in 2016 and Wimbledon in 2021.

TENNIS

"This court is a bit tricky. You have to play on it a lot to understand when the wind is blowing and where it's coming," Stephens said. "The more you play on it, the more you understand it. But it's a very complicated court. But that's what makes it so amazing."

Stephens won a small clay-court tournament in Saint Malo, France, at the start of the month and also reached the semifinals of the Morocco Open last week after only playing a total of three matches at bigger clay events in Madrid and Rome.

"Last year, my clay season wasn't great, but I played amazing at Roland Garros last year," Stephens said, "and this year, I really wanted to get match-

es and play a lot and to see where that got me."

Two years ago at the French Open, Barbora Krejickova arrived relatively unknown and relatively unaccomplished - and left with championships in both singles and doubles, something no woman had done at Roland Garros in more than 20 years.

A year ago at the French Open, Krejickova came in after three months off because of an elbow injury and her title defense in singles ended with a first-round loss, only the third ever by the previous year's champion in more than a half-century of the Open era.

And then her title defense in doubles ended before that event began thanks to a positive test for COVID-19, which hit her so hard she didn't get out of bed for four days.

As Krejickova prepared to return to action in Paris on Tuesday, facing Lesia Tsurenko at Court 7, this much was clear in her mind: She does not want to dwell on what happened in Paris either of the past two years.

"It all happened, but I'm definitely not thinking about it anymore," Krejickova said in an interview with The Associated Press. "What happened last year, happened last year. What happened two years ago, happened two years ago. Now I'm living in the present and I'm here."

That she would want to forget her 2022 trip to Paris, pretend it never hap-



Serbia's Novak Djokovic plays a shot against Aleksandar Kovacevic of the U.S. during their first round match of the French Open tennis tournament at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris. (AP)

pened, both because of the quick defeat and because of the illness? That makes sense. That's absolutely relatable.

That she would harbor a similar sen-

timent about 2021, when she produced the most triumphant two weeks of her professional life? Hmmmm.

When that question was put to the

27-year-old from the Czech Republic, she reconsidered. OK, there are some good vibes that come back and she is willing to enjoy.

Pajaree wins LPGA Match Play

Stricker claims 2nd senior major at PGA

NORTH LAS VEGAS, Nev., May 29, (AP) — Pajaree Anannarukarn of Thailand capped off the longest week on the LPGA Tour with a 3-and-1 victory Sunday to win the Bank of Hope LPGA Match Play over Ayaka Furue of Japan.

Anannarukarn, who beat Linn Grant of Sweden in the semifinals Sunday morning at Shadow Creek, took the lead for good with a birdie on the par-5 seventh hole.

The Thai kept up the pressure on a hot day north of Las Vegas, with both players carrying umbrellas under a bright blue sky to fend off the sun. But right when it looked as though fatigue was setting in from playing seven matches in five days, they produced some of their best shots.

Furue simply couldn't catch up, and finished runner-up for the second straight year.



Stricker

The match ended on the par-3 17th when Anannarukarn drilled her tee shot to a right pin about 6 feet to the right of the hole and Furue found a back bunker. Furue's bunker shot hit the left side of

the hole - had it hit the pin it might have dropped - and rolled out some 12 feet. She conceded the match.

Anannarukarn won for the second time on the LPGA Tour, and the first time since ISPS Handa World Invitational in Northern Ireland in 2021, a tournament co-sanctioned with the Ladies European Tour.

Two days ago, it looked as though she might get eliminated. Anannarukarn lost on the 18th hole to Karis Davidson of Australia, forcing a sudden death playoff. Anannarukarn hit a tee shot that sank deep into a divot in the first cut. She hit perhaps her most important shot of the week, gouging it out and onto the green to win with a par.

Emiliano Grillo atoned for a double bogey on the final hole by making a 5-foot birdie putt on the second playoff hole to beat Adam Schenk in the Charles Schwab Cup Challenge for the Argentine's first PGA Tour title in 7 1/2 years.

GOLF

Grillo looked like a winner when he had a two-shot lead on the 18th at Colonial. But his tee shot wound up well right into a culvert, and it tumbled down shallow water some 150 yards. He took a penalty drop, hit a poor chip and made double bogey for a 68.

Schenk missed a 20-foot birdie putt in regulation for the win. He shot 72. Harry Hall did get that chance. He drove left into the water on the 18th, made bogey for a 73 and missed the playoff by one shot, along with Scottie Scheffler (67).

Scheffler had a hole-in-one on the par-3 eighth.

Grillo's only other win was the Frys.com Open in Napa, California, in October 2015. The victory moves him to No. 42 in the world, getting him in the Masters by winning and securing a spot in the U.S. Open, which takes the top 60 in the world in two weeks.

Schenk, the 31-year-old from Indiana, was runner-up for the second time this season.

Steve Stricker beat Padraig Har-



Pajaree Anannarukarn poses for photographers after winning the LPGA Bank of Hope Match Play golf tournament in North Las Vegas, Nev. (AP)

Al-Haddad wins top honors at MotoSurf world championship

MUNICH, May 29, (KUNA) — Kuwait's Hamad Al-Haddad finished first in his category while his compatriot Fares Ramadan was the runner-up in the amateur contest at the MotoSurf World Championship held in Germany, as the first round of the event drew to a close.

Attributing the Kuwaiti athletes' achievements to the support they're given at home, Kuwait Sea Sport Club chief Mohammad Al-Zanki

said the contest featured more than 100 competitors from 32 countries, ahead of the next round slated for next month in Italy.

Pablo Larrazabal birdied his last two holes for a 3-under 69 and a two-shot victory in the KLM Open, his second European tour title in four weeks.

Larrazabal overcame a double bogey on the second hole at Bernardus Golf, which created a wide open final round in which seven players had at least a share of the lead at some point.

The 40-year-old from Spain pulled ahead with a birdie on the par-3 17th, and then made a final birdie from 20 feet to win by two over Adrian Otargui of Spain, who shot 70.

Larrazabal, who won Korea Cham-

pionship last month, has four wins over the past 15 months.

Rasmus Hojgaard (71) and Deon Germishuys (69) tied for third.

Rico Hoey got up-and-down from a bunker on the par-5 18th for a birdie and a 6-under 64, giving him a one-shot victory in the Visit Knoxville Open on the Korn Ferry Tour.

Hoey's victory moves him to No. 2 in the points list. The leading 30 players earn PGA Tour cards for 2024.

Hoey finished at 14-under 266, one shot ahead of Chase Seiffert (65) and Norman Xiong (69).

Seiffert birdied three straight holes to give himself a chance, only to miss the fairway on the 18th. He had to lay up and failed to convert a birdie.

Xiong had a 54-hole lead, but he made only one birdie and 17 pars in the final round.

Kensei Hirata won his first Japan Golf Tour event with a 6-under 66, winning on the third playoff hole with a birdie to beat Keita Nakajima in the Mizuno Open. Hirata and Nakajima finished one shot ahead of Takumi Kanaya and Kazuki Yasumori. All four earned a spot in the British Open at Royal Liverpool.

Jiwon Jeon closed with a 3-under 70 for a two-shot victory over Alyaa Abdulghany and Lindy Duncan in the Inova Mission Inn Resort and Club Championship on the Epson Tour.

Matteo Manassero closed with a 6-under 66 for a one-shot victory over Casey Jarvis in Copenhagen Challenge on Europe's Challenge Tour.

rington on the first hole of a playoff in the Senior PGA Championship for his second senior major in as many played this year.

Stricker closed with a 3-under 69. Harrington shot 70, with a birdie on the par-5 18th that forced a playoff between the last two Ryder Cup captains.

On the 18th in the playoff, Harrington hit his drive in deep grass right of the fairway. After a failed attempt to get it out, he took a drop and hit fairway metal to 15 feet. Harrington couldn't make the par putt to extend the playoff.

Stricker's victory, which comes after a win at the Regions Tradition, gets him into the PGA Championship next year at Valhalla. He now has six majors among his 14 wins on the PGA Tour Champions.

Stewart Cink finished birdie-eagle for a 69 to finish two shots behind in his senior debut.

It was the first big event held at Fields Ranch East at the new headquarters of the PGA of America. The venue in Frisco, about 35 miles north of Dallas, is set to host the PGA Championship in 2027 and 2034.

Harold Varner III won his first LIV Golf event Sunday when he two-putted from about 35 feet for birdie on the par-5 18th hole at Trump National in LIV Golf-DC.

Varner won by one shot over Branden Grace of South Africa, who moments earlier holed out a 20-foot birdie putt on the tough par-4 second

hole, his last of the shotgun start. Grace closed with a 66.

Mito Pereira, the 36-hole leader, shot 71 and finished third.

Varner won for the first time on American soil. He never won on the PGA Tour before signing on with the Saudi-funded league. His previous two professional wins were the Australian PGA Championship and the Saudi International.

Brooks Koepka shot 70 and tied for 12th in his first start since winning the PGA Championship at Oak Hill last week for his fifth major.

Torque won the team competition.



Harold Varner III, of RangeGoats GC, hits from a bunker during the final round of LIV Golf DC at Trump National in Sterling, Va. (AP)

Frankfurt sign Hugo

Heidenheim book spot in Bundesliga

BERLIN, May 29, (AP) — Little-known Heidenheim has seemingly come out of nowhere to reach the Bundesliga, a remarkable success for a town of just 50,000 inhabitants in the south of Germany.

Two injury-time goals were enough for Frank Schmidt's team to clinch promotion as second-division champion on Sunday.

Heidenheim will be the 57th team to play in the Bundesliga since the league's formation in 1963.

Twenty years ago it was playing at fifth-tier level as part of Heidenheimer Sportbund, a local sports association that has 25 departments today including baseball, boxing, fencing, swimming, tennis and gymnastics.

The current-day soccer club Heidenheim was formed in 2007 when it separated from the Sportbund as a stand-alone entity under the auspices of the German soccer league.

Schmidt, who was born in Heidenheim, took over as coach that same year. He has since become the longest-serving coach in German professional soccer.

As a defensive midfielder, Schmidt had helped Heidenheim clinch promotion from the fifth tier to the fourth in 2006. He previously made 76 appearances in the second division for Alemannia Aachen and Waldhof Mannheim before spending the last three seasons of his career playing for his hometown club.

Schmidt was appointed Heidenheim coach - initially on interim basis - on Sept. 17, 2007. He steered the club to promotion to the third division in 2009, then the second division in 2014, before Sunday's remarkable ascent to the Bundesliga. Every promotion was achieved as league champion.

SOCCER

In 1994, Schmidt was part of the fourth-tier TSV Vestenbergsgreuth team that shocked German champion Bayern Munich 1-0 in the first round of the German Cup. He almost stunned Bayern again in the quarterfinals of the German Cup in 2019, when Heidenheim eventually bowed out with a 5-4 defeat in Munich. Bayern went on to win the competition.

Heidenheim will get more chances to upset the Bavarian powerhouse next season. Few opponents will relish facing Schmidt's tireless team.

Forward Tim Kleindienst's late winner clinched promotion on Sunday. Kleindienst finished as the second division's top scorer with 25 goals, while Jan-Niklas Beste, who set him up and scored the scored the equalizing penalty, contributed 13 assists and 12 goals.

Heidenheim had the second-best attack (67 goals) and the second-best defense (33 goals) in the division, where it had the best record at home.

"We only had four defeats, were the best team at home and collected many points away," Schmidt said. "We more than deserved it."

Schmidt credited his players' attitude and morale for coming from two goals down against Jahn Regensburg on Sunday to clinch the win they needed for automatic promotion.

"FC Heidenheim has developed an extraordinary mentality in the last years - and you could see that again today," Schmidt said.

The coach also praised club chief executive Holger Sanwald, who took over in 1994 when the club was competing at amateur level.



Germany's Alexander Ehl (40) moves the puck past Canada's Cody Glass (8) during the gold medal match at the Ice Hockey World Championship in Tampere, Finland. (AP)

Sports

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Canada rout Germany for record 28th title



Canada poses with their gold medals during a ceremony after defeating Germany for the Ice Hockey World Championship in Tampere, Finland. (AP)

Latvia get bronze

TAMPERE, Finland, May 29, (AP): Samuel Blais scored two goals to rally Canada to a 5-2 victory over Germany in the final of the ice hockey world championship on Sunday.

It's a record 28th world title for Canada, and its second in three years. Russia has 27 while Germany has never won the trophy.

Blais netted with a backhand 4:51 into the final period for a 3-2 lead for Canada, which was playing in its fourth straight final.

"It feels really good," Blais said. "We've been in Europe for a month and we've all waited for that moment to play for the gold medal game. And we're lucky enough to have won it."



Lawson Crouse, Tyler Toffoli and Scott Laughton also scored for Canada. Peyton Krebs had two assists and goaltender Samuel Montembeault stopped 21 shots.

Toffoli stretched the lead to 4-2 from the left circle with 8:09 remaining and Laughton made it 5-2 with an empty net goal.

Adam Fantilli became only the second Canadian player after Jonathan Toews to win gold at the world juniors and world championship the same year.

Canada had to come back twice in the final.

John Peterka wristed a shot past Montembeault from the left circle 7:44 into the game. It was the sixth goal for the Buffalo Sabres forward at the tournament.

Blais was fed by Krebs to beat goaltender Mathias Niederberger and tie it 1-1 at 10:47.

ICE HOCKEY

Daniel Fischbuch put the Germans ahead again with a one-timer with 6:13 to go in the middle period.

Crouse equalized on a power play with 2:32 remaining in the frame.

It was the first medal for Germany since 1953 when it was second behind Sweden.

The two previously met just once in the final with Canada winning 6-1 in 1930.

Defenseman Kristian Rubins scored his second goal 1:22 into overtime to lead Latvia to a 4-3 victory over the United States and earn a bronze medal earlier Sunday.

It's the first top-three finish for Latvia at the tournament. Its previous best was a seventh place it managed three times.

The U.S. lost in the bronze medal game for the second straight year. The U.S. team was cruising through the tournament with eight straight wins until it was defeated by Germany in the semifinal 4-3 in overtime.

Pochettino hired as Chelsea coach

LONDON, May 29, (AP): Chelsea hired Mauricio Pochettino as manager on Monday, tasking the Argentine coach with getting the best out of an expensively assembled squad that has underperformed at the start of a new era for the English club.

Pochettino will take up the role on July 1, Chelsea said, after agreeing to a two-year contract, with the club having the option of keeping him on for a further year.

It is Pochettino's first coaching role since leaving Paris Saint-Germain in July last year and marks his return to the Premier League, where he had an impressive 5 1/2-year spell with Tottenham that included a run to the Champions League final.

Pochettino had been widely expected to take the Chelsea job, which is considered one of the most high-profile positions in European soccer.

He is the permanent successor to Graham Potter, who was fired in March after nearly seven months in charge. Former Chelsea midfielder Frank Lampard has led the team on an interim basis since then and it finished the Premier League in 12th place - in the bottom half for the first time since the 1995-96 season.

Man U finish 3rd, Villa into Europe

Leicester's fairy tale is over as Everton stay in EPL



England's Harvey Vale, (right), fights for the ball with Iraq's Roman Doulashi during a FIFA U-20 World Cup Group E soccer match at the Diego Armando Maradona stadium in La Plata, Argentina. (AP)

France crash out as England win group

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina, May 29, (AP): France crashed out of the Under-20 World Cup on Sunday despite a 3-1 group stage win against Honduras. The French lost their first two matches in Group F, from which Gambia and South Korea advanced to the knockout stage.

France, playing most of the match in La Plata down to 10 men, needed only one more goal to take Tunisia's spot in the round-of-16 as one of the four best third-placed teams, but fell short.

Ousmane Camara was sent off in the 13th minute and Odin Ramos opened the scoring for Honduras two minutes later with a free kick that resulted from the Frenchman's crude tackle. Starlet Alan Virginius still

SOCCER

gave the French a turnaround with goals in the 41st and 60th minutes. Feliz Nzouango found the back of the net in the 77th minute, but France failed to add a fourth against an exhausted Honduran team.

Gambia and South Korea drew 0-0 in the other match of the group. The African team will face Uruguay in the next stage, while the Asian side will take on Ecuador.

Earlier, England secured top spot in Group E with a 0-0 draw against Iraq.

Uruguay finished second thanks to a 1-0 win over Tunisia with an injury-time goal from the spot. Thanks to France's failure, Tunisia will advance and face Brazil in the next round.

England faces Italy in the round of 16 on Wednesday.

England wasted a chance to score from the spot in the first half when Iraq goalkeeper Hussein Hasan saved a penalty taken by Harvey Vale.

LEICESTER, England, May 29, (AP): Seven years after the most improbable Premier League title triumph of all, Leicester was relegated from English soccer's top division on Sunday while Everton pulled off another last-day escape to extend its 69-year stay.

Leeds was also consigned to the drop with Leicester and already-relegated Southampton as the league season reached its conclusion. Everton's 1-0 win over Bournemouth meant Leicester's 2-1 victory against West Ham was ultimately meaningless. Leeds' miserable campaign ended in a 4-1 loss at home against Tottenham.

Leicester's demise stands out because of the dramatic nature of its fall after experiencing the most spectacular period in its history in recent years.

By winning the title as a 5,000-1 shot in 2016, it provided the Premier League with its greatest fairy tale - being crowned champion two years after being promoted from the second tier.

In 2021 it was celebrating victory against Chelsea in the FA Cup final at Wembley Stadium, a period that also saw it achieve back-to-back fifth-place finishes.

Relegation was not seen as a realistic threat this season - even after a summer in which Leicester failed to make major moves in the transfer market.

In the Premier League, however, fairy tales do not guarantee happily-ever-after endings and Leicester now faces an uncertain future with interim manager Dean Smith out of contract and a host of its star players likely to leave in the summer.

"The Premier League is where everybody wants to be playing," Smith said afterward. "It feels raw now, it hurts and everybody will be devastated. But with the infrastructure it's got it will bounce back." While those words were encouraging, there is no guarantee that Leicester will be back in the top flight any time soon.

Top players like James Maddison, Youri Tielemans and Harvey Barnes could all depart and will have suitors from leading clubs.

Smith could offer no guarantees about his own future, saying his interim deal was now over after completing the final eight games of the season.

"There have been plenty (of clubs) over time where you've had knocks and your job is to bounce back and make sure you improve on the things that have let you down and I've no doubts the club will." Relegation closes a chapter on a remarkable period in Leicester's history and it remains to be seen how the club's

chairman, Aiyawatt Srivaddhanaprabha, reacts to the disappointment.

In March the club announced a pre-tax loss of 92.5 million pounds (\$114 million) for the previous financial year.

It is likely to have to spend again to rebuild from here.

While it was a day of anguish for Leicester, Everton was celebrating once again as the league's great survivor.

Having been in the top division since 1954, it pulled off another great escape, having avoided relegation on the final day of the season in both 1994 and 1998 previously.

The Merseyside club, which only narrowly avoided the drop last year, took it to the wire yet again this season.

Abdoulaye Doucoure smashed home a 57th-minute goal to earn the win that sparked jubilant scenes at Goodison.

Everton's fate was always in its own hands, starting the day in 17th place, two points above Leicester and Leeds.

It is a triumph for manager Sean Dyche, who was hired in January and tasked with the job of turning the club's season around.

"I've just told the players we can't be in this state," he said. "A magic day but at the end of the day we shouldn't be in this shape."

"You are only a big club if you are doing big things. It is one and we

need to get it back to being one." Two cup finals and now a third-place finish in the Premier League. For Erik ten Hag, it has been a strong first season at Manchester United.

United rallied to beat Fulham 2-1 thanks to goals from Jadon Sancho and Bruno Fernandes to finish above Newcastle in third place. Newcastle could only draw 1-1 at Chelsea.

A run of four straight wins to end the league campaign sets up United for its shot at Manchester City in the FA Cup final on Saturday. United has already won the English League Cup.

Aston Villa will play in Europe next season for the first time in 13

SOCCER

years after beating Brighton 2-1 to finish in seventh place.

Villa, which lost in the Europa League playoffs in 2010, will feature in the Europa Conference League and will fancy its chances with Unai Emery in charge. Emery has won the Europa League with Sevilla and Villarreal.

Villa's win meant Tottenham finished in eighth place and out of the European positions.

Manchester City striker Erling Haaland finished his first season in English soccer with the Golden Boot award as the Premier League's top scorer.

He didn't get to add to his 36 league

goals this season, though, with the Norway international not getting off the bench in City's 1-0 loss at Brentford, which completed the home-and-away double over the champions.

Harry Kane was second in the scoring charts on 30 goals.

Roberto Firmino finished his eight-year Liverpool career with two goals in a wild 4-4 draw with Southampton. A slew of other scorers on Sunday might yet have played their last games for the clubs, too.

Like Granit Xhaka, who scored two of second-place Arsenal's goals in its 5-0 thrashing of Wolverhampton. Xhaka has been linked with a move back to Germany.

Kane refused to comment on his future at Tottenham after scoring two of the team's goals against Leeds.

"I have focused on this season and helping the team as much as possible," Kane said. "I am just looking forward to a nice break and some games with England." James Ward-Prowse led Southampton's fightback from 2-0 down against Liverpool in what is likely his final game for a club where he came through the academy.

As for farewells among managers, Frank Lampard signed off his interim spell in charge of Chelsea with the draw against Newcastle ahead of the team's likely appointment of Mauricio Pochettino. Chelsea finished in 12th place, despite the club spending more than \$600 million on players in the last two transfer windows.



Everton's Alex Iwobi, (right), and Bournemouth's Ryan Christie battle for the ball during the English Premier League soccer match between Everton and Bournemouth at Goodison Park, Liverpool, England. (AP)