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Amir, Crown Prince receive Defense Min., new deputy army chief

KUWAIT CITY, July 16, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received on Tuesday First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahd Yusuf Al-Sabah at Bayan Palace.

His Highness the Amir was introduced to Deputy Chief of General Staff of the Army Air Vice Marshal Sheikh Sabah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, on the occasion of his appointment to his new position.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah also received at Bayan Palace on Tuesday First Deputy Prime Minister, Defense Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Fahd Yousef Saud Al-Sabah, who introduced to him newly appointed Deputy Chief of the General Staff Air Vice Marshal Sheikh Sabah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

An Amiri order was issued on Tuesday appointing Air Vice Marshal Sabah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah as Deputy Chief of Staff of the Army.

First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Fahd Yusuf Saud Al-Sabah is tasked to carry out the order, signed by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.



Left: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah receives First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahd Yousef Saud Al-Sabah and Deputy Chief of the General Staff of the Army, Major General Pilot Sheikh Sabah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah. Right: His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah receives First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahd Yousef Saud Al-Sabah and Deputy Chief of the General Staff of the Army, Major General Pilot Sheikh Sabah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.



Amiri Diwan/Crown Prince Diwan photos

Opinion

O Allah, relieve the worries of the state and its people

By Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

THE news of a major oil discovery east of Failaka Island brought great joy to Kuwaitis. According to reliable oil sources, more of such discoveries will follow, and this will not be the last.

The discovered volume equals Kuwait's production over the last three years, with an estimated current market value of approximately USD 225 billion.

What does this mean in the language of numbers and development?

Kuwait has undoubtedly faced many crises in recent years, stemming from various reasons that are too numerous to list but are known to everyone. As a result, infrastructure lagged, development projects were stalled, and all aspects of entertainment and enjoyment were disrupted and closed.

Meanwhile, the imprudent laws that were passed in recent years have restricted citizens, many of whom seek opportunities for leisure abroad, and hence flee to Allah's vast world during every vacation.

On the other hand, stakeholders have intensified their efforts to pressure constitutional institutions to prevent the crisis of loans and debtors from being addressed, with the aim to strangle the citizenry for their malicious goals that are known to everyone.

Today, these interferences have vanished, and the government is working based on a clear vision outlined by His Highness the Amir. In light of this new reality, it is imperative to work quickly to initiate all development projects in infrastructure, the northern economic region, entertainment cities, or others, which aim to encourage citizens to remain in the country and enjoy the facilities here without disruption.

In addition, it is also necessary to address issues related to debtors and holders of loans for housing, consumer, study or medical care, holders of dud cheques, and other matters that burden the citizens.

Financial abundance exists, and the actual figures are not as exaggerated as rumored.

According to statistics, personal loans amount to KD 1.9 billion, not KD 14 billion as some critics, proponents of the "social justice and equality" theory, attempted to mislead decision-makers with.

Resolving this crisis will lead to revitalization of economic activity, because the borrowers, who total about 230,000 citizens, are suffering due to their inability to repay their financial obligations.

On the other hand, many of them, including women, are either incarcerated or subject to arrest warrants, or banned from traveling because they issued dud cheques under pressure from moneylenders.

In recent years, several factors have hindered justice for these individuals, including amending the dud cheque law. In Kuwait, dud cheques are still considered a felony, whereas in many other countries have amended their laws to treat them merely as performance guarantee cheques.

Therefore, by resolving this crisis, the government will alleviate a lot of pressure on citizens. Consequently, if the government intends to impose taxes, it can do so, given the relief it provides by completing infrastructure projects, enhancing recreational facilities, and expanding livelihood opportunities within the country.

It was said in the past, "Time is money." Therefore, the current government must benefit from the blessings that Allah has bestowed on Kuwait, and work to solve all crises.

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Day by Day

THE Ministry of Foreign Affairs has critical responsibilities in serving the interests of the citizens. It becomes a major issue when the Foreign Affairs Minister and his assistants are unaware of their duties.

More often than not, they ignore the needs of ordinary citizens, focusing only on a select few individuals connected to them through personal relationships.

Officials at the Ministry must promptly address any problems faced by citizens abroad and provide continuous support until each case is resolved.

... Yet tomorrow is another day

Zahed Matar

Widespread fraud scheme preys on expats in Kuwait

20-minute scam costs Bangladeshi more than KD 1,000



Citizens and expats flock to the fish market in Souq Sharq as fresh quantities of Kuwaiti, Iranian, Pakistani fish and prawns arrive. Prices of Zubaidi, Hamour and Nuwaibi remained high. — See Page 5

By Saeed Mahmoud Saleh
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 16: Abdul Malek Uzir, a Bangladeshi expatriate, recently fell victim to a financial fraud scheme orchestrated by unknown individuals, losing a total of KD 1,015 within 20 minutes.

Uzir recounted the incident to Arab Times, stating it began with a phone call requesting information to update his bank account, warning that his account would be closed if he did not comply. Shortly after, he received SMS messages containing One-Time Passwords (OTPs). Another call followed, asking him to divulge the OTPs. Within minutes, his bank sent notifications of deductions amounting to KD 443.97, KD 443.97, KD 111.309, KD 8.750, KD 5.750, and KD 2.

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Kuwait FM laments slow progress in implementation of SDGs by UN

NEW YORK, July 16, (KUNA): Kuwait's Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdullah Al-Yahya met Monday President of the 78th Regular Session of the United Nations General Assembly Dennis Francis.

The meeting was held at the UN Headquarters in New York, on the sidelines of Minister Al-Yahya participation in the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.

The two officials discussed close relations between Kuwait and the United Nations and its specialized agencies.

They also touched upon the topics on the agenda of the United Nations General Assembly and coordination related to future events.

The Foreign Minister underlined the need for synergy to overcome cross-border challenges impeding the implementation of the UN sustainable development goals (SDGs).

"The cross-border challenges facing the entire world need more concerted regional and international efforts to



KUNA photo
Kuwait's Foreign Minister Abdullah Al-Yahya meets the President of the 78th Regular Session of the United Nations General Assembly Dennis Francis.

confront them," Minister Al-Yahya said in his speech at the general debate session of the UN High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development at the UN Headquarters in New York City.

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MoH warns public on risks

Kuwait logs 33 sun exposure cases in first ten days of July

By Marwa Al-Bahrawi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 16: The Ministry of Health issued a warning on Tuesday, cautioning the public against prolonged or repeated exposure to sunlight, particularly during peak hours from 10 am to 4 pm. Dr. Abdullah Al-Sanad, the ministry's spokesperson, emphasized through official social media channels that direct exposure during these hours can pose significant

health risks, including sunburn, heat stress, sunstroke, and muscle damage.

Dr. Al-Sanad advised everyone to avoid outdoor activities during peak hours unless absolutely necessary. He highlighted that recent rises in temperatures have led to an increase in cases related to sun exposure, with hospitals across the six governorates handling approximately 33 cases in the first ten days of July alone.

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Newswatch

5 killed in Oman mosque shooting

DUBAI, July 16, (AP): A rare shooting by multiple attackers at a Shiite mosque in Oman killed five people and wounded many more including a police officer, authorities said Tuesday. Pakistan's government said four of its nationals were dead and 30 hurt.

The Royal Oman Police said in a statement mentioned no motive or suspect and said the shooting occurred Monday night in the Wadi Kabir neighborhood of the capital, Muscat. The state-run Oman News Agency said three attackers were killed.

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip: Israeli airstrikes killed more than 60 Palestinians in southern and central Gaza overnight and into Tuesday, including one that struck an Israeli-declared "safe zone" crowded with thousands of displaced people.

The day's deadliest strike came in the afternoon, hitting near a gas station outside the southern city of Khan Younis in Muwasi, a coastal region that's part of the humanitarian "safe zone" where the Israeli military has told Palestinians to take refuge to escape offensives elsewhere. (AP)

300 domestic workers shift to private sector in 48 hrs

KUWAIT CITY, July 16: About 300 domestic workers (Article 20 visa) have transferred to the private sector within 48 hours of implementing the decision to allow such transfer last Sunday, reports Al-Rai daily.

It has been confirmed that there is a high demand among domestic workers to benefit from this decision, which will continue for two months. It is believed that this move will reinforce the manpower shortage in private companies by taking advantage of the skills of workers who are already inside the country, instead of hiring from abroad.

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Enhancing poultry industry and food safety in Kuwait

KISR secures patent for innovative probiotic product

Emergency medical services handle 86,000 cases in first half of '24: MoH

Operations workflow revolutionize

By Marwa Al-Bahrawi
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 16: Director of the Medical Emergency Department at the Health Ministry Dr. Ahmed Al-Shatti revealed that the emergency medical technicians dealt with about 86,000 cases in the first half of this year -- 73,000 transported by ambulance (45,000 urgent and 28,000 non-urgent cases), 530 by air ambulance, 39 by medical evacuation, and 328 through the arrival and departure ports.

In a statement to the newspaper, Al-Shatti said the Operations Department received about 61,700 urgent reports from January to June; and dealt with 5,400 road accidents and covered 4,500 occasions.

He cited the semi-annual report of the Medical Emergency Department; pointing out that the department's strategy aims to ensure quick and efficient response to emergency situations, provide the appropriate service for transporting patients, prepare human and technical resources to deal with emergencies and disasters, and raise health awareness among citizens and expatriates.

He also confirmed the receipt of 79 ambulances, while 100 new cars were ordered during the first half of the year.

He praised the department's success in replacing the paper system with the

electronic system in many services and tasks; such as replacing the paper urgent centers' strength statistics with a digital copy, stopping the printing of urgent centers' and clinics' time sheets and replacing them with digital statements integrated into these centers' strength statistics file; such that the time sheets of a center appear immediately upon clicking its name. He affirmed this contributes to quickly reaching the desired position, preserving statements for a long time, and saving paper and ink.

He continued saying that paper work schedules in the Urgent Operations Division were replaced with digital schedules that are constantly updated, while the attendance and departure signature statements were removed from the department and it now relies on fingerprinting.

He also confirmed the creation of a digital alternative to the urgent operations notebook and the non-urgent operations notebook via Microsoft Teams, in addition to replacing the paper ambulance malfunction notification and vacant bed statistics in hospitals with an updated digital form.

He added that circulars are published and distributed to management employees through the official e-mail; while a special barcode was created for the individuals' personal e-mails to anonymously send notes, complaints and suggestions from the employees to the head of the Operations Department.

He stated that the daily cost lists and schedules in the operating room were replaced with digital files; the large screens in the operating room were activated to include a display of the total



Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Athbi Al-Athbi with Anwar Al-Moussa, the Acting Director of the Educational Affairs Department in the Farwaniya Educational District.

Farwaniya Governor reviews preps for new academic year

KUWAIT CITY, July 16: Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Athbi Al-Athbi met with the Acting Director of the Educational Affairs Department in the Farwaniya Educational District, Anwar Al-Moussa, to review the preparations of the district and its affiliated schools for the new academic year 2024-2025, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

During the meeting, Sheikh Athbi emphasized the importance of developing strategic plans to enhance the educational environment and its efficiency, stating that providing a suitable educational environment is a top priority to ensure high-quality education for

workforce at the centers, incoming and executed reports, and ideal employees of the month; and the creation of a file

all students.

Anwar Al-Moussa expressed her gratitude for the Governor's support and his continuous efforts to improve the education sector, highlighting that ongoing cooperation between various parties will significantly contribute to achieving the desired educational goals.

Additionally, Farwaniya Governorate has joined the "Sahel" application under the directives of the Governor. This initiative is part of the governorate's ongoing efforts to enhance interaction with citizens, meet their needs, improve services provided, and facilitate communication with the public.

to record and follow up events and costs according to dates and type, to know the events held by date.

KUWAIT CITY, July 16: The Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR) announced that its Environmental and Life Sciences Research Center has secured a patent for developing a new biological product aimed at supporting the poultry industry and enhancing food safety in Kuwait without relying on antibiotics, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The innovative product, utilizing probiotics, is expected to contribute significantly to national food security and yield profitable outcomes.

In a press statement on Monday, KISR revealed that the research team, led by researcher Tahani Al-Surayeh and including Dr. Hanan Al-Khalifa, researcher Hamad Al-Mansour, researcher Muhammad Kishk, Dr. Thanyan Al-Anizi, researcher Anwar Al-Mutairi, researcher Hanan Sultan, and researcher Haya Al-Saleem, developed a probiotic product comprising a mixture of bacteria in powder form.

This powder can be added to poultry water or food to support

the industry and ensure food safety. The product offers a safe alternative to antibiotics for controlling infections that cause intestinal diseases in poultry.

The research indicated that the probiotic powder enhances microbial balance in the animal intestine, improves poultry digestive health, increases meat and egg production, combats salmonella, and withstands harsh climatic conditions.

Experiments demonstrated the product's effectiveness in maintaining bird health, preventing mortality, increasing vital indicators, and producing high-quality meat with improved taste.

KISR emphasized that the strategic impact of this project is substantial, with potential contributions to national food security and profitability if implemented commercially.

Additionally, the project opens new avenues for developing Kuwait's poultry industry by promoting reliance on effective local products and reducing dependence on expensive imports.

Al-Huwailah dissolves boards of 3 Kuwaiti cooperative societies

KUWAIT CITY, July 16: The Minister of Social Affairs, Family and Childhood Affairs, and Minister of State for Youth Affairs, Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah, has issued two decisions to dissolve the Board of Directors of Al-Salam Cooperative Society and the Board of Directors of Hadiya Cooperative Society, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Additionally, another decision was made to dismiss four members of the Board of Directors of Ishbiliya Cooperative Society.

Informed sources confirmed to Al-Seyassah that Al-Huwailah's decisions are part of ongoing ef-

forts to reform the cooperative sector and address the problems it faces.

These actions are based on the seriousness of ensuring proper oversight of cooperative societies and holding accountable any negligent parties.

Temporary directors have been appointed for the Hadiya and Al-Salam associations to ensure that their operations and the interests of their shareholders are not disrupted.

The dissolution of the boards was due to financial and administrative violations.

Outstanding students to receive 50% discount

PAAET details expenses for non-Kuwaiti students wanting to study at its colleges

KUWAIT CITY, July 16: Informed sources from the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET) have disclosed to Al-Jarida the financial costs for non-Kuwaiti students studying at the authority's colleges under the "own expense" scheme, which were recently approved by the board of directors, reports Al-Jarida daily.

Here are the details of the costs for various programs at the College of Basic Education

At the College of Business Studies

Bachelor's Program -- Total cost of 10,400 dinars for completing 130 academic units

Diploma Program -- Total cost of 5,440 dinars for completing 68 academic units.

College of Health Sciences

Diploma Program -- Total cost of 6,800 dinars for completing 68 academic units.

Bachelor's Program -- Total cost of 13,100 dinars for completing 131 academic units.

College of Technological Studies

Diploma Program -- Total cost of 8,700 dinars for completing 87 academic units.

Bachelor's Program -- Total cost of 13,200 dinars for completing 132 academic units.

Completion Program -- Total cost of 6,900 dinars for completing 69 academic units.

The cost at the College of Nursing

Diploma Program: Total cost of 7,700 dinars for completing 77 academic units.

Bachelor of Nursing Program -- Total cost of 12,100 dinars for completing 121 academic units.

School Nursing Bachelor Program -- Total cost of 13,600 dinars for completing 136 academic units.

Academic Completion Program -- Total cost of 6,100 dinars for completing 61 academic units.

Discounts and Bonuses

Outstanding Students -- Students with



Students Nawal and Ibtisam Al-Qenaei

Two students accepted into summer programs

KUWAIT CITY, July 16: Two students, Nawal Al-Qenaei and Ibtisam Al-Qenaei, have been accepted unconditionally into the summer programs of some of the most prestigious and highly ranked universities in the world, reports Al-Jarida daily.

This marks the seventh consecutive year that students from the American Baccalaureate School (ABS) have participated in the National Student Leadership Conference's (NSLC) summer programs for middle and high school students.

Over the years, more than 100 ABS students have enrolled in these esteemed programs, which provide them with opportunities for admission into top-ranking universities.

ABS prides itself on being the first school in Kuwait to establish agreements with NSLC, continually supporting its students in achieving the best educational opportunities.

a GPA of 3.80 points or higher after two semesters will receive a 50 percent discount on the fees due in the following semester, based on a written request submitted by the student.

Exclusions -- Students under this system do not qualify for the excellence and rare specialization bonus. They may be eligible for a social bonus under specific conditions. Each applicant is allowed only one chance for acceptance under this system and cannot apply for acceptance in specializations available exclusively to Kuwaitis.

Bedouns surge in public, private Arab schools

KUWAIT CITY, July 16: The latest statistics on education revealed that the number of Bedoun students and employees in public and private Arab schools reached 36,944 in academic year 2023/2024, reports Al-Rai daily.

This is part of the response of the Ministry of Education to the request of the Central Agency for Remedying Illegal Residents' Status (CARIRS) regarding the number of Bedoun students and teachers, in addition to the amount spent on Bedoun students, in the past academic year.

The agency uses such statistics to evaluate the services it provides to Bedouns in line with Resolution No.

409/2011 on the provision of humanitarian, social and civil services to this category.

The ministry's Financial Affairs Sector revealed that the amount spent on the education of Bedouns in academic year 2023/2024 reached KD6.9 million, affirming that its finance counterpart approved this amount.

The statistics indicated that the number of Bedoun students in public schools in the last academic year reached 21,253 compared to 14,505 in private schools; while the number of Bedoun employees in the ministry, including teachers and administrators, reached 1,186.

JULY

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stc and MEW sign 'strategic' agreement for the supply of smart electricity meters

Deal in support of one of the largest initiatives in Kuwait's energy and ICT sectors in line with Kuwait's '35 vision

KUWAIT CITY, July 16: Kuwait Telecommunications Company – stc, a world-class digital leader providing innovative services and platforms to customers, enabling the digital transformation in Kuwait, has signed a strategic partnership with the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy (MEW) for the supply of Smart Electricity Meters in Kuwait – Phase II. stc secured the agreement after winning the bid for the project, which aligns with its vision to enable digital transformation in Kuwait and supports Kuwait's 2035 vision.

The signing ceremony for the Smart Electricity Meters Project was attended by key executives from both stc and MEW, including Eng. Muataz Aldharrab, CEO of stc, and Mr. Mohammed Nizar Al-Nusif, CEO of solutions by stc, and Eng. Maha Al-Asousi, Undersecretary of MEW, along with other executives from both parties. The project is one of the largest initiatives in Kuwait's energy and ICT sectors, aiming to facilitate efficient energy consumption, streamline operational processes, and enhance the sustainability of the nation's energy infrastructure.

Under the strategic agreement, stc will supply approximately 500,000 electrical meters, including circuit breakers and transformers. These components will assist MEW in



A group photo of the executive officials of the Ministry and stc, with Eng. Muataz Aldharrab and Eng. Maha Al-Asousi in the middle.

Muataz Aldharrab: We believe in the crucial role of public-private partnerships in advancing the nation's digital transformation in line with Kuwait Vision 2035

Mohammed Nizar Al-Nusif: We continue to provide the latest technology solutions to all sectors in the country, enabling them to digitize their businesses.

tracking energy consumption in real-time, allowing for better management of electricity usage and more informed decision-making. The smart meters will significantly contribute to energy conservation by reducing manual intervention, minimizing human errors, and ensuring accurate billing.

Utilizing a state-of-the-art electronic platform, the smart meters will automatically collect readings

and notify MEW's support team of any system failures in real-time. This integration of advanced technology will optimize energy usage and reduce wastage, contributing to sustainable living in Kuwait. Additionally, the platform will provide detailed analytics and reporting capabilities, offering insights into consumption patterns and potential areas for further energy-saving measures. The implementation of these

smart meters is expected to set a benchmark in the region, showcasing Kuwait's commitment to leveraging technology for a more sustainable future.

Commenting on the new partnership, Eng. Muataz Abdullah Aldharrab, CEO of stc, said, "We are pleased to announce our major project win with the MEW, where we can utilize our knowledge and expertise in the energy and ICT sectors to enhance the electrical infrastructure in the country. The Phase II implementation of Smart Electricity Meters is crucial for achieving a connected, efficient, and sustainable future for Kuwait. We believe in the crucial role of public-private partnerships in advancing the nation's digital transformation and have long supported the government's digital goals with our technological resources in line



Eng. Muataz Aldharrab, CEO of STC, and Eng. Maha Al-Asousi, Undersecretary of MEW, during the signing of the contract.

Maha Al-Asousi: This project reflects our commitment to integrating state-of-the-art technology, driving the digital transformation of the country.

and contribute to building a resilient and sustainable digital economy."

Eng. Maha Al-Asousi, Undersecretary of MEW, said, "Our collaboration with stc marks a significant milestone in Kuwait's journey towards a smarter, more efficient energy infrastructure. The introduction of these advanced smart meters will not only enhance our ability to manage and conserve energy, but will contribute to building a smart energy grid (SMART GRD) by periodically sending usage readings and issuing monthly bills to customers to avoid late payments. It will also send alerts related to tampering or excessive load violations. Additionally, smart meters will enable us to offer pre-paid payment options for customers and will also provide the necessary data to make informed decisions for future energy policies. This project reflects our commitment to integrating state-of-the-art technology to manage the country's energy needs and support its long-term sustainability goals."

with Kuwait Vision 2035 through our specialized business arm, solutions by stc."

Mohammed Nizar Al-Nusif, CEO of solutions by stc, the specialized business arm of stc, stated, "We are always ready to provide the latest smart solutions to empower the achievement of the country's developmental goals. We have always been committed to enhancing the efficiency of government infrastructure and driving the nation forward through digital transformation and cutting-edge technology initiatives. Through leveraging our advanced technological capabilities, we aim to support Kuwait's strategic objectives

Goldman Sachs 'profits' more than double in second quarter

NEW YORK, July 16, (AP): Goldman Sachs is posting a 150% jump in second quarter profits Monday, helped by a resurgence of dealmaking and underwriting that has revived investment banking after the slowdown of the previous couple years.

The New York investment bank posted net earnings of \$3.04 billion, \$8.62 per share, compared with \$1.22 billion in the same period a year earlier. For the three months ended June 30, compared with \$1.22 billion, or \$3.08 per share, a year earlier.

Part of the surge in profits came from Goldman Sachs booking some one-time items last year as it took charges for the wind-down of its consumer banking business.

That said, nearly every aspect of Goldman's businesses saw revenue jump in the quarter, reflecting what has been a broad revival in dealmaking and activity on Wall Street this year in a healthy economy.

Refinance

Investment banking fees rose 21%, helped by a big jump in debt underwriting fees for the bank. Many companies are having to refinance their debts to deal with higher interest rates, and there has been a surge in leveraged financing packages.

Goldman's fixed income, currencies and commodities trading division had revenues up 17% from a year earlier. Equities trading was less robust than other parts of the market, with Goldman saying net revenues were up 7% in that division.

Lastly the bank's asset-management division posted 27% rise in revenues, helped by more fee income and the value of Goldman's own investments.

Shares in Goldman Sachs Group Inc. ended Monday up \$12.35, or 2.6%, at \$492.23.



Republican presidential candidate former President Donald Trump reacts following an assassination attempt at a campaign event in Butler, Pa., on Saturday, July 13, 2024. Trump Media surged in the first day of trading, Monday, July 15, following the assassination attempt. (AP)

Trump Media shares surge

NEW YORK, July 16, (AP): Trump Media surged in the first day of trading following an assassination attempt on former President Donald Trump.

Also on Monday, a federal judge presiding over Trump's classified documents trial in Florida dismissed the case because of her concerns over the appointment of the special prosecutor who brought the case.

Shares in the owner of social networking site Truth Social soared more than 35% in early trading.

The U.S. Secret Service is investigating how a gunman armed with an AR-style rifle was able to get on a nearby roof and shoot and injure the former president at a rally Saturday in Pennsylvania.

The gunman, who officials said was killed by the Secret Service, fired multiple shots at the stage from an "elevated position outside of the rally venue," the agency said. Trump was bloodied and says he was "shot with a bullet that pierced the upper part of my right

ear." A spectator was killed.

In the classified documents case, U.S. District Judge Aileen Cannon granted a defense motion to dismiss the case Monday, voiding a prosecution that at the time it was brought was seen as the most perilous of the multiple legal threats Trump faced.

The stock, which trades under the ticker symbol "DJT," has been extraordinarily volatile since its debut in late March, joining the group of meme stocks that are prone to ricochet between highs and lows as small-pocketed investors attempt to catch an upward momentum swing at the right time.

Shares swung wildly both on the day after Biden's terrible debate performance, and a day after Trump's conviction in his hush money trial.

A New York jury found Trump guilty of falsifying business records in a scheme to illegally influence the 2016 election through hush money payments to a porn actor who said the two had sex.

President tries to show plans to tame inflation

Biden to call for a 5% cap on 'annual rent increases'

WASHINGTON, July 16, (AP): President Joe Biden is ready to propose a 5% cap on annual rent increases for tenants of major landlords as he tries to show he's doing something about the high cost of housing, according to a person familiar with the plan.

The proposal, to be announced while the president visits Nevada on Tuesday, is being championed by Biden in the middle of a tense presidential campaign and a time when housing costs have been a major driver of overall inflation.

But the plan would require solid Democratic control of Congress to become law. Additionally, most policymakers have said the best way to limit housing costs would be through more construction and changes to land use regulations.

The person familiar with the plan spoke on the condition of anonymity because the proposal has not yet been formally announced.

Biden himself previewed the announcement at his NATO news conference Thursday, folding it into comments that blamed inflation on companies trying to maximize their profits in the aftermath of the pandemic.

"It's time things get back in order a little bit," Biden said. "If I'm reelected, we're going to make sure that rents are kept at 5% increase."

The Washington Post first reported Monday the details of the plan, which would only apply to landlords who own 50 or more units. The price cap would not apply to units that have yet to be built.

White House officials declined to comment.

The median national rent was \$1,411 a month in June, up from roughly \$1,150 in early 2021 when Biden became president, according to Apartment List.



President Joe Biden speaks from the Roosevelt Room of the White House in Washington, Sunday, July 14, 2024, about the apparent assassination attempt of former President Donald Trump at a campaign rally in Pennsylvania. (AP)

Asking prices for rentals jumped in the aftermath of the pandemic and have since cooled, but the Harvard University Joint Center for Housing Studies found in its most recent report that half of renters were "cost burdened" because they spend more than 30% of their income on housing and utilities.

In recent months, housing has been a primary contributor to keeping the consumer price index elevated at 3% annually. Inflation has been a fundamental obstacle for Biden politically as he competes against Donald Trump, the former president and Republican nominee.

The president has proposed policies designed to increase home construction, but industry representatives were quick to criticize the rent cap as ineffective for addressing the overall shortage and possibly leading to fewer habitable units than the country would otherwise have.

"This is not going to create a single unit of housing - which is what is needed to create more housing opportunities for Americans," said Sharon Wilson Géno, CEO of the

National Multifamily Housing Council. "This is really a campaign-driven piece of rhetoric."

Géno noted that landlords need to be able to keep up with costs such as maintenance, insurance and state and local taxes. If those costs exceed what they can charge for rent, the risk is that landlords will do less to maintain their properties and tenants could be worse off.

"What does that mean - the quality of the housing suffers," she said.

But affordable housing advocates said that if Biden's proposal had already been in effect, it would have likely reduced evictions and homelessness.

"The recent unprecedented increases in homelessness in communities across the country are the result of those equally unprecedented - and unjustified - rent hikes of a couple years ago," said Diane Yentel, president and CEO of the National Low Income Housing Coalition. "Had such protections against rent gouging been in place then, many families could have avoided homelessness and stayed stably housed."

OpenAI whistleblowers ask SEC to investigate the company's non-disclosure deals with workers

NEW YORK, July 16, (AP): OpenAI whistleblowers have filed a complaint with the Securities and Exchange Commission and asked the agency to investigate whether the ChatGPT maker illegally restricted workers from speaking out about the risks of its artificial intelligence technology.

A letter to SEC Chair Gary Gensler

representing "one or more anonymous and confidential" whistleblowers asks the agency to swiftly and aggressively enforce its rules against non-disclosure agreements that discourage employees or investors from raising concerns with regulators.

The July 1 letter references a formal whistleblower complaint recently filed

with the SEC. The Washington Post was the first to report on the letter.

U.S. Sen. Chuck Grassley's office shared a copy of the letter with The Associated Press, noting it was provided to his office by legally protected whistleblowers.

"OpenAI's policies and practices appear to cast a chilling effect on whistleblowers' right to speak up and receive due compen-

sation for their protected disclosures," said Grassley, an Iowa Republican, in a written statement. "In order for the federal government to stay one step ahead of artificial intelligence, OpenAI's nondisclosure agreements must change."

OpenAI said in a statement that its policies protect employees' rights to make protected disclosures. The com-

pany also noted that it's already made changes to remove "nondisparagement terms" that could punish departing employees if they criticize the company after they leave.

SEC didn't respond to a request for comment Monday and doesn't typically comment on whether or not it is opening an investigation.



Faisal Al-surayye with the winners of the Baitak Sustainability Prize - the first place-winning project.



Faisal Al-surayye with the winners of the Baitak Sustainability Prize - the second place-winning project.

As part of its participation in 46th Engineering Design Exhibition

KFH honors winners of Environmental Sustainability Award

KUWAIT CITY, July 16: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) honored the winners of its Environmental Sustainability Award during its participation in the College of Engineering and Petroleum's 46th Engineering Design Exhibition. KFH's award recognizes projects that focus on sustainability and environmental issues. The first and second-place winners among the students were presented with an award for their outstanding projects.

KFH's Environmental Sustainability Award, which the Bank has allocated for the third consecutive time, is an extension of its integrated sustainability strategy and part of its (Keep it Green) environmental campaign.

The winning projects were announced at the exhibition's closing ceremony, held under the patronage of Dr. Noura Al-Mashaan, Minister of Public Works and State for Municipal Affairs. Dr. Khalid AlHazza, Acting Dean of the College of Engineering and Petroleum was also in attendance. The projects underwent a thorough evaluation by a specialized committee, which assessed all aspects of the participating entries.

Executive Manager Corporate Relations and CSR, Faisal Al-surayye, affirmed KFH's ceaseless efforts to support graduating students, participants of the Engineering Design Exhibition and their distinguished projects. He added: "KFH is one of the main and largest supporters of Engineering graduates. KFH supported

around 300 graduation projects for students throughout the year."

Meanwhile, Acting Dean of College of Engineering and Petroleum, Dr. Khalid AlHazza, praised KFH's role in supporting students and education through initiatives and sponsorships that are of high value and impact on exceptional students.

It is worth noting that KFH has been a major supporter of the Engineering Design Exhibition, held twice annually, once per semester. KFH's support aligns with its commitment to sponsoring students, education, and youth initiatives. By fostering a thriving scientific environment through the necessary support for developing young scientific talent, KFH aims to encourage scientific endeavors that contribute to the country's progress.



Kuwait Airways ranks third in On-Time Performance in Middle East.

Airline achieves 90.6% on-time departures

Kuwait Airways ranks third in 'On-Time Performance' in MENA region

KUWAIT CITY, July 16: Kuwait Airways has been ranked third in the Middle East and Africa region in terms of its On-Time Performance ensuring timely flight departures with a growth rate of 91.13%, according to the periodic report for the month of June 2024 issued by Cirium, which specializes in aviation analytics and data that includes the On-Time Performance of airlines around the world.

Kuwait Airways confirmed an increase in the punctuality rate of flight departure timings, as the company achieved an On-Time Performance of 90.6% in May 2024, compared to 88.2% in April 2024 and 85.6% in March 2024.

Kuwait Airways affirmed its unwavering commitment to implement its adherence to punctuality in an effort to achieve further progress and development in the various performance standards expected of international airlines with competence and expertise, achieved with the determination of its dedicated employees.

The On-Time Performance results come in accordance with the policy implemented by the company since the last quarter of 2023 in the aircraft maintenance schedule, as well as plans adopted in the flight operating schedule, which was after a detailed study of the operational sectors that has resulted in a gradual increase and improvement of accuracy of its take-off timings. These results are also one of the fundamental and significant steps that reflect the national carrier's progress and development in response to the challenges of the air transport industry and signifies the company's pursuit to provide the best levels of services to its valued customers.

It is worth noting that Cirium Aviation Analytics provides reliable sources of data and analytics to empower a wide spectrum of industry sectors, equipping airlines, airports, travel enterprises, aircraft manufacturers and financial entities for optimizing their operations, and for implementing their strategy and policy.

Prominent figures gather to congratulate first advisor

HMWA honors Asad Aleem Khan as first advisor to Kuwait Cricket Board

KUWAIT CITY, July 16: Hyderabad Muslim Welfare Association (HMWA) hosted grand event to Mark appointment of Asad Aleem Khan a Prominent Indian Businessman as a first Advisor to the Kuwait Cricket Board. Kuwait Cricket Club is the official governing body for the game of cricket under the auspices of Public Authority of Sport and Kuwait Olympic Committee.

Mr Asad Khan is very well known for his long sustained and selfless dedicated service to Indian community here in Kuwait and in India. The event was held on Saturday, the 13th July -2024 in Rajdhani Hotel Kuwait. Programme was well attended by well-wishers and friends from all parts of India. The program started at 7.30 pm. with recitation of the Holy Quran by Mubeen Ahmed who staged the Master of ceremony also.

Distinct guests and prominent personalities from Kuwait Mr. Muzzammil Malik, Dr Nayeem, Ex FIMA President Siddique Valiyakut, Professor Arbab Ahmed, FIMA dignitaries Hamif Sahab, and Hidayat Ullah. Esteemed cricketer Mr Ali also present at the dais with Mr Asad Khan. Other dignitaries Arshad Ahmed, Iftekhar Ahmed, also spoke about remarkable efforts made by Asad Khan to at-



Photo during the event.

tain this level and congratulated him for his appointment to the Board and extended best of luck. This milestone is a testament to his unwavering dedication, hard work, and passion. His journey serves as an inspiration to all, demonstrating that with perseverance and commitment, one can attain great heights of professional success.

Young engineer Amir introduced Mr Asad Khan to the audience. All well wishers and friends highlighting the importance of preserving and maintaining unity and solidarity among Indian community and carrying out social service to Indian community and

congratulated Mr Asad Khan for having such an illustrative record of social service and praised those who are working for good cause. Executive members Abdul Jabbar, Mushtaq Ahmed, Mubeen Khan, Omar, Mr Nisar Juddy presented bouquet to the dignitaries. Nisar Juddy presented a special shawl to Mr Khan and Dr Nayeem. HMWA President Abdul Azeem presented light humorous moment for audience and expressed his interaction bonding with Asad Khan his special respect for him and thanked Almighty that we have such selfless dedicated personalities among Indian community.

Siddique Valiyakut Prof Arbab Mr Malik and Dr Nayeem urged people to help needy community and applauded the continual efforts of HMWA for the betterment of community in general and Indians in particular.

Finally businessman Mr Asad Khan gave his speech and spoke about works done by HMWA and all other organisations and his respect for the member of various Indian associations working the community. In his short speech he assured his support for all good causes and wished them and urged to carry out good works.

Renowned scholars enlighten audiences on Hijrah lessons

Indian Muslim Association conducts series of Public Programs to mark Hijri New Year

KUWAIT CITY, July 16: Indian Muslim Association (IMA) Kuwait successfully conducted a series of Public Programs recently, across various mosques in Kuwait to commemorate the commencement of the new Hijri Year 1446. Gatherings organized in mosques located in Khaitan, Abbasiya, Salmiya, Mahboula and Fahaaheel were graced by Kuwait's renowned Islamic Scholars & Khateeb, who delivered profound lectures on the topic of Hijrah (Migration of Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) from Makkah to Madinah). The events captivated and enlightened large audiences, with special arrangements made to accommodate families, ensuring a comfortable and inclusive environment for all.

Sharafuddin Soofi, a well-known Scholar & Khateeb in Kuwait, addressed the audience at Masjid Haya Ibraheem in Salmiya on the topic 'Lessons from Hijrah'. He highlighted that the Hijrah event involved meticulous planning, sacrifices, best utilization of available resources and setting higher goals which laid the foundation for a successful new era. He emphasized its significance and relevance even today. The talk was followed by Q&A Session, during which IMA President Maulana Mohammed Umar Falahi answered the questions.

Khurshed Khan, another well-known speaker in Kuwait, addressed a large gathering at Masjid Maryam in Mahboula on the topic 'Hijratka Paigham'. He explained the importance & reasons for choosing Hijrah as the beginning of the Islamic Calendar. He further emphasized the lessons to be learnt from the event in present context, such as exemplifying an ideal life to be led in pluralistic society with full rights, coexistence, peace and respect for everyone's beliefs, culture and language. These are requisites for social, political & economic upliftment of the entire society. His talk was followed by an interactive Q&A Session conducted by brother Parvez Hanif, during which attractive gifts were awarded to the winners.

Nisar Ahmad, a renowned Speaker & Khateeb in Kuwait, addressed the audience at Masjid Al Mailem in Khaitan on the 'Message of Hijrah'. He explained the significance of the event in Islamic History and the lessons to be learnt from it. He emphasized the essence of sacrifice & tawakkul (complete trust in Allah) that Prophet (PBUH) & his companions demonstrated throughout their lives, highlighting the need for us to practice these principles to achieve our goals and succeed in both this world and the hereafter.

IMA President Maulana Mohammad Umar Falahi, an Islamic Scholar & Khateeb in Kuwait, while speaking



Photos during the event

on the 'Message of Hijrah' at Masjid Bilqees in Abbasiya, explained to the audience that the event symbolizes patience & sacrifices which form the foundation for achieving significant goals. It teaches us the essence of brotherhood, promotes education, emphasizes women's role in society building, and supports welfare development programs - all of which contribute to the upliftment of society.

Masood Shihab, former IMA President, in his talk at Masjid Majyed Hilal Otaibin Fahaaheel explained the critical factors of Hijrah that were pivotal in the establishment & propagation of Islam throughout Arab nations. He highlighted how the Prophet (PBUH) formed friendly treaties with different religious tribes, setting a perfect example of leading a peaceful and prosperous life in a plural society. Elements of religious freedom, interfaith outreach & establishment of Islamic centers contributed to the growth & strength of Muslims in Madinah, facilitating the spread of Islam across the region.

The large turnouts at each event testified the strong

sense of community and devotion among Muslim expatriates in Kuwait toward the importance of Hijrah. At the end of each gathering, dinner packets were served, fostering a sense of community and togetherness. Programs were also conducted for kids separately and simultaneously in few Mosques, ensuring an inclusive and engaging experience for young attendees.

IMA Kuwait extends its gratitude to the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, Kuwait, for its patronage and constant support in organizing these impactful events. IMA Kuwait is an Indian socio-religious organization that operates under the patronage of the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Kuwait. IMA always focuses to provide platform for enhancement of expatriates living in Kuwait for their spiritual & social aspect through various programs & social gatherings. It looks forward to organizing various beneficial programs in future, considering the occasions and requirements of expatriates in general and specifically Indian community.

BTS star and local hero among Olympic torchbearers

Olympics

PARIS, July 16, (AP): From the Louvre Museum to the Champs-Elysees, from Paris' posh districts to working-class neighborhoods, hundreds of people have carried the Olympic torch through the French capital for two days of celebrations before the Summer Games kick off at the end of the month.

Joyful crowds lined up along the route Sunday and Monday. "I got super emotional," BMX world champion Matthias Dandois said after carrying the torch in front of the Eiffel Tower. "I'm from Paris, and I grew up playing so much sport and watching the Olympics, and it was a dream to be a part of it."

About 10,000 people were chosen to carry the flame across France from the southern city port of Marseille, where it arrived on May 8, to the opening ceremony on July 26. Many are athletes. Others were picked because they represent art, culture and gastronomy, volunteer for charities or are deeply involved in community life.

Dressed in white, they ran at a slow pace to the cheers of spectators.

Francky Mbotto, a 26-year-old middle-distance runner from Central African Republic who lives in Paris, carried the torch near the Arc de Triomphe.

"This is incredible! It's so emotional. It's Olympism that is be-

ing highlighted," he said, adding that the relay is meant to deliver a "message of peace."

Another torchbearer, Eva David, a wheelchair basketball athlete, described it as "a real moment of jubilation."

Belgian singer Mentissa carried the torch as her songs were played. "Sport and music really bring people together and make us forget our daily lives," she said.

The torch made its grand entrance in Paris for Bastille Day on Sunday with military horse rider Col. Thibaut Vallette, gold medalist at the 2016 Rio Games. It was handed to a relay by students from the multicultural northern suburbs of Seine-Saint-Denis in front of French President Emmanuel Macron.

Attention

Former World Cup winner Thierry Henry, who leads France's Olympic soccer team, later carried the flame down the Champs-Elysees avenue.

Among the torchbearers who attracted the most attention was K-Pop icon Jin, a member of the band BTS, who carried it Sunday evening in front of the Louvre.

"It was an honor to be part of such a meaningful moment," he said, according to his management agency.

Jin's relay drew a significant crowd. Sofia Boukhabla, 23, said she

had very little interest in watching the Games but rushed with her friends to see Jin. "He is so cute," she exclaimed.

Late on Sunday, Ludovic Franceschet, a local garbage collector, brought the flame inside Paris City Hall, where it spent the night under high protection. Franceschet, who seeks to raise environmental awareness with hundreds of thousands of followers on TikTok and Instagram, seized the occasion to remind residents and visitors to put their trash in bins.

The torch relay was also the chance to pay tribute to victims of the 2015 attacks in the French capital at the Bataclan concert hall and elsewhere. Lassana Bathily, the Mali-born employee who saved lives during an attack at a kosher supermarket, carried the torch at the Pantheon monument.

Some onlookers found relief from recent chaos in France. Isabelle Kling, 70, took a detour from her usual dog-walking route to witness the relay. "It almost makes me want to cry, finally seeing the flame. It's a bit of joy after the disastrous weeks we've had," she said, alluding to the recent elections in France.

The torch will continue its journey in northern France and through the Paris region before heading back to the French capital.

The Olympic cauldron will be lit after the opening ceremony on the River Seine on July 26.

Variety



This image released by Neon shows Lauren Acala in a scene from 'Longlegs.' (AP)

Film

Actor taps into mother's memory for 'Longlegs'

Cage finds healing in 'serial killer' role

LOS ANGELES, July 16, (AP): When Nicolas Cage first read the script for "Longlegs" and considered playing the titular serial killer, he knew exactly where he'd draw his inspiration from: his mother.

"Not that she was Satanic," Cage clarified in a recent interview, but said witnessing her struggle with mental illness throughout his life was something he needed to process. "In my approach to try and get more personal with my film performances, I've been trying to find a constructive place to put my memories of my mother."

Cage said the connection to his mom was so strong - particularly how he envisioned the character's body language and way of speaking - that he remembers hearing her voice early one Christmas morning while rehearsing lines to himself. "Everybody else is getting ready to open presents and whatnot, and I'm doing this very dark character and trying to infuse it with love," he recalled.

The experience of making "Longlegs," a Neon release opening in theaters Friday, was ultimately a cathartic one for the Oscar winner. "Gosh, I channeled my dad for Dracula and I channeled my mom for Longlegs. What does that say about my childhood?" he said, laughing.

When he first met with Osgood Perkins to discuss the film, Cage was shocked to learn the director had his own mother in mind when writing the script.

It follows FBI Agent Lee Harker (Maika Monroe) who, not long after being assigned to investigate a series of gruesome murders, realizes her own connection to the killer (Cage). Although Perkins confessed to being inspired by "Silence of the Lambs" and other films like it, "Longlegs" is distinct from many serial killer movies in that the horrors, despite being carried out by people, are hauntingly supernatural.

Perkins takes advantage of that paranormal license and saturates the world of "Longlegs" with biblical references and occultist clues for his protagonist to solve. But unlike some directors who prefer to obfuscate their process or leave open how much mean-

ing there really is for audiences to decipher, Perkins is candid about his source material - or lack thereof.

"I made it up," the director said plainly of some of the symbolism employed and messages sent throughout the film, comparing the process of making a movie like "Longlegs" to creating a crossword puzzle. "The fun of assembling things and finding little pieces of things you like, that's what making a movie is. It's just puzzling stuff together."

As the son of Anthony Perkins, who played Norman Bates in Alfred Hitchcock's "Psycho," the "Longlegs" director has long wrestled with his relationship to Hollywood and horror in particular.

"It's kind of been foisted on me a little bit," he said, though he conceded he appreciates the freedom the genre permits. "You're allowed to kind of do anything and to do it in a sort of Gothic or Baroque way that's really full of flavor. It's like making a big, beautiful sauce."

Surreal

Cage has done his share of horror movies too, from "Mandy" to the 2006 remake of "The Wicker Man," but said this one is perhaps his scariest. As someone known for his versatility as an actor, he too said he relishes the genre's permission to nonconformity.

"I have always maintained that horror, when done well, is genuinely surreal. It's dream logic. It doesn't have to rely on physics or reality. It can allow actors to express themselves in other ways besides that which is considered the arbiter of great acting, which is 1970s naturalism," he bemoaned. "That is good, but we've done it again and again, ad infinitum, ad nauseum."

Though they had not known each other before making this film, Cage and Perkins quickly bonded over their love of cinema and their deep family roots in it. Wanting to create the most organic first interaction possible, Perkins didn't allow Cage and Monroe to meet before their first scene together - one of the most chilling and violent in the film.

But the actors already had a mutual respect for one another, and Cage, still covered in makeup, made a point to tell Monroe he was a fan of her work in David Robert Mitchell's "It Follows" as soon as the camera stopped rolling.

"I was just like, 'God, I wish we had this on camera.' It was so funny. It was the first time that I heard his actual voice," she said of their first encounter. "I grew up watching his films and then just in the recent years, his choices I think are so incredible. I just respect him so much."

Also:

LOS ANGELES: If you loved the adrenaline rush of watching Alex Honnold scale El Capitan in "Free Solo," Netflix has a treat for you. This time the heights are manmade but no less harrowing. In "Skywalkers: A Love Story," filmmaker Jeff Zimbalist takes viewers into the dangerous world of rooftopers - the daredevils who scale the world's tallest buildings. The subjects in "Skywalkers," streaming on Netflix starting Friday, are Angela Nikolau and Ivan Beerkus who are not only talented rooftopers but also in a relationship (hence the "love story" in the title) with own ups and downs. Part heist movie, part dazzling spectacle thanks to incredible Go-Pro footage, part relationship drama, it is a no-brainer for a click.

Meanwhile, Daisy Ridley stars as the trailblazing deep sea swimmer Trudy Ederle in "Young Woman and the Sea," a very well made and inspiring sports drama that harkens back to the live-action movies Disney used to make in the early '90s like "Wild Hearts Can't Be Broken." Accessible for the whole family, the movie follows Ederle from her childhood to the Olympics and finally on her quest to become the first woman to swim the English Channel, in 1926. It had a somewhat quiet theatrical release after producer Jerry Bruckheimer found it got the best test scores of his career. But now it'll be available for all, on Disney+, on Friday.

ATLANTA: The judge overseeing the long-running racketeering and gang prosecution against rapper Young Thug and others has been removed from the case after two defendants sought his recusal, citing a meeting the judge held with prosecutors and a state witness.

Fulton County Superior Court Chief Judge Ural Glanville had put the case in Atlanta on hold two weeks ago to give another judge a chance to review the defendants' motions for recusal. Judge Rachel Krause on Monday granted those motions and ordered the clerk of court to assign the case to a different judge.

While not faulting Glanville for holding the meeting and saying she has "no doubt that Judge Glanville can and would continue presiding fairly over this matter," Krause wrote that "the 'necessity' of preserving the public's confidence in the judicial system" weighs in favor of excusing Judge Glanville" from the case.

This ruling will surely cause more delays in a trial that has already dragged on for over a year. Jury selection began in January 2023 and took nearly 10 months. Opening statements were in November and the prosecution has been presenting its case since then, calling dozens of witnesses.

Young Thug, a Grammy winner whose given name is Jeffery Williams, was charged two years ago in a sprawling indictment accusing him and more than two dozen others of conspiring to violate Georgia's anti-racketeering law. He also is charged with gang, drug and gun crimes and is standing trial with five of the others indicted with him.

Lawyers for Young Thug and co-defendant Deamonte Kendrick had filed motions seeking Glanville's recusal. They said the judge held a meeting with prosecutors and prosecution witness Kenneth Copeland at which defendants and defense attorneys were not present. The defense attorneys argued the meeting was "improper" and that the judge and prosecutors had tried to pressure the witness to testify.

Glanville maintained that the meeting was proper and argued that no one gained a tactical advantage as a result.

The office of Fulton County District Attorney Fani Willis, which is prosecuting the case, had argued there was no need for

Glanville to be recused.

Brian Steel, a lawyer for Young Thug, said in an emailed statement that his client is innocent and sought to clear his name through a fair trial.

"Sadly, Judge Glanville and the prosecutors have run afoul of their duties under the law," Steel said, adding that he is grateful for the recusal order



Ma



Young Thug

and looks forward "to proceeding with a trial judge who will fairly and faithfully follow the law."

Kendrick's lawyer, Doug Weinstein, also applauded Monday's ruling. (AP)

BEIJING: Chinese comedy "Successor" topped the daily box office chart on the Chinese mainland

on its preview screenings, with whopping daily box office sales of 135.78 million yuan (about 19.04 million U.S. dollars) on Monday.

Starring comedy stars Shen Teng and Ma Li and directed by Yan Fei and Peng Damo, the film tells the story of a poor rural couple who count on their son to change their fate. It will be

available for public screening on Tuesday. Crime thriller "A Place Called Silence" stood second, raking in over 39.37 million yuan on its 13th day of public screening.

Universal and Illumination's animated comedy "Despicable Me 4" came up third with 15.51 million yuan of box office sales. (Xinhua)

Unproven technology may cause extra worry, unnecessary treatment

Celebs getting \$2,000 MRI scans for wellness. Should you?

WASHINGTON, July 16, (AP) — What if there was a way to peer into your body and spot early signs of cancer and other life-threatening ailments before they became serious?

That's the pitch from a new cluster of companies selling high-tech scans to healthy people interested in learning more about their wellness.

These whole-body MRI scans aren't cheap. Startup companies like PrenoVO charge between \$1,000 to \$2,500 for various scanning options, none of which are currently covered by insurance.

Proponents say consumer-driven medical scans are the next logical step in preventive medicine. The industry has received a big publicity push from celebrities and influencers like Kim Kardashian, who posted about her PrenoVO scan last year.

But many medical experts say the companies are selling expensive, unproven technology that may cause extra worries and unnecessary treatment, while driving up costs for the US health system.

Here's what to know before considering a scan:

What is an MRI?

MRI stands for magnetic resonance imaging. It's a type of medical scan that uses magnetic fields to produce detailed images of organs, bones and other structures inside the body. Un-



This photo provided by PrenoVO in July 2024 shows an MRI scanner. (AP)

like many other types of scans, MRIs don't use radiation.

Doctors will order an MRI to help diagnose cancer, brain injuries, damaged blood vessels and other medical conditions. Full-body scans can take an hour or more, with patients lying motionless inside a cylindrical tube.

This article is part of AP's Be Well coverage, focusing on wellness, fit-

ness, diet and mental health.

Medical societies only recommend routine, full-body scans for certain high-risk groups, such as people who have a heightened genetic risk of cancer.

"MRIs are great for what they're typically used for," said Dr. Ernest Hawk, a vice president at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center. "But now you're moving them

much earlier into an average risk population and that's where you can run into these questions that haven't been answered."

Why are people paying for them now?

Companies like PrenoVO say their scans can help identify more than 500 medical conditions that can go undetected at a typical doctor's visit.

The company charges \$999 to scan the torso, \$1,799 for the head and torso or \$2,499 for the entire body. Several other companies offer similar services and pricing.

PrenoVO's chief medical officer, Dr. Daniel Durand, says customers can decide for themselves if the price is worth it.

"We're trying to give people the opportunity to be more proactive about their health," Durand said.

Along with the scans and a reader-friendly summary of the results, customers can consult with a nurse or physician employed by PrenoVO to talk about next steps.

The company says it doesn't pay for endorsements but will sometimes "provide a complimentary scan for an unbiased review."

What are the potential downsides of MRI screening services?

Many radiologists say the likelihood of finding a serious problem, such as a cancerous tumor or brain aneurysm,

in someone with no symptoms is very low. Instead, scans are likely to flag growths that are usually harmless. Definitively ruling out a problem could require additional tests, appointments and even surgeries.

"You're going to end up finding a lot of incidental things," said Dr. Mina Makary, a radiologist at Ohio State Wexner Medical Center. "That's going to create more psychological stress or trauma for the patient, including additional costs for tests and procedures that may have risks."

Experts also worry that people who undergo MRI scans may start skipping other routine exams, such as mammograms.

"You've gone through a scan and it didn't find anything so you say 'Gee, I don't need to do the other routine things my doctor recommends that have been proven to extend life,'" said Hawk.

What do medical authorities say?

The American College of Radiology does not recommend MRI screening in people without symptoms, stating that there is "no documented evidence" the technique is "cost-efficient or effective in prolonging life."

The Food and Drug Administration has not approved any MRI machines for preventive screening, but doctors are free to use the devices however they choose.

There are examples of imaging practices that were once considered experimental but have subsequently become standard practice. PrenoVO executives say their approach could follow a similar path.

"The evidence will evolve over time but patients don't necessarily want to wait 30 years to be in a position to benefit from it," said PrenoVO's Durand.

When will we know if MRI screening helps people live longer?

The studies needed to show such a benefit would have to be very large and long, tracking a diverse population for years, according to experts.

PrenoVO recently announced plans to screen 100,000 people and study their health over time. The study isn't expected to wrap up until 2034 or later.

Most people enrolling in PrenoVO's study are expected to pay a \$2,200 fee. But eventually academic or government studies could offer individuals a chance to participate in such research without paying out-of-pocket.

"This is a great area in which to participate in a research study that might provide the information you're seeking, while also helping answer whether this is beneficial or not," Hawk said. "But doing so outside of a study makes no sense."



Scientists have confirmed a cave on the moon, not far from where Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin landed 55 years ago this week, and suspect there are hundreds more that could house future astronauts. (AP)

Hope for lunar habitat

Cave on moon could host future explorers: experts

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla., July 16, (AP) — Scientists have confirmed a cave on the moon, not far from where Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin landed 55 years ago, and suspect there are hundreds more that could house future astronauts.

An Italian-led team reported Monday that there's evidence for a sizable cave accessible from the deepest known pit on the moon. It's located at the Sea of Tranquility, just 250 miles (400 kilometers) from Apollo 11's landing site.

The pit, like the more than 200 others discovered up there, was created by the collapse of a lava tube.

Researchers analyzed radar measurements by NASA's Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter, and compared the results with lava tubes on Earth. Their findings appeared in the journal Nature Astronomy.

The radar data reveals only the initial part of the underground cavity, according to the scientists. They estimate it's at least 130 feet (40 meters) wide and tens of yards (meters) long, probably more.

"Lunar caves have remained a mys-

tery for over 50 years. So it was exciting to be able to finally prove the existence" of one, Leonardo Carrer and Lorenzo Bruzzone of the University of Trento, wrote in an email.

Most of the pits seem to be located in the moon's ancient lava plains, according to the scientists. There also could be some at the moon's south pole, the planned location of NASA's astronaut landings later this decade. Permanently shadowed craters there are believed to hold frozen water that could provide drinking water and rocket fuel.

During NASA's Apollo program, 12 astronauts landed on the moon, beginning with Armstrong and Aldrin on July 20, 1969.

The findings suggest there could be hundreds of pits on the moon and thousands of lava tubes. Such places could serve as a natural shelter for astronauts, protecting them from cosmic rays and solar radiation as well as from micrometeorite strikes. Building habitats from scratch would be more time-consuming and challenging, even when factoring in the potential need of reinforcing the cave walls to prevent a collapse, the team said.

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast, July 16, (AP) — Health workers in Ivory Coast began giving children the latest malaria vaccine on Monday, the beginning of a regional campaign that experts hope might curb the impact of one of Africa's top killers.

The West African country became the first to start rolling out the newest shot targeting malaria in an effort that aims to cover about 250,000 children under two. The three-dose vaccine known as R21/Matrix-M was developed by Britain's Oxford University and was authorized by the World Health Organization last October.

Research suggests it is more than 75% effective at preventing severe disease and death in the first year and that protection is extended for at least another year with a booster.

Alice Kanga was one of many who brought their children to get vaccinated Monday. "It's really important for the children, for their health," she said.

In 2021, WHO endorsed the first malaria vaccine, known as Mosquirix, made by GSK. But that vaccine requires four doses and protection fades

Ivory Coast rolls out vaccines for under 2 kids

Malaria control enters a new era with child vaccination campaign



A health worker administers the malaria vaccine Oxford-Serum R21 to a child in Abidjan, Ivory Coast, Monday, July 15. (AP)

within months. GSK also previously said it would only be able to make about 15 million doses.

But India's Serum Institute has already made 25 million doses of the Ox-

ford vaccine and says it plans to make at least 100 million every year, at a cost of about \$4 per dose.

More than 94% of the world's roughly 249 million malaria cases and

608,000 deaths every year are in Africa. The parasitic disease is spread by mosquitoes and most often strikes children under five and pregnant women.

Pierre Demba, Ivory Coast's health minister, said the malaria vaccination launch was an indication of the government's commitment to invest in the country's children.

"They are the future of our country," he said.

Adrian Hill of Oxford University said in a statement that the Ivory Coast roll-out "marks the start of a new era in malaria control," adding that he hoped the shot would soon be available to all countries in Africa who wanted to use it.

Still, because malaria vaccines don't stop the spread of the disease, experts have long warned that other measures like insecticide spraying, improved treatments and the use of bed nets will still be critical.

The Gavi vaccine alliance, which helps poor countries buy vaccines, said other countries including the Central African Republic, Chad and South Sudan have also received supplies of the Oxford-developed shot.

Global vaccinations stall after COVID pandemic

UNICEF, WHO call for step-up in child vaccinations

UNITED NATIONS, July 15, (Xinhua) — Two UN agencies on Monday called for a catch-up in child immunization, warning global vaccinations of children stalled last year, leaving 2.7 million unvaccinated or with insufficient inoculations.

The latest World Health Organization (WHO) and the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) estimates of national immunization coverage provide the world's largest and most comprehensive dataset on immunization trends for vaccinations against 14 diseases. The estimates "underscore the need

for ongoing catch-up, recovery and system-strengthening efforts."

They said childhood immunization levels stalled in 2023, compared to pre-pandemic levels in 2019, leaving many without life-saving protection, notably from measles. New data reveals that nearly three in four infants live in countries where low vaccine coverage is driving measles outbreaks.

"The latest trends demonstrate that many countries continue to miss far too many children," said UNICEF Executive Director Catherine Rus-

sell. "Closing the immunization gap requires a global effort, with governments, partners, and local leaders investing in primary healthcare and community workers to ensure every child gets vaccinated and that overall healthcare is strengthened."

The agencies' data shows the number of children who received three doses of the vaccine against diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis (DTP) in 2023 -- a key marker for global immunization coverage -- stalled at 84 percent (108 million). However, the number of children who did not receive a single dose

of the vaccine increased from 13.9 million in 2022 to 14.5 million in 2023.

"More than half of unvaccinated children live in the 31 countries with fragile, conflict-affected and vulnerable settings, where children are especially vulnerable to preventable diseases because of disruptions and lack of access to security, nutrition, and health services," they said.

"Additionally, 6.5 million children did not complete their third dose of the DTP vaccine, which is necessary to achieve disease protection in infancy and early childhood."

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