



HH Crown Prince receives call from Jordan's King Abdullah II

KUWAIT CITY, June 5, (KUNA): King Abdullah II of Jordan, congratulating him on being appointed as the Crown Prince by an Amiri decree.

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Reach out to embassies in emergencies: Foreign Ministry

Kuwait warns summer travelers of rising thefts

KUWAIT CITY, June 5, (KUNA): The Ministry of Foreign Affairs called on citizens wishing to travel during the summer time to exercise caution during their travel due to the increasing cases of theft of personal belongings and

passports. In a statement, the ministry called on citizens to communicate with Kuwait embassies in the event of any emergency, including the consular communication service center inside and out-

side the country via the following numbers: Consular center: +965-159 Backup line: +965-22225504 The ministry also expressed wishes for safe travel and return to all.

Minister highlights success

Gulf youth make strides via collaborative efforts

KUWAIT CITY, June 5, (KUNA): Kuwaiti Minister of Social Affairs, Family and Childhood Affairs, and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah affirmed that Gulf youth work is achieving great progress in various field, due to cooperation between youth sponsoring authorities in Gulf countries.

In a press statement on Wednesday, during the celebrations of Gulf Youth Day in its third edition, Al-Huwailah said that this was achieved in implementation of the directives of GCC leaders, considering that the youth are change-makers and future leaders.

She affirmed that youth work in Kuwait witnessed a remarkable progress, due to the directives of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, as well as the follow up of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Sabah, to hone the youngsters' talents.

Al-Huwailah pointed out that Kuwait, represented by the Youth and Sports Authorities, is keen to boost cooperation between Gulf countries in various fields, calling on Kuwaiti and Gulf youth to take advantage of the opportunities and work to achieve their aspirations and dreams.

She noted that the joint Gulf work is aimed at exchanging experiences and organizing joint events that provide Kuwaiti and Gulf youth with an opportunity to communicate, cooperate and strengthen bilateral relations, considering that collective work and regional integration are the key to developing Gulf youth work.

Kuwait will spare no effort in caring for Kuwaiti youth and empowering them in various fields by providing them with the necessary skills and knowledge to be innovative and creative, she added, expressing great confidence in their ability to make positive changes in society.

Al-Huwailah congratulated the Gulf youth on Youth Day, as it is an important occasion to celebrate their achievements in various fields, stressing that they represent a fundamental pillar in the process of development in the Gulf countries.



Al-Huwailah

Proposal seeks to double citizens in private sector

By Najeh Bilal

KUWAIT CITY, June 5: According to informed sources, there is a plan to increase the percentage of Kuwaiti employees from 25 percent to 50 percent in private companies, and from 30 percent to 60 percent in the private oil companies.

They explained that a meeting was recently held by the private sector workers union and the Deputy Director General of National Workers Department at the Public Authority for Manpower (PAM) Najat Al-Yousef with the participation of the private oil companies union.

The meeting concluded with the suggestion to implement the aforementioned percentage of Kuwaitization in the concerned companies and to toughen the penalties against the violating companies by suspending or blocking the file of the relevant company and increasing the value of the fine by three times more than the current value.

The sources revealed that this meeting was held because of the lack of commitment of many companies in the private sector to the rules as well as their mistreatment of Kuwaiti

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Ministry of Health photos Minister of Health Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi honors Ministry of Health's official spokesperson Dr. Abdullah Al-Sanad.

Chronic diseases major cause of death: Al-Awadhi

Health Mall initiative boosts wellness in Kuwait

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

KUWAIT CITY, June 5: Chronic diseases are among the most common causes of ill health and death locally and globally; with the World Health Organization (WHO) estimating that 40 million people die annually due to these diseases -- 70 percent of total deaths around the world, says Health Minister Dr. Ahmed Al-Awadhi.

In his speech during the Healthy Cities Office's honoring of the commercial complexes that won the health-promoting complex accreditation awards; Al-Awadhi pointed out that chronic diseases are considered a burden on public health, economic and social developments, and could drain health and societal resources.

He said the ministry believes that building healthy communities is the cornerstone of improving public health through multi-sector partnerships -- governmental, civil institutions,



Minister of Health Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi delivers a speech celebrating and honoring the Healthy Cities Office.

individuals and private sector.

He added the 'Health Mall' initiative is the best example of concerted efforts to improve the health of the population in Kuwait by providing a supportive environment for adopting

healthy lifestyles at the malls.

He explained the initiative aims to raise the awareness of visitors and workers in malls about the importance of good health, provide an enhanced environment for practicing and adopting healthy behaviors, protect the environment, and highlight the significance of the private sector's social responsibility in supporting health initiatives.

On the other hand, Head of the Healthy Cities Office at the Ministry of Health Dr. Amal Al-Yahya stated in her speech that the first edition of the health-promoting commercial complexes initiative is a progressive step towards the implementation of the healthy cities project in Kuwait.

She confirmed the approval of six commercial complexes to implement the initiative and four of them are now at the evaluation and accreditation stages, which is regarded as double success for the Healthy Cities Office. She disclosed this is done by applying health mall

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News watch

Expat detained for alleged terror plot

KUWAIT CITY, June 5, (KUNA): The Public Prosecution detained a resident on Wednesday for allegedly joining an outlawed group and plotting a hostile act against a foreign state.

Additionally, the expatriate faces accusations of training in the illicit production and use of explosives, violating "the Emirate Status," maintaining social media ties with the outlawed group, and disseminating materials promoting its ideology.

Furthermore, the individual is charged with recruiting foreign fighters, providing explosives training, and conducting firearms training at shooting ranges.

Following interrogation, the suspect confessed to the charges. The case is under investigation.

DOHA: The Qatari Cabinet on Wednesday expressed congratulations to His Highness Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah on his appointment as the State of Kuwait's Crown Prince, wishing him success in the senior post service and further prosperity and progress for the Kuwaiti people.

The Qatari news agency said the felicitations were expressed by the cabinet during a session, headed by Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammad bin Abdulrahman al-Thani, held at the Amiri Diwan.

QNA said the cabinet lauded the outcome of the official visit, recently paid by the Qatari Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani to Cyprus and Greece.

It added that the ministers examined other topics on the session's agenda, namely the Shura Council's adoption of a bill amending the law of Qatar Financial Center. (KUNA)

KUWAIT CITY: The State of Kuwait welcomes Slovenia's official recognition of the State Palestine, which is a positive step in line with concerned international resolutions, said a ministerial statement on Wednesday.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs affirmed that Slovenia's recognition, which supports UNSC resolutions and the Arab peace initiative, would hopefully lead to the creation of an independent Palestinian state within the 1967 borders and east Jerusalem as capital.

The statement reflected Kuwait's firm stance on Palestine as well its calls for more countries to take similar steps for a just and comprehensive solution for the Palestinian cause. (KUNA)

KUWAIT CITY: The Ambassador of the Republic of Mongolia to Kuwait, Sergelin Borev Shadai, stressed on Wednesday his country's keenness to work and enhance cooperation in various fields with Kuwait, especially in the tourism sector.

Shadai said in a press statement issued by the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry after receiving an economic delegation specialized in the tourism sector, headed by the Ambassador, "the main goal of this visit is to review the investment opportunities available in Mongolia in the tourism sector". (KUNA)

Inspection blitz at four co-ops

Commerce Ministry orders price monitoring ahead of Eid Al-Adha

KUWAIT CITY, June 5: The Commercial Control and Consumer Protection Sector at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry has instructed inspectors from different departments under it, including the commercial control and emergency teams, to monitor

prices in the markets, especially now that Eid Al-Adha is fast approaching, reports Al-Anba daily quoting sources.

Sources confirmed that the Commercial Control and Consumer Protection Sector at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and the Cooperative Sector in the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor collaborated to organize a workshop aimed at exchanging experiences between the inspectors of the two ministries; specifically to compare the prices of fruits and vegetables in cooperative societies and Fartha Market. Sources said this workshop paved the way for fruitful cooperation to enhance transparency and protection of consumers.

As part of the ongoing efforts, the Jahra and Farwaniya Emergency Team in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, in cooperation with inspectors at the Ministry of Social Affairs, carried out a surprise inspection campaign in four cooperative societies. This led to the recording of one violation in a cooperative society and issuance of four warnings to another cooperative.

The team also continued its daily inspection tours, which resulted in recording three seizure reports for shops and commercial

Energy plans face procedural delays

KUWAIT CITY, June 5: The Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy has failed to achieve self-sufficiency in energy for three main reasons -- lack of budget for each energy production project, delay in bidding and contract awarding procedures, and delayed approval of regulatory authorities, reports Al-Seyassah daily quoting reliable sources.

Sources said the total electricity production was supposed to reach 20,962 megawatts in 2022; but this did not happen for the abovementioned reasons. Sources pointed out that the total power production

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Meteorological system upgrade

Kuwait's DGCA, Meteo France sign contract

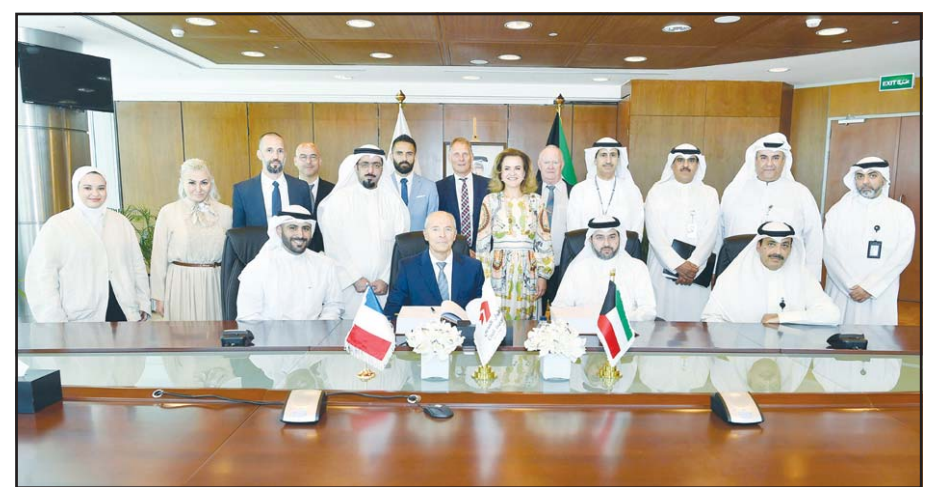
KUWAIT CITY, June 5, (KUNA): Kuwait's Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) on Wednesday signed a KD 1.8 million (approx. USD 41.8 billion) contract with Meteo France for project developing Kuwait International Airport meteorological system.

DGCA's Deputy Director Saad Al-Otaibi told KUNA that the venture part of a bigger plan of 11 projects aiming to develop avia-

tion infrastructure.

The two-part contract, explained Al-Otaibi, includes a detection and warning system for dusty weather and sandstorms, and a second generation system for data analysis.

The contract is valid for some 930 days, followed by a four-year maintenance period. It was co-signed by DGCA chief Sheikh Humoud Al-Sabah and President of Meteo France, Patrick Benichou.



KUNA photo Kuwait's Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) signed a contract with Meteo France for project developing Kuwait International Airport meteorological system.

Prayer Timings

Fajr 03:14 Asr 15:21
Sunrise ... 04:48 Maghrib .. 18:45
Zohr 11:46 Isha 20:16

Local

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

Expected weather for next 24 hrs:
By Day: Very hot and relatively humid with light to moderate northwesterly wind changing to light variable wind, with speeds of 10-35 km/h.
By Night: Hot to rather hot and

Weather table with columns: Station, Max Exp, Min Rec, Kuwait Airport, Abdaly, Jahra, Salmiyah, Nuwaisib, Wafra.

HH the Crown Prince receives congratulations

KUWAIT CITY, June 5, (KUNA): President of Kuwait's Olympic Committee Sheikh Fahad Nasser Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah congratulated on Wednesday, on behalf of Kuwait's sport movement members, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah on being appointed as Crown Prince by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. In a press statement, Sheikh

Fahad wished His Highness the Crown Prince progress, prosperity and further success in serving the country. He expressed his optimism regarding Kuwait's sport movement, noting that His Highness is considered a prominent supporter towards the movement, making aspirations for a bright future.

His Highness the Amir Sheikh

Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber received a congratulatory phone call from UAE President Sheikh Mohammad bin Zayed Al Nahyan on the occasion of appointing Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad as Crown Prince. Sheikh Mohammad bin Zayed Al Nahyan wished His Highness the Amir good health and wellbeing, and progress and prosperity to the people of Kuwait.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad received a phone call from Chairman of the Yemeni Presidential Leadership Council Rashad Al-Alimi, congratulating him on assuming office. During the phone call, Al-Alimi wished His Highness the Crown Prince good health and wellbeing and more progress and prosperity to Kuwait and the Kuwaiti people.

In return, His Highness the Crown Prince expressed his sincere gratitude towards the Yemeni leader for his heartfelt sentiments that reflect the deep-rooted relations between Kuwait and Yemen, and wished Yemen and its people more progress and prosperity.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad

received a congratulatory phone call from Lebanese Prime Minister Najib Mikati on the occasion of appointing him as Crown Prince. In turn, His Highness the Crown Prince extended his gratitude towards Mikati's sincere gesture that embodies the deep-rooted bilateral relations, as the Crown Prince wished the prime minister health and well-being and further progress and prosperity to the people of Lebanon.

HH Amir congratulates King of Denmark on National Day

KUWAIT CITY, June 5, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a cable of congratulations on Wednesday to King of Denmark Frederik X on his country's National Day. In the cable, His Highness the Amir wished King Frederik X good health and wellbeing and for Denmark and its people more progress and prosperity.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah sent a congratulatory cable to King of Denmark Frederik X, wishing him good health and wellbeing. Also, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah sent a congratulatory cable to King Frederik X on Denmark's National Day.

MoE applies 'strict measures' at secret exam printing press

Rumors about leakage of biology test paper denied

By Abdul Rahman Al-Shammari Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, June 5: The Ministry of Education applied strict measures at the secret printing press on Wednesday morning under the direct supervision of the Minister of Education, Higher Education and Scientific Research Dr. Adel Al-Adwani, and the presence of two undersecretaries Mansour Al-Daihani and Mansour Al-Dhafiri to follow-up the process of the transfer of the exam papers to the headquarters of the exam committees. On Wednesday, Grade 12 students resumed taking their exams in all sectors - scientific (biology), humanity (philosophy) and religious (Arabic - criticism and rhetoric). In the same context, responsible educational sources denied the rumors about the leakage of the biology test. They called on students to focus on their studies and stay away from everything that could distract them, as well as adhere to the instructions and guidance provided to them in the exam committees, and not be carried away by the accounts that try to destabilize their educational career, as it can negatively affect their concentration and academic achievement. The sources affirmed that the Ministry of Education is coordinating with the Ministry of Interior's Cyber Crime Department to monitor suspicious accounts that spread inaccurate information related to the secondary exams, adding that the ministry will not hesitate to take all necessary legal measures with the cooperation of the relevant authorities in this regard.

Success

It is worth highlighting that the Grade 12 students of the scientific and humanity sections sat for their exam with all comfort and determination to complete their path to success to take the end-of-term exam for the second period of the 2023/2024 academic year. The students of the scientific section sat for the biology exam, the humanity section students sat for the philosophy exam, and the religious education students sat for the Arabic language (criticism and rhetoric) exam. In this regard, the head of the exam committee in Jumana Bint Abi Talib Secondary School Naima Al-Enezi affirmed the keenness of the school administration to prepare in advance for the examination period to offer psychological support to the students, provide all means of comfort in the examination halls, provide the exam committees with all systems and regulations, and ensure all procedures are followed. She revealed the ongoing cooperation with cooperative societies to provide snacks for female students, adding that a nurse was also arranged to deal with any emergency situations. Al-Enezi said, "The number of committees for female students in the science class and female students in the humanity class is four each. There is one main committee for students with learning difficulties. The number of female students was 74, divided by 53 in the scientific section and 21 in humanity. There are 44 female home students, divided by 18 in the sci-



Photo by Mohammad Morsi Minister of Social Affairs, Family and Child Affairs, and Minister of State for Youth Affairs, Dr. Amthal Al-Huwaila during the inauguration of the Community Development Center in West Abdullah Mubarak region.

W. Abdullah Al-Mubarak area residents to benefit

New Community Development Center opens

By Fares Al-Abdan Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, June 5: During the opening of the Community Development Center in West Abdullah Al-Mubarak, the Minister of Social Affairs, Family and Childhood Affairs and the Minister of State for Youth Affairs Dr. Amthal Al-Huwaila affirmed that the center aims to provide its services to the residents of the area. She highlighted the directives of His Highness the Amir to quickly implement such projects that provide services to citizens in various areas. Meanwhile, the Acting Undersecretary of the Ministry of Social Affairs Dr. Khaled Al-Ajmi revealed that the beneficiaries of the "People in Debt 2" campaign are more than 2,000 male and female debtors who meet the conditions that were explained previously. In a press statement issued on the sidelines of the opening of the center, he explained that reservation for the center will be available on the Events House application during the next few days. The aim of the service is to reduce the burden on citizens and support families in using these centers to serve them, as it is a qualitative and advanced work from the Ministry of Social Affairs, which seeks greatly to provide social services to citizens. The work of the committee for debtors formed by the Minister of Social Affairs has ended. The data and amounts collected during the campaign have been provided. It is expected that the debts will be paid by the Ministry of Justice's Judgment Implementation Department very soon. Al-Ajmi said, "In implementation of the state policies and the speech of His Highness the Amir, all doors are open and all fields are available to citizens. What matters to me is that services are provided with high quality and the satisfaction of citizens are met. Our hearts as well as our doors are open to everyone. We welcome any citizen who has any specific suggestion or idea. We are ready to provide all support for everything that serves the state and citizens. Work strategies change according to developments. We are currently in a new phase of agreement and resolve. We are ready to provide all services based on the new vision and be closer to the citizens. Everything that falls under that will be modified in line with the new vision during the next few days." Regarding the fight against corruption, he said, "Regardless of the type of corruption, no one who harms or tries to harm public funds will escape. We will carry out the supervisory role in accordance with the law. No person linked to corruption will escape punishment. The ministry is decisive in this matter. "The principle of cooperative work is to provide service to citizens at a lower cost. The Ministry of Social Affairs seeks to implement all regulations. I would like to stress that cooperative work is a huge, important and qualitative work and will be under the supervision and follow-up of the ministry."

Burgan Bank joins hands with CBK & KBA for Eidity Campaign ahead of Eid AlAdha

KUWAIT CITY, June 5: In the leadup to Eid AlAdha, Burgan Bank is once again participating in supporting the Eidity campaign in collaboration with the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK), the Kuwait Banking Association (KBA), and KNET. As part of the campaign, a total of 17 ATMs spread across the Bank's Head Office, select branches (Al-Jahra and Al-Adailiya), and a number of malls, including the Avenues, Al Khiran Mall, Al Kout Mall, Marina Mall, Maghateer Mall and 360 Mall, will provide bank customers and the public with cash bills in all denominations. In addition, the Bank is providing customers with Eidya cash bills through its 29 branches across Kuwait, due to



Eidity Campaign flyer.

increased demand during the Eid period. The Eidity initiative has been quite successful throughout the past few years, being well received by customers and the public

at large, as it facilitates the easy withdrawal of Eidyas. On its part, Burgan Bank has always been committed to participating in and supporting all initiatives organized by CBK and KBA to help serve all customers of the banking sector in Kuwait. Every year, Burgan Bank also offers a complimentary Eidaya delivery service to its Elite and Private Banking customers, in collaboration with Peacock Concierge. As part of this service, the Bank delivers fresh bank notes in the denominations of the customer's choice and to any location they prefer - be it their home or workplace - to save them the hassle of visiting a branch in person.

He affirmed the constant keenness of the Ministry of Education to implement the regulations and systems to ensure the quality of education and the progress of the educational process. Al-Arak wished all students success and prosperity in their examinations.

Saudi cabinet hails strong Kuwait ties

JEDDAH, June 5, (KUNA): The Saudi Cabinet welcomed Tuesday the results of Saudi-Kuwaiti coordinative council that reflected the deep-rooted fraternal relations between the two countries and their peoples in all domains. This came in a statement carried by Saudi Press Agency (SPA), citing Saudi Minister of Information Salman Al-Dosari after a virtual cabinet meeting led by King Salman bin Abdulaziz in Jeddah. King Salman got reassured about complete preparations, efforts and arrangements for this year's hajj season, it added, noting that King Salman expressed the Kingdom's pride for serving pilgrims. The cabinet was briefed on the results of Kingdom's participation in some meetings held on the level of GCC and Arab League. The cabinet said that it looks forward to further upgrading joint action for wider horizons, in line with the firm historical and fraternal relations and bonds, according to the statement. The ministers commended the outputs of the 37th ministerial meeting of OPEC+, affirming that the Kingdom and

seven other countries' decision to extend a voluntary cut enhances precautionary efforts made by the OPEC+ coalition, with the aim of backing stability at oil markets. Kingdom's hosting of World Environment Day activities on Wednesday, affirms the country's leading role locally, regionally and internationally, it said. The cabinet renewed Saudi Arabia's keenness on continuing supporting international endeavors aiming to achieve security and stability in the region. The coordinative council meeting was held in Kuwait Monday, under the co-chairmanship of Kuwaiti Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdullah Al-Yahya and his Saudi peer Prince Faisal bin Farhan, with the participation of heads of sub-committees. The coordinative council underlined the deep-rooted relations between Kuwait and Saudi Arabia in all fields and means of developing them and meeting aspirations of the two countries' leaderships. The two sides underlined the need of boosting cooperation in political fields and joint coordination on international, regional and bilateral levels.

Ukraine explains, invites Kuwait to join Peace Summit

Why deoccupation of Crimea is important for the world?

Municipal Council Committee OKs projects and reorganization plans

Four violations, 11 warnings issued

KUWAIT CITY, June 5: The Capital Committee of the Municipal Council made several decisions in its latest meeting. Chaired by Fahd Al-Abduljader, the committee approved the allocation of space for a modern laboratory building for water analysis in Shuwaikh, under the supervision of the Ministry of Electricity, reports Al-Jarida daily.

Additionally, they agreed to reorganize part of Plot No. 3 in the Sharq region and amend the boundaries of Parcel 72 described in the JW Marriott Hotel (formerly the Le Meridien) in Kuwait City. Furthermore, they approved a company's request to add 750 square meters to Parcel No. 27 in Plot No. 1 in the Sharq area, ensuring additional parking spaces are provided according to the plot's planned use.

Meanwhile, the Kuwait Municipality reported issuing four violations for unauthorized building area increases and 11 warnings in the Al-Funaitees area.

The Engineering Audit and Follow-up Department's supervisory team conducted the first field inspection round in the Al-Funaitees area of Mubarak Al-Kabeer Governorate as part of the campaign titled "A Lifetime House Without Violations," launched by the Public Relations Department. This campaign aims to assess compliance with the requirements and specifications of private and model housing buildings.

Additionally, the Department of Public Cleanliness and Road Occupations in Hawalli Governorate conducted a field tour in the Salmiya area, resulting in 20 violations related to general cleanliness, street vendors, and road works.



Al-Abduljader and Behbehani during the meeting.

Geoscientists oppose Jal Az-Zor camping

By Najeh Bilal

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, June 5: The Kuwait Society for Geosciences has urged the relevant authorities to intervene promptly and halt the Municipal Council's decision permitting camping in the Jal Az-Zor region.

Expressing dismay over the council members' unilateral decision without consulting specialists, the society emphasized the potential detrimental impact of camping activities on the region's geological and archaeological treasures.

In a statement, a copy of which has been obtained by Al-Seyassah daily, the association

underscored that camping in this historically significant area could lead to the destruction of invaluable geological and archaeological sites, which hold profound importance in Kuwait's heritage and global history.

It highlighted the region's rich heritage, with evidence of human presence dating back thousands of years, from 8,000 to 10,000 years ago.

Furthermore, the society revealed that it had previously petitioned official authorities to include the Jal Az-Zor region in the UNESCO Geological Parks Initiative program, emphasizing its significance for preservation and recognition on an international level.

1. "HAS the international reaction to the occupation of Crimea been largely symbolic? and what concrete results of your initiatives can you point to?"

The international actions against the occupation of Crimea, though sometimes perceived as inadequate, are crucial components of a broader strategy. Since 2014, the majority of UN member states have supported Ukraine's territorial integrity, demonstrating international condemnation of Russia's actions. While economic sanctions have been implemented, their impact has not curbed Russia's ability to militarize Crimea and use it as a strategic military base, partly because many countries continue to engage with Russia economically.

Moreover, the ongoing situation in Crimea resembles the historical aggression of Iraq against Kuwait, utilizing similar propaganda tactics to justify illegal actions. However, Ukraine has shown resilience and tactical success, notably in the military domain where Ukrainian forces, despite lacking a naval fleet, have significantly diminished the capabilities of the Russian Black Sea Fleet. This has facilitated the functioning of the grain corridor, crucial for global food security. The Crimean Platform and global support for Ukraine's sovereignty, including from countries across various continents, underscore a growing international alliance against the violation of the UN Charter. Our efforts, such as the international conference "Crimea Global," aim to galvanize worldwide support and remind the Ukrainian citizens in Crimea that they are not forgotten. We are committed to the reintegration of Crimea into Ukraine, asserting that the violation of international norms poses a threat not only to Ukraine but globally, impacting areas like energy and food security.

The Peace Summit, initiated by Ukraine, is approaching and will be held in Switzerland on June 15-16, 2024. Of course, the deoccupation of Crimea is an essential part of the Peace Formula proposed by President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy. Ukraine is trying to involve as many countries as possible in the Summit and in the implementation of the formula. Of course, Russia's aggression against Ukraine is not the only war and not the only challenge to the security, human rights and lives of hundreds of thousands of people. However, this war has perhaps the most destructive potential for the world. And that is why peace, a just and lasting peace, is so important. Therefore, we urge Kuwait to join dozens of other countries and to attend the summit.

2. "How do you assess the effectiveness of Ukraine's strategy for deoccupation and reintegration? What specific failures and successes can you mention?"

It's important to recognize that the ongoing occupation does not signify a failure of our strategies but rather a lack of sufficient international support. Despite the significant disparities in size and resources between Ukraine and Russia, our resilience and strategic military successes, particularly in the Black Sea, showcase our capability and determination.

Our comprehensive strategy, adopted by the Ukrainian parliament in 2021, balances political, diplomatic, and military approaches to deoccupation. Simultaneously, we are forward-thinking regarding reintegration, actively preparing for post-occupation challenges. This includes developing strategies for economic recovery, cognitive deoccupation to reintegrate Crimea culturally, and forming a personnel reserve with specialized training through academic and expert collaborations. These efforts demonstrate our serious commitment to not only reclaim but also effectively reintegrate Crimea into Ukraine's framework.

3. "How effective do you think your advocacy work has been in reducing human rights violations in Crimea, and where has it been less effective?"

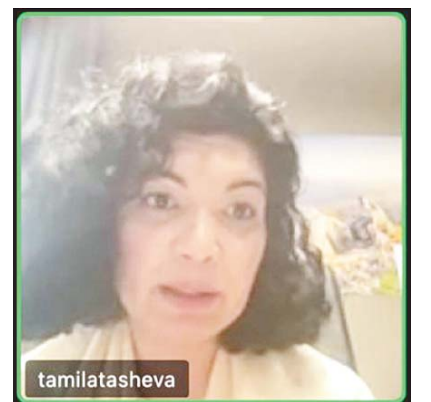
It's clear that despite robust international documentation and efforts, challenges persist due to the limitations of the global enforcement system. Notable bodies like the UN General Assembly, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, and the OSCE (the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe) have consistently reported on the extensive human rights abuses perpetrated by Russia in the region. Ukraine has leveraged every legal mechanism available, including filing complaints with the European Court of Human Rights and the International Court of Justice, and providing evidence for cases at the International Criminal Court (ICC), which resulted in arrest warrants for Russian officials.

However, the enforcement of international judicial decisions remains ineffective. Russia has disregarded directives, such as the International Court of Justice's orders to reinstate the rights of the Crimean Tatars. This non-compliance underscores a larger issue: without regaining control over Crimea, our efforts to curb human rights abuses are fundamentally constrained. The ongoing military aggression by Russia, marked by war crimes and daily missile attacks, exacerbates the human rights situation, making conventional interventions inadequate.

Therefore, the path to effectively addressing these human rights violations is intrinsically linked to restoring Ukraine's territorial integrity. Reestablishing control over Crimea is the only viable solution to halt these abuses and ensure accountability, highlighting the critical need for increased international support and a robust response to uphold international law and human rights.

4. "You have played an important role in the adoption of several important laws, including on indigenous peoples and political prisoners. How do you ensure that these laws will have a real impact?"

In addressing the effectiveness of Ukraine's laws on indigenous peoples and political prisoners, it's important to highlight that these laws are not just symbolic but are accompanied by tangible enforcement mechanisms. For political prisoners, a commission operates to provide financial support to their families, directly benefit-



Abdulaziz Al-Anjeri, (top), during an exclusive interview with Tamila Tasheva.

Abdulaziz Al-Anjeri said:

"We are dedicated at Reconnaissance Research, to bringing critical issues to the forefront of discussion through informed dialogue. This interview with Ms. Tamila Tasheva is part of our mission to engage on significant issues, specially given the upcoming Ukraine peace conference in Switzerland on June 15. We continue to maintain respectful relations with all our international partners, including our friends in Russia, and that commitment remains unwavering."

Tamila Tasheva became a part of President Zelenskyy's team since 2019 as a Deputy Permanent Representative of the President of Ukraine in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, she worked on the adoption of the Strategy for Deoccupation and Reintegration of Crimea, Law on Indigenous Peoples of Ukraine. She was appointed to the position of a Permanent Representative in April 2022.

ing those affected by the occupation. This represents a concrete manifestation of the law's impact.

The law recognizing the Crimean Tatars, Karaites, and Krymchaks as indigenous peoples of Ukraine marks a historic step, affirming their rights and identity. However, the full implementation of this law hinges on the deoccupation of Crimea, as the recognition of indigenous status is inseparable from the land that these groups traditionally inhabit.

On the international front, Ukraine is actively working to address the severe violations by Russia, including the illegal transfer of political prisoners to Russian territory - a direct violation of international law. President Zelenskyy has initiated the International Platform for the Release of Civilians Illegally Detained by the Russian Federation, emphasizing the release of all Ukrainian political prisoners as a critical element of his Peace Formula. This effort is bolstered by international cooperation, particularly with Gulf countries such as the UAE, Saudi Arabia, and Qatar, who have facilitated prisoner exchanges and the return of deported children. This shows not only the commitment of Ukraine to these issues but also the importance of international partnerships in enforcing these laws and ensuring the security and rights of our people.

Now the Peace Summit, initiated by Ukraine, is approaching and will be held in Switzerland on June 15-16. Naturally, the deoccupation of Crimea is an essential part of the Peace Formula proposed by President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy. Ukraine is striving to involve as many countries as possible in the Summit and in the implementation of the formula. Of course, Russia's aggression against Ukraine is not the only war and not the only challenge to the security, human rights, and lives of hundreds of thousands of people. However, this war holds a very destructive potential for the world, not just Ukraine. That is why peace - a just and lasting peace - is so important. Therefore, we urge Kuwait to join dozens of other countries and attend the summit.

5. "Skeptics doubt the realism of Crimea's economic recovery plans after deoccupation. How do you confront these doubts and what realistic time frame do you see for recovery?"

It's essential to understand the context of Crimea's economic stagnation under Russian control. For ten years, international sanctions and restricted access to global markets have transformed Crimea from a potentially vibrant region into an economic appendage of Moscow. Our response involves a comprehensive Strategy for the Economic Recovery of Crimea, which is part of Ukraine's broader Post-War Recovery Plan. This strategy outlines a series of initiatives aimed at revitalizing the economy and improving living condi-

Continued on Page 5

Weekdays (Saturday - Wednesday)	
Queen Cabana (2 persons inclusive of breakfast) per night.	2 Bedroom Chalet (4 persons inclusive of breakfast) per night.
NOW	NOW
BHD 60.984 net	BHD 136.198 net
Weekends (Thursday & Friday)	
Queen Cabana (2 persons inclusive of breakfast) per night.	2 Bedroom Chalet (4 persons inclusive of breakfast) per night.
NOW	NOW
BHD 76.230 net	BHD 170.247 net

Promo period from 1st June to 11th June 2024

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World News Roundup

Europe

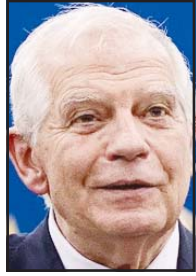
EU braces for foreign disinformation: Voters in the European Union are set to elect lawmakers starting Thursday for the bloc's parliament, in a major democratic exercise that's also likely to be overshadowed by online disinformation.

Experts have warned that artificial intelligence could supercharge the spread of fake news that could disrupt the election in the EU and many other countries this year. But the stakes are especially high in Europe, which has been confronting Russian propaganda efforts as Moscow's war with Ukraine drags on.

Some 360 million people in 27 nations - from Portugal to Finland, Ireland to Cyprus - will choose 720 European Parliament lawmakers in an election that runs Thursday to Sunday. In the months leading up to the vote, experts have observed a surge in the quantity and quality of fake news and anti-EU disinformation being peddled in member countries.

A big fear is that deceiving voters will be easier than ever, enabled by new AI tools that make it easy to create misleading or false content. Some of the malicious activity is domestic, some international. Russia is most widely blamed, and sometimes China, even though hard evidence directly attributing such attacks is difficult to pin down.

"Russian state-sponsored campaigns to flood the EU information space with deceptive content is a threat to the way we have been used to conducting our democratic debates, especially in election times," **Josep Borrell**, the EU's foreign policy chief, warned on Monday. (AP)



Borrell

Sunak, Starmer clash over tax: British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and opposition Labour Party leader Keir Starmer sparred Tuesday over tax, the cost of living and the country's creaking health system in an inconclusive televised debate ahead of a July 4 election expected to make one of them the country's next leader.

Sunak tried to boost his center-right party's dismal outlook by urging voters to back the stability of continued Conservative government. Starmer hoped to cement his status as favorite by arguing that Britain desperately needs change. Both acknowledged the country's many problems, from fraying public services to a broken immigration system. But neither could say outright, when asked, where the money would come from to fix them. Sunak stressed his stewardship of the economy, which has seen inflation fall to just over 2% from a peak of more than 11% in late 2022. He said should stick with him because his "clear plan" for the economy was working.

Starmer said the election was a choice between more "chaos and division" with the Conservatives and "turning the page and rebuilding with Labour."

Polls currently give center-left Labour a double-digit lead. To win, Starmer must persuade voters who previously backed the Tories that Labour can be trusted with the UK's economy, borders and security. (AP)

'Qilin is most likely behind attack': A Russian cyber gang is believed to be behind a ransomware attack that disrupted London hospitals and led to operations and appointments being canceled, the former head of British cybersecurity said Wednesday.

A group known as Qilin is most likely behind the attack on Synnovis, which provides pathology lab services for several hospitals run by the National Health Service, said Ciaran Martin, former chief executive of the National Cyber Security Centre.

Martin said it was one of the more serious ransomware attacks in the UK because it disabled operations.

"It's the more serious type of ransomware where the system just doesn't work," Martin told BBC Radio 4. "If you're working in healthcare in this trust, you're just not getting those results so it's actually seriously disruptive."

The incident Monday affected King's College and Guy's and St Thomas' hospital trusts, which run several south London hospitals, the NHS said. (AP)

Spain's gov proposes law: Spain's government has proposed a law to protect children from online threats that includes virtual restraining orders for felons, a higher age for opening social media accounts and health screenings for teenagers to detect related emotional disorders.

"The health, well-being and security of our children, as well as the tranquility of our families, are at stake," Justice Minister Félix Bolaños said Tuesday as he presented the proposal at a post-Cabinet press conference. Spain's left-wing minority government will need the support of other parties to make it law.

Public concern has grown after a string of cases of violence and abuse linked to the internet. Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez has said Spain is facing an "authentic epidemic" of pornography targeted at minors.

Spain's government has banned the use of cellphones in elementary schools and required high schools to justify their use for educational purposes. The government says the average age for children to receive their first cellphone is 11. (AP)

Interpol, FBI break up cyber scheme: A multinational operation by Interpol and the FBI cracked down on attempts in Moldova to sabotage one of the international police agency's key tools, the Red Notice system, officials said Tuesday. Four people were detained in the eastern European country.

The joint sting, which also involved cooperation with French and British authorities, uncovered an international criminal organization with ties to individuals in Russia, Ukraine, and Belarus suspected of cybercrime, Moldova's anticorruption chief said.

The notice flags people deemed fugitives to law enforcement worldwide and is one of Interpol's most important tools. The investigation led to the detention of four people for 72 hours on suspicion of interfering with the notices, Dragalin said. (AP)

Knox re-convicted of slander in Italy: An Italian court re-convicted Amanda Knox of slander on Wednesday, even after she was exonerated in the brutal 2007 murder of her British roommate while the two were exchange students in Italy.

The court found that Knox had wrongly accused an innocent man, the Congolese owner of the bar where she worked part time, of the killing. But she will not serve any more jail time, given the three-year sentence counts as time already served.

Knox, who had returned to Italy for only the second time since she was freed in 2011 to participate in the trial, showed no visible emotion as the verdict was read aloud.

The slaying of 21-year-old Meredith Kercher in the idyllic hill-top town of Perugia fueled global headlines as suspicion fell on Knox, a 20-year-old exchange student from Seattle, and her new Italian boyfriend of just a week, Raffaele Sollecito. (AP)

German far-right party member stabbed: A member of a German far-right party was stabbed and wounded in the southwestern city of Mannheim, German news agency dpa reported Wednesday, only days after a knife attack killed one police officer and left five other people injured in the same city.

Dpa reported that a candidate with the far-right Alternative for Germany, or AfD, reportedly caught somebody trying to tear down an election poster on Tuesday evening. When he confronted that person, he was attacked with a knife. Dpa reported that the candidate was still in a hospital with non-life-threatening cuts.

The candidate, who was campaigning for Sunday's local elections in the state of Baden-Wuerttemberg, where Mannheim is located, was not identified. The attacker was detained, dpa reported. (AP)



US President Joe Biden walks next to a French honour guard after arriving at Orly airport, south of Paris on June 5. Biden is in France to mark the 80th anniversary of D-Day. (AP)

Biden to mark D-Day anniversary in France

United States President Joe Biden will mark the 80th anniversary of the D-Day invasion in France this week as he tries to demonstrate steadfast support for European security at a time when some allies fear Donald Trump threatens to upend American commitments if he wins another term in the White House.

The trip comes as the deadliest fighting on the continent since World War II continues in Ukraine and allied countries struggle to find ways to turn the tide against Russia, which has recently gained ground on the battlefield. It is also set against deepening cracks between the U.S. and many European allies over how to manage the ongoing Israel-Hamas war in Gaza.

Biden arrived in Paris on Wednesday morning, and he was welcomed by French officials and an honor guard. On Thursday, he'll visit hallowed ground near the beaches of Normandy, where rows of bone-white headstones mark the graves of US soldiers who died to bring an end to World War II. (AP)

Politics

Trump's lawyers ask judge to lift gag order

Cheaters don't like getting caught: Harris

WASHINGTON, June 5, (AP) - US Vice President Kamala Harris spent part of a Tuesday episode of "Jimmy Kimmel Live!" rehashing how she found out about former president Donald Trump's conviction on 34 felony counts in his criminal hush money trial.

She deflected a light-hearted question from Kimmel about whether the people she watched the verdict with were "pretending to not be happy" when the conviction was announced. She instead spoke of the six-week deliberations and the 12-person jury, before adding "the reality is, cheaters don't like getting caught."

Blamed

Trump, the presumptive Republican presidential nominee, was convicted on all counts related to a scheme during his 2016 presidential campaign to pay off Stormy Daniels. The former president slammed the verdict as politically motivated, and has blamed it on Biden - while seeking to make himself a political martyr in the eyes of supporters, suggesting that if this could happen to him, similar things might befall them.

Harris' comments came a day after President Joe Biden tore into his predecessor and likely opponent in November's election for sowing doubt in the judicial process.

"It's reckless and dangerous and downright irresponsible for anyone to say that it's rigged just because you don't like the verdict," Biden said at a Greenwich, Connecticut, fundraiser on Monday night.

Meanwhile, Trump's lawyers are asking a New York judge to lift the gag order that barred the former president from commenting about witnesses, jurors and others tied to the criminal case that led to his conviction for falsifying records to cover up a potential scandal.

Authorities said the fire started to spread after the camper trailer's propane tanks exploded, but the woman was able to escape to another residence. (AP)

Washington 'law' criticized: A new Washington state parental rights law derided by critics as a "forced outing" measure will be allowed to take effect this week after a court commissioner on Tuesday declined

to issue an emergency order temporarily blocking it.

The law, known as Initiative 2081, underscores, and in some cases expands, the rights already granted to parents under state and federal law.

It requires schools to notify parents in advance of medical services offered to their child, except in emergencies, and of medical treatment arranged by the school resulting in follow-up care beyond normal hours. (AP)

'Water repairs done': City of Atlanta officials say workers finished repairs on a ruptured water main on Tuesday and that water problems in the city are coming to an end after five days.

They predicted normal pressure would return by Wednesday morning, although an order to boil water before drinking remained in place in downtown, Midtown and areas to the east.

"Making progress," Mayor **Andre Dickens** told reporters at the site of the ruptured pipe. "(I'm) so ready for this to be over. So are the residents around here."

By Monday afternoon, the area under the boil-water advisory was sharply reduced after pressure was restored in many areas following Saturday's repair of the first mammoth leak, west of downtown.

Water was shut off Tuesday only in the blocks immediately surrounding that repair site. (AP)



Amanda Knox's lawyer Carlo Della Vedova speaks with reporters after the hearing at the Florence courtroom in Florence, Italy on June 5. An Italian court re-convicted Knox of slander on Wednesday, even after she was exonerated in the brutal 2007 murder of her British roommate while the two were exchange students in Italy. (AP)



Pugsley



Dickens

America

Phoenix uses ice immersion: The season's first heat wave is already baking the Southwest with triple-digit temperatures as firefighters in Phoenix - America's hottest big city - employ new tactics in hopes of saving more lives in a county that saw 645 heat-related deaths last year.

Starting this season, the Phoenix Fire Department is immersing heatstroke victims in ice on the way to area hospitals. The medical technique, known as cold water immersion, is familiar to marathon runners and military service members and has also recently been adopted by Phoenix hospitals as a go-to protocol, said Fire Capt John Prato.

Prato demonstrated the method earlier this week outside the emergency department of Valleywise Health Medical Center in Phoenix, packing ice cubes inside an impermeable blue bag around a medical dummy representing a patient. He said the technique could dramatically lower body temperature in minutes.

"We've been seeing a severe uptick in the past three years in cases of severe heat illness," said Dr. **Paul Pugsley**, medical director of emergency medicine with Valleywise Health. (AP)

Arizona man gets 15 yrs: An Arizona man has been sentenced to 15 years in prison for setting fire to a camper trailer that was occupied by a woman who had a court protection order against him.

Yavapai County prosecutors said James Haynes, of Prescott, was originally facing charges of attempted murder, arson, violation of a court order and aggravated harassment after last year's incident.

They said Monday that Haynes, 48, entered into a plea agreement and pleaded guilty to charges of arson and criminal damage/domestic violence.

Haynes then lit his vehicle on fire and crawled underneath the trailer trying to reach the woman.



Migrants reach through a border wall for clothing handed out by volunteers as they wait between two border walls to apply for asylum on May 12, 2023, in San Diego. US President Joe Biden has ordered a halt to asylum processing at the US border with Mexico when arrests for illegal entry top 2,500 a day, which was triggered immediately. (AP)

BUSINESS

Mexico's incoming admin pledges to reduce budget deficit

Mexico's treasury secretary pledged Tuesday to bring down the federal budget deficits in coming years, after the country suffered a partial meltdown in the currency and stock markets. Finance Minister Rogelio Ramírez said the federal deficit will be cut from this year's level of almost 6% of gross domestic product, to around 3% in coming years. The statement was an effort to

calm markets after the Mexican peso dropped more than 4% on Monday against the U.S. dollar, and the Mexican stock exchange slid 6%. The peso dropped almost another 1% on Tuesday to close around 17.86 to \$1. The stock market appeared to be recovering about half of Monday's losses in early trading on Tuesday. But analysts said it would be difficult to achieve such a quick

reduction. "It is very likely that the deficit will continue high next year, which increases the risk of a downgrade of Mexico's sovereign debt rating, if debt levels continue to grow," according to a Banco Base analysis report. Ramírez also said the government would work to improve the financial affairs of the debt-laden state oil company Petroleos Mexicanos. (AP)

EU urged to stay committed to oppose protectionism

China on Tuesday urged the European Union (EU) to honor its commitment to upholding free trade and opposing protectionism, and work with China to maintain the overall interest of China-EU economic and trade cooperation, state-run Xinhua News Agency reported. Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Mao Ning made the comment at a news briefing in Beijing when responding to remarks of Josep

Borrell, the EU's High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, that "decoupling" from China is very difficult. Borrell expressed the hope in a recent interview for continuing mutually beneficial trade with China that is both fair and balanced, according to Xinhua. Borrell also said that the EU will not follow the US in imposing tariffs on China, and that a trade war must be avoided.

"The China-EU economic and trade relations are mutually beneficial and win-win in nature," said Mao, adding that protectionism only leads to a dead end while openness and cooperation are the correct ways. She noted that China and the EU are each other's second largest trading partners, with an average trade value of nearly USD 1.5 million per minute. (KUNA)

Figure however remains at historically high levels

US job openings fall to 8.1 million, lowest since 2021

WASHINGTON, June 5, (AP): U.S. job openings fell in April to the lowest level since 2021. But they remained at historically strong levels despite high interest rates and signs the economy is slowing.

The Labor Department reported Tuesday that employers posted 8.1 million vacancies in April, down from a revised 8.4 million in March. The March figures had originally come in at 8.5 million.

Still, layoffs fell, and the number of Americans quitting their jobs - a sign of confidence in their prospects - rose in April.

Monthly job openings have come down steadily a peak of 12.2 million in March 2022 - as the economy's recovery from COVID-19 lockdowns left companies desperate for workers - but they remain at a high level. Before 2021, they never topped 8 million - a threshold they have now reached for 38 straight months.

The high level of job openings reflects a surprisingly strong U.S. labor market. When the Federal Reserve began raising interest rates in March 2022

to combat a resurgence in inflation, the higher borrowing costs were expected to tip the economy into recession and push up unemployment.

Instead, the economy kept growing and employers continued to hire. The United States has averaged a solid 234,000 new jobs a month over the last year. On Friday, the Labor Department is expected to report that employers added another 180,000 jobs, according to a survey of forecasters by the data firm FactSet.

The unemployment rate is expected to come in at 3.9%, which would be the 28th straight month it's been below 4%. That would be the longest such streak since a 35-month run from 1951 through 1953 during the Korean War.

Still, high rates are taking a toll. The economy grew at an annual rate of just 1.3% from January through March, the slowest since spring 2022. Much of the first-quarter slowdown was caused by volatile factors such as a surge in imports and a reduction in business inventories. Consumer spending, which accounts for 70% of U.S. economic activity, kept growing but at a slower annual

pace - 2%, down from 3.3% in the last three months of 2023.

The economy had been expected to get a lift from lower rates. The Fed signaled that it planned to cut its benchmark rate three times this year. But the start of the cuts keeps getting pushed back because inflation remains stubbornly above the central bank's 2% target.

Now Wall Street investors don't expect the first cut until the Fed's September meeting, according to the CME FedWatch tool.

Fed policymakers likely welcome lower job openings - a relatively painless way to cool a hot job market and reduce pressure on companies to raise wages, which can feed inflation.

"Overall, job openings are still elevated, signaling strong demand for workers," said Rubela Farooqi, chief U.S. economist at High Frequency Economics. "But they continue to move in the right direction, towards pre-pandemic readings, pointing to an ongoing normalization between supply and demand for labor."

Sides ready to OK deal

Disney set to 'invest' \$17b in Florida parks

ORLANDO, Fla., June 5, (AP): Months after Disney and Gov. Ron DeSantis' appointees agreed to end a protracted legal fight, the two sides are set to approve an agreement that could result in the company investing \$17 billion into its Florida resort and opens the door to a fifth major theme park at Walt Disney World.

The five DeSantis-appointed supervisors who oversee the Disney World district will vote Wednesday on a new development agreement that both sides had agreed to negotiate after a March settlement ended their state court lawsuits against each other.

The agreement between Disney and the Central Florida Tourism and Oversight District would last for the next 15 years. The district provides municipal services such as firefighting, planning and mosquito control, among other things. It was controlled by Disney supporters for most of its five decades until it was taken over by the DeSantis appointees last year.

Under the deal's terms, during the next decade or two, Disney would be approved to build a fifth major theme park at Disney World and two more minor parks, such as water parks. The company could raise the number of hotel rooms on its property from almost 40,000 rooms to more than 53,000 rooms and increase the amount of retail and restaurant space by more than 20%. Disney would retain control of building heights due to its need to maintain an immersive environment.

In exchange, Disney would be required to donate up to 100 acres (40 hectares) of Disney World's 24,000 acres (9,700 hectares) for the construction of infrastructure projects controlled by the district. The company also would need to award at least half of its construction projects to companies based in Florida and

spend at least \$10 million on affordable housing for central Florida.

The settlement in March ended almost two years of litigation that was sparked by DeSantis' takeover of the district from Disney supporters following the company's opposition to Florida's so-called "Don't Say Gay" law.

The 2022 law bans classroom lessons on sexual orientation and gender identity in early grades and was championed by the Republican governor, who used Disney as a punching bag in speeches until he suspended his presidential campaign this year.

As punishment for Disney's opposition to the controversial law, DeSantis took over the governing district through legislation passed by the Republican-controlled Florida Legislature and appointed a new board of supervisors. Disney sued DeSantis and his appointees, claiming the company's free speech rights were violated for speaking out against the legislation. A federal judge dismissed that lawsuit in January, but Disney appealed. As part of the March settlement, Disney agreed to put on hold the appeal of the federal lawsuit.

Before control of the district changed hands from Disney allies to DeSantis appointees early last year, the Disney supporters on its board signed agreements with Disney shifting control over design and construction at Disney World to the company. The new DeSantis appointees claimed the "eleventh-hour deals" neutered their powers and the district sued the company in state court in Orlando to have the contracts voided.

Disney filed counterclaims that included asking the state court to declare the agreements valid and enforceable. Those state court lawsuits were dismissed as part of the March settlement.

Vietnam's major banks say no shortage of gold

HANOI, June 5, (Xinhua): Representatives of four major banks in Vietnam claimed there is no shortage of gold and domestic gold demand will be met, local media reported Wednesday.

The claim was made in response to the media's reports that many gold buyers had to leave empty-handed after lining up for gold purchases.

Vietnam News quoted Nguyen Thi Phuong, deputy director general of the Vietnam Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (Agribank), as saying that the bank had underestimated the number of residents shopping for gold, which has resulted in some customers having to go home empty-handed.

Residents need no rush to buy gold as the banks will continue to supply the market until the tar-

geted price gap is achieved, she said.

Phung Nguyen Hai Yen, deputy director general of Joint Stock Commercial Bank for Foreign Trade of Vietnam (Vietcombank), said the central bank had set maximum and minimum quantities for each bank for each trading session. Vietcombank will sell to customers based on demand and the quantity available to the bank.

According to the State Bank of Vietnam, the selling price of Saigon Jewelry Company (SJC)-branded gold bullion on Thursday morning was 76.98 million Vietnamese dong (3,028 U.S. dollars) per tael.

SJC gold bar price fell 1.3 percent to 77.98 million dong (3,067 dollars) per tael on Wednesday morning.

The UN says global public debt hit a record \$97 trillion in 2023

Developing countries are hard hit

GENEVA, June 5, (AP): Global public debt rose to a record \$97 trillion last year, the United Nations reported Tuesday, with developing countries owing roughly one-third of that - crimping their ability to pay for basic government services like health care, education and climate action.

U.N. Trade and Development, formerly known as UNCTAD, said the value of money owed by governments rose by \$5.6 trillion from 2022. In its report entitled "A World of Debt," the agency said high interest payments are stripping growth in essential public spending.

"Developing countries must not be forced to choose between servicing their debt or serving their people," the report said. "The international financial architecture must change to ensure a prosperous future for both people and the planet."

Programs

In the developing world, which is home to 3.3 billion people, 1 in 3 countries spends more on paying interest than on programs in "critical areas for human development" such as health care, education and climate action.

In 2023, public debt in developing countries hit \$29 trillion, or about 30% of the total worldwide - an increase from a 16% share in 2010, the U.N. office said.

UN Trade and Development said "cascading crises" and the sluggish and uneven performance of the global economy underpinned the rapid increase in global public debt, which is rising at twice the rate in developing countries than in richer ones.

The United States, according to the report, led the world with more than \$33 trillion in public debt last year, trailed by China at \$15 trillion and Japan at \$10.6 trillion.

Egypt, Mexico, Brazil and India joined China among developing countries with the most public debt.

However, global shocks have jolted economies in Africa, where median public debt as a share of eco-

China's growth outlook positive

DBS chief economist optimistic

BEIJING, June 5, (Xinhua): China's economy has shown more positive signals of recovery as a slew of measures rolled out across China to boost the property market have taken effect, said Taimur Baig, chief economist and managing director of DBS Group Research in a recent exclusive interview with Xinhua.

DBS, Singapore's major banking group, sees the supporting measures announced by the Chinese authorities over the last few months to boost the property market as substantial, said Baig.

"Sorting out China's property related problems will take time, but we're encouraged by the totality of the measures that have been taken in recent months."

Besides the better-than-expected uptick in China's property market, the resilient trade performance in China also helps propel the world's second-largest economy, said Baig.

"Chinese exporters have been doing pretty well, independent of month to month fluctuations. If you look at trade for the entire first four months of the year, it's been better than expected," he noted.

According to the General Administration of Customs, China's exports in the first four months of 2024 grew by 4.9 percent year on year to 7.81 trillion yuan (about 1.1 trillion U.S. dollars).

On consumption, Baig said the number of travelers and total consumption in China during this

year's Spring Festival, Qingming Festival, and May Day holiday have shown significant recovery compared to the same period of 2019. "Looking ahead, support from the Chinese government, such as subsidies for trade-ins of consumer goods, will lift retail sales growth in the months ahead," he added.

According to the National Bureau of Statistics, China's GDP in the first quarter grew 5.3 percent year on year, beating expectations. With spiking optimism over China's economy, DBS decided to raise its forecast for China's GDP growth in 2024 to 5 percent from 4.5 percent on the heel of the NBS data.

A report in April by the DBS Group Research pointed out that China's fixed asset investment in the first quarter was picking up, as government initiative aimed at equipment renewal in strategic sectors began to take effect.

Baig noted that due to China's steady economic growth, the country remains a popular destination for foreign investment. Furthermore, the scale and purchasing capacity of Chinese consumers remains a huge draw for global multinational companies.

Most global pharmaceutical giants have a substantial presence in China, and have expansion plans in mind, said Baig, adding that "global consumer goods producers are finding China very profitable for business. We also see those com-

panies having big investment and expansion plans in China for years and decades to come."

Baig noted that as China is advancing the two-way opening-up of its financial sector, many international financial institutions including DBS are provided with more opportunities to tap into the Chinese financial market.

He said that as China is pushing for high-quality development, impressive innovation achievements have been made by Chinese enterprises.

According to Baig, China has become a global leader in terms of production capabilities and technology know-hows in electric vehicles, lithium batteries, solar panels and other products.

In the service sector, several cross-border e-commerce companies and financial companies have gained global recognition through innovation.

The expert expressed optimism on China's long-term growth outlook, highlighting that China has been heavily investing in education and R&D to boost innovation and create commercialized applications of the innovation in a cost-efficient manner.

"When we look at the kind of investment China is doing in educating its population, providing it with skills for the next round of technological waves, as well as the output by Chinese scientists, we are encouraged by the long-term potential of China," said Baig.

debt burden crushing developing nations, such as by reducing financing barriers and coordinating debt relief through multilateral financial institutions.

A \$1.2 trillion government funding bill passed by Congress in March allows the U.S. to lend up to \$21 billion to an International Monetary Fund trust that provides zero-interest loans to support low-income countries.

Last month, U.S. President Joe Biden and visiting Kenyan President William Ruto urged economies worldwide to reduce the enormous

debt burden crushing developing nations, such as by reducing financing barriers and coordinating debt relief through multilateral financial institutions.

A \$1.2 trillion government funding bill passed by Congress in March allows the U.S. to lend up to \$21 billion to an International Monetary Fund trust that provides zero-interest loans to support low-income countries.

"Too many nations are forced to make a choice between development and debt, between investing in their people and paying back their creditors," Biden said.

The African Union, a new G20 permanent member, also has been outspoken on the issue. South Africa will assume the G20 presidency in December, saying it will be "an opportunity to champion the aspirations of emerging markets."

Philippine inflation rate slightly rises to 3.9 pct in May

MANILA, June 5, (Xinhua): The Philippines' inflation rate rose up to 3.9 percent in May from 3.8 percent in April, the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) said on Wednesday.

The May inflation rate brings the national average in the first five months to 3.5 percent.

In a news conference, PSA chief Dennis Mapa said the uptick in overall inflation in May was primarily influenced by the higher year-on-year increase in the index of hous-

ing, water, electricity, gas, and other fuels, which increased to 0.9 percent during the month from 0.4 percent in April.

He added the faster annual growth of the transport index, at 3.5 percent in May from 2.6 percent in April, also contributed to the uptrend of the overall inflation.

The food inflation decreased but still reached 6.1 percent in May from 6.3 percent in April. Rice inflation, a significant contributor to overall inflation, decreased to 23.0 percent

for the month from 23.9 percent in April.

The core inflation, which excludes selected food and energy items, slowed to 3.1 percent in May.

To help manage food inflation and enhance food security, the government has agreed to reduce the rice duty rate to 15 percent from 35 percent for both in-quota and out-quota imports until 2028.

The government also approved the extension of the reduced tariff rates on corn, pork, and

mechanically deboned meat until 2028.

The Asian Development Bank forecasts inflation in the Philippines to moderate to 3.8 percent in 2024 and 3.4 percent in 2025, falling within the 2 to 4 percent target range of the central bank.

Decelerating global oil prices and an extension in reduced tariffs on major food items, including rice, corn, and pork, will help contain food inflation, according to the ADB.

What's On



Al Mulla Automobiles presents first look at Mercedes-Maybach.

'Redefining automotive excellence in the age of electro-mobility'

Al Mulla Automobiles unveils Mercedes-Maybach EQS SUV in Kuwait

Children's dreams come true with NBK's 'I dream to be' initiative

NBK grant's Yousef Al Sarraf's wish to be an actor

KUWAIT CITY, June 5: National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) continues its "I Dream to Be" initiative, a first-of-its-kind initiative that aims at granting wishes for children with severe illnesses around Kuwait, giving them the chance to live their dreams.

Yousef Al Sarraf, who is undergoing treatment at NBK Hospital, has always dreamt to become an actor and meet his favorite character Mohamad Al Hemely. NBK Public Relations approached Al Hemely whom with his theatre group helped in making Yousef's dream come true.

NBK's family arranged for Yousef to attend the "Zombie" show with his family and friends, where he had the chance to share the stage with Al Hemely, sing, dance and entertain.

"Yousef's dream to perform and act is yet another wish granted through NBK's initiative "I dream to be". We are proud to be a part of the children's wishes and expand our



Yousef's dream of acting fulfilled by NBK.

support to them as much as possible to fulfill their dreams," said Joanne Al Abdul Jaleel, NBK Public Relations Manager.

"I dream to be" initiative is a lifetime experience for children," she added. "This initiative is a great way to spread joy and show that there's always a pos-

sible side to a difficult situation".

NBK gives top priority to children through its commitment to its corporate social responsibility. NBK works closely with the Kuwait Association for the Care of Children in Hospitals (KACCH), Bayt Abdullah for the Care of Children in Hospice (BACCH) and several other special needs organizations to maximize its reach to all the children in numerous hospitals and schools through its "I Dream to Be" initiative.

NBK has been at the forefront of supporting Kuwait's community through a range of initiatives towards education, health, sports and social responsibilities. The establishment of NBK's Children Hospital stands as one of many ongoing corporate social initiatives towards health and children. "I dream to be" aims at focusing and supporting NBK's efforts towards children and addressing their needs as much as possible.

Luxury graduation experience unveiled by Four Seasons and Harvey Nichols Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, June 5: In an exciting new collaboration, Four Seasons Hotel Kuwait at Burj Alshaya is partnering with Harvey Nichols Kuwait, part of the Alshaya Group, to help graduates celebrate academic achievements in style. Bespoke styling consultations and exclusive beauty treatments combine with world-renowned Four Seasons hospitality for a first-class graduation occasion to remember.

"We are thrilled to partner with Harvey Nichols to offer a bespoke luxury experience that celebrates the important milestone of graduation," said Martin Kipping, General Manager at Four Seasons Hotel Kuwait. "This initiative is about more than just style and beauty; it's about creating lasting memories that honour our guests' achievements."

Elevating 2024's graduation season, fashion experts will provide personal styling consultations at the Harvey Nichols Kuwait store, located in The Avenues. As further preparation for their special day, graduates can also enjoy complimentary beauty services from partner brands at Harvey Nichols Kuwait.

"We're extremely pleased to partner with the Four Seasons to celebrate every graduate's momentous occasion in style. This first-of-its-kind collabora-



Graduation lounge and sweet treats await guests at Four Seasons x Harvey Nichols event.

tion allows us to support graduates as they embark on their next chapter while also using the power of fashion to make a lasting impression. Together, we'll ensure graduates feel confident and empowered as they step out into their new world," said Saleh Alshaya, President of the Apparel Division - Alshaya Group.

From June 1 to 14, hotel visitors can purchase an array of ready-to-wear accessories at an exclusive Harvey Nichols pop-up boutique. The boutique will feature bags, shoes, jewellery, and cosmetics, as well as the latest 'Eid Capsule Collection'.

To further enhance the experience, the Harvey Nichols pop-up will be accompanied by a 'Graduation Lounge' set from June 1 - a bespoke addition for graduates and their families and friends to refresh with graduation-themed pastries and sweet treats for coffee breaks with a smile.

"Our collaboration with Four Seasons Hotel Kuwait allows us to bring our expertise in luxury fashion and beauty directly to the deserving graduates, giving them the opportunity to step out for their graduation ceremony feeling confident and stylish, dressed in stunning designs from coveted names

like Zimmermann, Self-Portrait, and Rotat. We will also be providing complimentary makeovers by some of the most popular beauty brands we house, ensuring they look and feel their absolute best on this momentous occasion," said Julie Howett - Business Director at Harvey Nichols Kuwait.

The Graduation Package is available for all graduates celebrating at the hotel during the graduation season. Package highlights include:

- An invitation for a personalized styling consultation with a Personal Shopper at Harvey Nichols Kuwait for all graduates

- Complimentary beauty services, such as professional makeup application on their graduation day, for all graduates purchasing from featured partner beauty brands (terms and conditions apply)

- A complimentary facial voucher featuring one of Harvey Nichols' premier skincare brands for graduates booking a suite at the hotel during the graduation ceremony (one complimentary voucher per booking per stay)

For more information about the graduation celebrations with Harvey Nichols at Four Seasons Hotel Kuwait or to make a reservation, please call 6767 0864.

Malabar Gold & Diamonds utilizes Brink's cash services

KUWAIT CITY, June 5: Malabar Gold & Diamonds, the 6th largest jewelry retailer globally with over 350 showrooms across 13 countries, have extended their partnership with Brink's Inc., a leading provider of cash and valuables management, digital retail solutions, and ATM Managed Services, to utilize their cash management services in the UAE & precious metal storage facilities globally.

"Brink's Global Services has been Malabar Gold & Diamonds' exclusive logistics partner for several years, and we are very excited to expand our longstanding partnership with them. By broadening the scope of our partnership to cash management services across our retail stores in the UAE and precious metal storage facilities globally, we are further optimizing our efficiency in retail operations and driving Malabar Gold & Diamonds' global growth", commented Mr. Shamal Ahmed, MD-International Operations, Malabar Gold & Diamonds.

Through Brink's state-of-the-art cash management solutions, Malabar Gold & Diamonds' retail stores in the UAE will optimize cash resources,



Malabar Gold & Diamonds expands partnership with Brink's for cash management.

improving liquidity and streamlining cash-related operations. By utilizing these solutions, Malabar Gold & Diamonds can enhance their financial performance, minimize risk, and maintain better control over their cash reserves.

"The signing of this agreement is a great example of the strong partnership between Brink's and Malabar Gold & Diamonds. We look forward to many more years of successful collaboration

as we continue to grow our businesses alongside each other," commented Mark Eubanks, President and CEO of Brink's.

"Malabar Gold & Diamonds has always been a pioneer in the adaptation of technology and our latest venture with Brink's, a name that is synonymous with security, trust and excellence, is a testimony to our never ending strive for innovation. The advantages that the Brink's cash management services and

precious metal storage facilities offers us will add another layer of efficiency to our global operations, aiding us on our path to become the world's no 1 jewelry retailer", commented Mr. Abdul Salam K.P, Vice Chairman of Malabar Group.

With access to Brink's sophisticated vaults, Malabar Gold & Diamonds will be able to access precious metals across key trading locations, boosting their global growth.

KUWAIT CITY, June 5: Al Mulla Automobiles Co., a member of the Al Mulla Group and the sole authorized distributor of Mercedes-Benz in Kuwait, held a private preview event on May 22nd for the all-new Mercedes-Maybach EQS SUV. The event was held at the Al Mulla Automobiles Flagship Mercedes-Benz Showroom in Al Rai and attended by its esteemed guests, customers and members of the media.

The special event was organized to give invited guests a preview of the Mercedes-Maybach EQS SUV prior to its official arrival to Kuwait. The company utilized this occasion to give its guests a broad overview of the Mercedes-Maybach EQS SUV, as well as a personalized tour of the vehicle and its features that help it redefine automotive excellence in the age of electro-mobility.

The exterior design: Front end typical of the brand, chrome accents and brand emblem as a design element Mercedes-Maybach enriches the dynamic purpose design of the EQS SUV with exclusive elements that give it its very own character. The Mercedes stars sits enthroned on the hood, defining the status. The front is characterised by the brand-typical black panel with vertical, chrome-plated trim strips in a three-dimensional depth look. The large black panel is smooth closed for the first time. The high-tech element for the radar sensors is fully integrated and no longer visible. Chrome-plated, filigree slats can also be found on the air intake of the bumper. The classic MAYBACH lettering is discreetly incorporated into a chrome-plated decorative strip, which forms a unit with the continuous light strip of the standard DIGITAL LIGHT headlights. The Maybach pattern with several small brand emblems can also be found in trim parts of the side bumper. DIGITAL LIGHT welcomes and says goodbye to the driver with a special light show. As a further greeting, an animated projection of the Maybach pattern shines in all four doors.

When viewed from the side, specific features include the bold chrome surrounds on the side windows and the chrome-plated B-pillar trim. This decorative element is an integral part of the Mercedes-Maybach signature and highlights the length of the rear seating area. A Maybach emblem on the D-pillar underlines the high quality. The lettering EQS is subtly integrated into the front window triangle. The pronounced wheel arches with claddings in high-gloss black emphasise the SUV's power and emotional presence. Appropriately, the Mercedes-Maybach EQS SUV rolls on exclusive 21 or 22-inch alloy and forged wheels. The MAYBACH lettering can be found on the integrated, exquisitely designed wheel hub caps. Another eye-catcher are the standard running boards, which are illuminated in the dark. The treads are made of anodised aluminium, which echoes the pinstripe look of the black panel front. The Maybach emblem is also stylishly integrated here.

At the rear, the rear lights underline the exclusive character as a continuous light strip with a two-part helix. The lights are animated across the entire width. There are also chrome trim elements on the tailgate, on the rear apron and the spoiler lip, as well as the MAYBACH lettering.

The special appearance of the Mercedes-Maybach EQS SUV also includes the brand-typical two-tone paintwork with a filigree pinstripe. It is applied by hand according to the highest quality criteria and is available in five color combinations: high-tech silver/obsidian black, high-tech silver/nautical blue, obsidian black/selenite grey, obsidian black/kalahari gold and velvet brown/onyx black.

The interior design: The fusion of tradition and avant-garde

The design of the interior also consistently follows the Maybach credo "What is good must also be beautiful". A highlight for the front passengers is the standard MBUX Hyperscreen with "zero layer" and Mercedes-Maybach-specific start-up animations on all three displays. The overall visual appearance is specially designed for the Mercedes-Maybach EQS SUV in an elegant deep blue. The numerous exclusive features include the animated display of the instrument cluster in "MAYBACH" mode. The pointers in the two tubes are designed like a silk scarf that moves elegantly in the wind according to the speed and driving style. At the same time, the digits change their size and are dynamically faded in or out. The surrounds for the round instruments are in rose gold, which is typical of the brand. An alternative display form to the tubes is the sporty "Pure EV" style. A three-dimensional performance bar conveys the respective driving status (driving, accelerating, and charging).

The central display starts with the familiar home screen and the so-called "zero layer". In this basic setting, the navigation map dominates. The driver can carry out 80 percent of the most common interactions directly without

changing the application. The system reacts situationally and is personalised with intelligent suggestions and forward-looking offers.

The functional content and operating structure of all three displays correspond to those of the EQS SUV. The appearance can be customised with three display styles (discreet, sporty, MAYBACH) and three modes (navigation, assistance, service). In the discreet style, the content is reduced as much as possible and harmoniously co-ordinated with the colour change of the selected ambient lighting.

The rear passengers experience the same extensive range of infotainment and comfort features with two 11.6-inch displays on the backrests of the front seats. With the standard MBUX High-End Rear Seat Entertainment, content can be shared quickly and easily on the various displays. It is also possible to select and modify the navigation destinations from the rear seats. The standard equipment also includes the MBUX rear tablet, which can also be used outside the vehicle, and the MBUX Interior Assist. With the help of cameras, it can recognise the operating requests of the passengers from body and hand movements and carry out the corresponding functions - for example switching on the reading lights.

Natural materials made with perfect craftsmanship create a stylish contrast to the high-tech look. The Mercedes-Maybach EQS SUV comes standard with Maybach Exclusive Nappa leather in the warm colours espresso brown/balao brown pearl. Macchiato beige/bronze brown pearl is optionally available. For an even more sophisticated look, Maybach MANUFAKTUR Exclusive Nappa leather is available as an option in crystal white/silver grey pearl. The leather in all interior colours comes from sustainable processing. Natural woods are available as decorative parts: MANUFAKTUR brown open-pore MANUFAKTUR walnut wood, as well as MANUFAKTUR piano lacquer black flowing lines.

The Maybach emblem, which is integrated at various points as a design element, underscores the high-quality appearance that is typical of the brand. It adorns the stainless steel pedal system, the cushions on the headrests, the front seat backrests and, as a projection, the footwell in the rear. In conjunction with the first-class rear, it can also be found on the wood trim between the rear seats. When the trunk is open, it can also be seen on the inner lining of the tailgate. The brand lettering differentiates the steering wheel and welcomes all passengers on the stainless steel door sills in illuminated form.

The rear: Exclusive lounge with a holistic comfort experience for all the senses

In the rear of the Mercedes-Maybach EQS SUV, the combination of exquisite materials, perfect craftsmanship and exclusive details creates a self-contained feel-good atmosphere for all the senses - the so-called co-cooning effect. Like the front seats, the standard Executive seats are equipped with ventilation, massage function and neck and shoulder heating. There is also a calf massage and the Chauffeur Package. As soon as the right rear passenger chooses the reclining position, the front passenger seat automatically moves forward to the chauffeur position. The massage programmes are also available as part of ENERGIZING COMFORT.

With the equipment First-Class Rear, the front centre console continues like a floating band to the rear seats. It was redesigned for the all-electric Mercedes-Maybach EQS SUV. Wooden trim adorns the rear storage compartment for the first time. It complements the wooden trim on the backs of the front seat backrests and between the rear seats, visually reinforcing the co-cooning feel-good atmosphere. Also new is a projector in the centre console that discreetly projects the Maybach emblem onto the floor. As in the Mercedes-Maybach S-Class, the additional equipment includes two thermal cup holders and a shelf for the standard MBUX rear tablet. Four fast-charging USB-C ports and two HDMI interfaces also ensure that travellers can easily use their own digital devices. On request, the centre console can include two folding tables, a cooling compartment and silver-plated champagne goblets.

The air quality: Pollutants stay outside

ENERGIZING AIR CONTROL Plus with HEPA filter (High Efficiency Particulate Air) ensures good air quality as standard. The air quality sensor supports the fresh air recirculation switch. The air-conditioned circulating air is filtered several times in circulating air mode. The HEPA filter effectively cleans the incoming outside air of fine dust, very small particles and pollen. A special activated carbon in both the HEPA filter and the cabin filter also filters sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxides as well as odours.

LuLu Hypermarket goes green for World Environment Day

KUWAIT CITY, June 5: In a commendable display of environmental responsibility, LuLu Hypermarket, the region's leading retailer, actively participated in World Environment Day on 5 June. Recognizing the day as a global platform to raise awareness and encourage positive environmental practices in the community, LuLu Hypermarket held a variety of engaging 'green' activities across all their outlets in the country.

In an extension of their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative, the hypermarket's activities on World Environment Day were focused on fostering environment-friendliness among customers. Informative sessions were conducted to raise awareness among the public on the detrimental effects of plastic pollution and the need to reduce plastic usage. The sessions also offered simple yet effective strategies for minimizing the use of plastics in daily life.

In addition to dedicated green checkouts, LuLu Hypermarket underlined the environment sustainability message further by showcasing an array of eco-friendly products across all their outlets. This extensive display aimed to highlight available alternatives to traditional, plastic-based items. The display included bamboo cups, plates, and even plastic-free plates.

Special kiosks were also set up throughout the outlets, specifically promoting the use of reusable bags. Jute and paper bags were prominently displayed, encouraging customers to adopt more sustainable shopping practices.



Photo during the event

Muhammad Ali's childhood home turned museum up for sale

LOUISVILLE, Ky., June 5, (AP) — The pink house where Muhammad Ali grew up dreaming of boxing fame — and where hundreds of fans gathered for an emotional send-off as his funeral procession passed by decades later — is up for sale.

The two-bedroom, one-bathroom house in Louisville was converted into a museum that offered a glimpse into the formative years of the boxing champion and humanitarian known worldwide as The Greatest. The house went on the market Tuesday along with two neighboring homes — one was turned into a welcome center-gift shop and the other was meant to become a short-term rental.

The owners are asking \$1.5 million for the three properties. Finding a buyer willing to maintain Ali's childhood home as a museum would be "the best possible result," co-owner George Bochetto said.

"This is a part of Americana," said Bochetto, a Philadelphia attorney and former Pennsylvania state boxing commissioner. "This is part of our history. And it needs to be treated and respected as such."

The museum opened for tours shortly before Ali's death in 2016. Bochetto and his business partner at the time renovated the frame house to how it looked when Ali — known then as Cassius Clay — lived there with his parents and younger brother.

"You walk into this house ... you're going back to 1955, and

you're going to be in the middle of the Clay family home," Bochetto told The Associated Press during a 2016 interview.

Using old photos, the developers replicated the home's furnishings, appliances, artwork and even its pink exterior from Ali's days living there. The museum featured videos focused on the story of Ali's upbringing, not his storied boxing career.

"To me, that's the bigger story and the more important story," Bochetto said in an interview last week.

Career

Ali got his start in boxing after his bicycle was stolen. Wanting to report the crime, the 12-year-old Ali was introduced to Joe Martin, a police officer who doubled as a boxing coach at a local gym. Ali told Martin he wanted to whip the culprit. The thief was never found, nor was the bike, but Ali became a regular in Martin's gym.

Ali lived in the home when he left for the 1960 Olympics. He returned as a gold medal winner, launching a career that made him one of the world's most recognizable figures as a three-time heavy-weight boxing champion and globetrotting humanitarian.

The home became a worldwide focal point on the day of Ali's burial, when hundreds of people lined the street in front of the house as his hearse and funeral procession slowly passed by.

Despite its high-profile debut, the museum ran into financial troubles and closed less than two years after opening. The museum is situated in a western Louisville neighborhood several miles from

downtown, where the Muhammad Ali Center preserves his humanitarian and boxing legacies.

As efforts to reopen the childhood museum languished, offers to move the 1,200-square-foot (111-square-meter) house to Las Vegas, Philadelphia and even Saudi Arabia were turned down, Bochetto said.

"I wouldn't do that because it's an important piece of Louisville history, Kentucky history and I think it needs to stay right where it is," he said.

Las Vegas real estate investor Jared Weiss bought the Ali childhood house — then rundown and vacant — in 2012 for \$70,000 with plans to restore it. Three years later, Weiss formed a partnership with Bochetto, who acquired a half interest in the project. Both were avid fans of Ali, and they spent hundreds of thousands of dollars on the restoration project. They also purchased the two neighboring homes, financed a documentary, subsidized museum operations and incurred expenses for all three properties. Weiss has since died and his wife is the project's co-owner, Bochetto said.

Now, Bochetto said he's hoping they'll find a buyer with the "marketing and operational know-how" to make the museum a success.

"I want to make sure that it continues in that fashion and never goes back to where it's abandoned or dilapidated," he said. "That should never have happened."

People

Variety



This image released by Sony Pictures shows Will Smith, right, and Martin Lawrence in 'Bad Boys: Ride or Die.' (AP)

Film

Smith and Lawrence reunite in 'Ride or Die'

'Bad Boys' return to redeem legacy

By Jake Coyle

'Bad Boys: Ride or Die,' the fourth installment in the Will Smith-Martin Lawrence action-comedy series, is about a fight to redeem a tarnished legacy.

No, not that one. The reputation of Conrad Howard (Joe Pantoliano), the beloved captain of detectives Mike (Smith) and Marcus (Lawrence), has been posthumously besmirched. After his death, Conrad is framed as an informant for a Mexican drug cartel as a way to cloak more sinister corruption. Our detectives set out to clear his name.

Of course, the real image restoration that's going on here is for Smith. "Ride or Die" was in development in 2022 when Smith strode onto the Oscar stage and smacked Chris Rock. The film was temporarily put on hold. Options were weighed. But 2020's "Bad Boys for Life" made a hefty \$424.6 million before COVID-19 shut down theaters. Watcha gonna do?

The result is the first movie Smith has made in that era defined as Post Slap. Here he is, back in the driver's seat and flying around the Miami waterfront with Lawrence riding shotgun. That's to say: Smith is very much back in his element.

"Ride or Die," which opens in theaters Thursday, is an attempt to pretend there haven't been any bumps in the road along the way. More than that, this "Bad Boys," coming 29 years after the original, would like very much to act as if nothing much has changed in not just the last two years but in the previous three decades.

Some signs of age is creeping in "Ride or Die." Marcus has a heart attack on the dance floor and Mike is suffering from panic attacks. But with the exception of a drone or two, this is a movie that feels like it exists in the 1990s. Jerry Bruckheimer is still a producer, while original director Michael Bay has, as he did in the previous one, steps aside

for Adil El Arbi and Bilall Fallah. (Bay returns for a cameo.) But "Ride or Die," set against Miami nightclubs and alligator-crawling hideouts, has largely stuck to its old buddy-cop formula with all the requisite explosions and slow-mo'd car chases mixed in.

As before, the key is the comic chemistry and endearing bond between Smith and Lawrence. And, really, as much as the response to "Ride or Die" is sure to be taken as a referendum on Smith's recalibrated drawing power, Lawrence is the MVP of these movies. It's his manic comic energy that propels them.

Presence

The schtick may be a little stale at this point, but no one can deliver a line like "Chitty Chitty Bang Bang!" in a gunfight with quite the same panache. "Ride or Die," scripted by Chris Bremner and Will Beall, knows to prioritize crafting ripe situations for Lawrence. After his heart attack, Marcus wakes up with a new zest for life and a foolhardy feeling of invincibility.

The same might have once been said of Smith's bulletproof screen presence, of course. Here, Smith seems a little less cocksure than he once did; those panic attacks keep coming for Mike. Smith is also playing more of a straight-man to Lawrence. If the slap caused a reassessment of Smith as a movie star, "Ride or Die" is the kind of the tailor-made vehicle that reminds you there haven't been many better male American action stars in the last few decades.

None of this is enough to lift "Ride or Die" beyond its paint-by-numbers plotting, or prevent the film from being inevitably tethered to the Slap — not least because the film climaxes with Marcus smacking Mike with an open hand. But the directing duo of Adil & Bilall keep the pace moving quick enough to prevent you from dwelling

too much on ridiculous details — like that Mike, as revealed in the last film, is the father to an imprisoned cartel assassin named Armando (Jacob Scipio), a prominent character this time around. And silliness is more of a feature than a bug in movies like "Bad Boys."

You end up questioning less why Smith and Lawrence are still making "Bad Boys" movies than wondering why such breezily watchable genre movie-star platforms more or less don't exist any longer. This summer will also bring back "Beverly Hills Cop," with Eddie Murphy, another reminder that — outside something like the "Fast and Furious" films — the movie industry just hasn't produced anything like these guys for years now. Will Smith might not be going anywhere, after all.

"Bad Boys: Ride or Die," a Columbia Pictures release, is rated R by the Motion Picture Association for "strong violence, language throughout and some sexual references." Running time: 115 minutes. Two and a half stars out of four.

Also:

LOS ANGELES: Jim Henson died in 1990 at the age of 53 but his Muppet creations and their rambunctious spirit have long outlived him. **Ron Howard's** "Jim Henson Idea Man" is an attempt to document the life and imagination behind one of the most beloved entertainers. Howard made the film with the involvement of the Henson family and use of its extensive archive.

Meanwhile, **George Clooney's** "The Boys in the Boat" is an almost daintily old-fashioned sports drama that makes "Seabiscuit" look comparatively cutting edge. It tells the true-life tale of the University of Washington rowing team who in 1936 reached the Olympics in Berlin. In her review, AP National Writer **Jocelyn Noveck** wrote that "Clooney has gone for stirring and a bit stodgy, pleasing and a bit predictable." (AP)

Features

ARABO TIMES

THURSDAY, JUNE 6, 2024

NEWARK, N.J.: The ex-husband of a "Real Housewives of New Jersey" cast member was convicted Tuesday on charges he hired a reputed mobster to assault the woman's boyfriend in exchange for a free, lavish wedding reception.

A federal jury found **Thomas Manzo** of Franklin Lakes guilty of conspiracy, falsifying and concealing documents, and committing a violent crime in aid of racketeering activity. The ex-husband of "Real Housewives" cast member **Dina Manzo** faces up to 46 years in prison when he's sentenced Oct. 15.

Federal prosecutors have said Thomas Manzo, 59, hired **John Perna** — whom they described as a soldier in the Lucchese Crime Family — to commit the July 2015 attack. Perna's wedding reception was held the following month at a restaurant in Paterson partly owned by Manzo, prosecutors said.

Perna pleaded guilty in December 2020 to committing a violent crime in aid of racketeering activity and received a 2 1/2-year sentence. He was freed last August. Dina Manzo's boyfriend is now her husband. (AP)

LOS ANGELES: Sean "Diddy" Combs has sold off his stake in Revolt, the media company the rapper and entrepreneur founded over a decade ago.

Shares in Revolt held by Combs, who served as the company's chair, have been fully redeemed and retired, the Los Angeles-based company said Tuesday a statement on its website. Revolt didn't disclose how much Combs was paid for his stake in the hip-hop news and entertainment company, which he founded in 2013.

In the statement, CEO **Detavio Samuels** noted that when he joined the company in 2020 he realized "our mission is bigger than any individual."

Revolt also announced a new ownership structure that will give its employees an equity stake in the company, which streams shows online, such as "Black Girl Stuff," and "The Life of Draco," featuring rapper Big Draco.

The move comes as Combs' reputation has been sullied following several lawsuits filed late last year that raised allegations of sexual assault and rape on the part of one of hip-hop's most recognizable

performers and producers. (AP)

SANTA FE, N.M.: An incumbent district attorney pursuing an involuntary manslaughter charge against **Alec Baldwin** fended off a Democratic challenger in New Mexico's primary election on Tuesday to ensure her reelection.



Combs



Manzo

In other results, a Republican who backed **Donald Trump's** failed efforts to overturn the 2020 election won the GOP nomination for a state Senate seat. And Democrats ousted a state senator accused of sexual harassment as voters picked their partisan favorites to reshape a Democrat-led Legislature, with all 112 seats

up for election in November.

The votes in the first Senate election since redistricting in 2021 hold implications for Native American communities, the state's oil industry and the #MeToo movement.

New Mexico has a closed primary system that limits participation to voters who register with major parties, leaving out

Independent or unaffiliated voters, but not Libertarians.

Making it through to the general election might hinge on small margins because of generally low turnout. More than 205,000 ballots were cast in early, absentee and in-person voting as polls closed at 7 p.m., out of about 1.3 million registered voters. (AP)

People & Places

Books

Passion project

Patterson completes Crichton's 'Eruption'

NEW YORK, June 5, (AP): When "Jurassic Park" author Michael Crichton died from cancer in 2008, he left behind numerous unfinished projects, including a manuscript he began 20 years ago about the imminent eruption of Mauna Loa, the world's largest active volcano.

Crichton's widow Sherri, who is CEO of CrichtonSun, tapped another millions-selling author - James Patterson - to complete the story. "Eruption" is now in stores.

Patterson is very familiar with co-authoring. In recent years he's published a novel with Bill Clinton and Dolly Parton, and often shares writing responsibilities on his other novels.



Crichton

For "Eruption," Crichton says she gave Patterson all of her husband's research and he came back with an outline. Some of the story needed to be brought forward to present day. "We talked probably every few weeks," Sherri Crichton says. "It was so much fun to read. It would be hard to tell what was Crichton and what's Patterson's."

Besides "Eruption," four novels have been published under Michael Crichton's name since his death, some with the help of other writers. Sherri Crichton says to expect "other Michael Crichton adventures" in the future.

Crichton spoke with The Associated Press about her husband's legacy. Answers have been edited for clarity and brevity.

AP: You've worked hard to preserve Michael's archive. Why is that important to you?

Crichton: When Michael died I was pregnant with our son. I was like, "How am I going to raise our son with him not knowing his father?" So I had to go searching for Michael, and I found him through his papers, which is so remarkable. It gives me so much joy to bring things like "Eruption" to life, because it really does allow John Michael the opportunity to really know his father. That's why I do what I do. It's for the love of him and Michael's daughter Taylor.

AP: What did you discover from those papers?

Crichton: Michael had structure and discipline. He was constantly moving all of his projects around. When he wrote "Jurassic Park" he was also writing four or five other books at the exact same time. He charted everything. How many words he wrote in a day, how many pages, how did that compare to other days, how long it took. Then he would have different charts that would compare what one book was doing compared to, say, for instance, "Fear" or "Disclosure." Then he would have another chart that would track the amount of time it would take to publication, the amount of time it took to sell the movie rights, then for the movie to be released.

AP: Sometimes when people are so cerebral, they struggle socially. Did Michael?

Crichton: The person I knew was this incredibly kind, loving, humble, wonderful man that was a great father and incredible husband and fun to be around. I will say he was famous for his his pregnant pauses. When writing a book, the pauses would be longer. You didn't know if he was really at the table. He was working something out and he would isolate to land that plane.

At first it was very shocking when he was in the zone, but I learned to very much respect that. Like, "I'm not going anywhere. He's not going anywhere. And I can't wait to read the book."

AP: When do you feel closest to Michael?

Crichton: I still live in our home. I still have the office, which is at home. I honestly feel that he's always in the other room writing. I really don't ever feel disconnected to him. And our son is such the spitting image of him. John Michael has never known his father, and he has some of the exact characteristics of Michael. He's very cerebral. He's very articulate. He's a sucker for a great book and research. And he's a really good writer.

You know you've got some juice in the publishing world when you get top billing on a book nearly 16 years after your death. "Eruption" is the completion of a partial manuscript found by the late Michael Crichton's wife, Sherri, and finished by James Patterson.

That pedigree is sure to make it a summer best-seller, and fans of both authors will read it with relish. The short chapters — there are 109 of them in 419 pages — propel the plot at a furious pace.

The plot itself revolves around the imminent eruption of the Mauna Loa volcano in Hawaii. Dr. John MacGregor ("Call me Mac") is the scientist in charge at the Hawaiian Volcano Observatory (HVO), and when he calls a press conference to announce that the largest active volcano on Earth is going to erupt soon, that furiously paced plot, pardon the pun, explodes.

This being a Crichton/Patterson story, there's much more at stake than the life of Pacific islanders during a natural disaster. Turns out the U.S. military has a secret buried at Mauna Loa and let's just say that when it comes to the fate of civilization it makes lava look like a hot, runny creamsicle.

The book's characters are straight out of central casting. In addition to Mac, there's Jenny Kimura, the lead lab scientist at the HVO, "32... Ph.D in earth and planetary sciences from Yale, well-spoken, very attractive." And Col. James Briggs, "60s, white-haired, trim, and fit." Throw in a couple more volcanologists practiced at galls humor and a smart teen who Mac has taught how to surf, and you have all the elements of a summer blockbuster coming in a couple years to a theater near you.

But is the book any good? That's a tougher question. It's formulaic, sure, and the writing won't win any prizes, but it's a thrill and the pages practically turn themselves. There are real character casualties, giving the story some emotional weight, but there are also a lot of scenes seemingly written with a movie in mind. So while some may quibble over whether there are more productive ways to spend a few hours, when Jenny turns to Mac and says, "I don't want to die," readers everywhere will cheer when Mac replies, "You're not going to. Not on my watch."



The singer Blondshell performs the Talking Heads song 'Thank You for Sending Me an Angel' at 'A Night of 'Stop Making Sense,' at the Pantages Theatre, Tuesday, June 4, in Los Angeles. (AP)



Olivia Cooke attends the premiere of HBO's 'House of the Dragon' Season 2 at the Hammerstein Ballroom on Monday, June 3, in New York. (AP)



Turcan



Urban

Variety

NEW YORK: Former Manhattan prosecutor Linda Fairstein and Netflix announced Tuesday they've settled the defamation lawsuit she filed four years ago over her portrayal in the streaming service's miniseries about the five Black and Latino teenagers known as the now-exonerated Central Park Five.

Fairstein had argued that the 2019 four-part series "When They See Us" defamed her by portraying her as a "racist, unethical villain" and attributed actions, responsibilities and viewpoints that were not hers.

The case was expected to go to trial later this month. Fairstein said in a statement that "the decision to conclude this fight was not an easy one," expressing confidence she would have presented a "compelling case to the jury." While Fairstein will not receive any money as part of the settlement, Netflix has agreed to donate \$1 million to the Innocence Project, a nonprofit that works to exonerate people who've been wrongly convicted.

Viewers of the series will also now see a disclaimer that states, "While the motion picture is inspired by actual events and persons, certain characters, incidents, locations, dialogue, and names are fictionalized for the purposes of dramatization." (AP)

MOUNDSVILLE, W.Va.: The Moundsville Daily Echo, a small, independent daily newspaper in northern West Virginia, has stopped publication after 133 years and publisher Charlie M. Walton said Tuesday he was "exploring options."

Walton told The Associated Press by telephone that the newspaper published its last edition Thursday and he locked the doors Friday afternoon.

Walton said he and two part-timers were the only employees at the newspaper and his efforts to expand the staff were unsuccessful. "We simply cannot get anybody to work there," Walton said. "I've been advertising for years for people. I don't get any resumes. It's just been a disaster to find anybody to even work part time."

The Daily Echo, published weekdays, was delivered by mail and had no website. It was founded in October 1891 by James Davis Shaw. His son, Craig Shaw, took over in 1917 and grandson Sam Shaw followed in 1951. For more than 40 years, Sam Shaw was the publisher, editor and chief reporter who collected the days' news by bicycle. (AP)

Music

'Stop Making Sense' reimaged

Bon Jovi's 'Forever,' a victory lap

LOS ANGELES, June 5, (AP): Forty years after they ran away with our hearts and into rock history, Bon Jovi is back with a reflective new album taking stock of all the boys from New Jersey have accomplished.

Perhaps the biggest news is that there's a new Bon Jovi album at all. After years of experiencing vocal issues, singer Jon Bon Jovi underwent surgery on his vocal cords in 2022 and wasn't at all sure of what the results would be.

They turned out fine. His voice has a slight affectation to it, mostly on protracted vowel sounds, but the charisma and the mischievousness is still there, as are a few successfully hit high notes that are an encouraging sign.

"Living Proof" is the best Bon Jovi song in nearly 20 years. It brings back the talk box device that was such an integral part of "Livin' On A Prayer" and "It's My Life," and the song has the kind of catchy chorus that burrows deeply into your brain after hearing it just once.

Opener "Legendary" is one of many songs here that look back contentedly and approvingly at the band's career ("Right where I am is where I wanna be," Bon Jovi sings.) It's followed by "We Made It Look Easy," with similar sentiments.

Bon Jovi struck crossover country gold on 2007's "Lost Highway," and they score again here with the country-tinged "Waves."

At least one song on this album will truly be played forever at wedding receptions: "Kiss The Bride," Jon's ode to his soon-to-be married daughter, who he first introduced to us as a 5-year-old in 2000's "I Got the Girl." Fathers of daughters: I dare you to listen to this song and not cry.

The album comes amid much speculation over whether original guitarist Richie Sambora will ever return to the fold. The solos here by current guitarist Phil X are unexceptional, and certainly don't make a case against an eventual Sambora reunion.

"Forever" is a well-deserved victory lap.

In 1984, Talking Heads' concert film and live album "Stop Making Sense" captured the alt-rock quartet at the height of their powers.

Forty years later, a new 4K restoration of the film is streaming on MAX, and A24 Music has released "Everyone's Getting Involved: A Tribute to Talking Heads' Stop Making Sense."

The album features contributions from 16 recording artists covering each track on "Stop Making Sense."

The sheer variety of talent - everyone from Miley Cyrus to the National - is appropriate for a band that freely incorporated punk, funk, global pop and early hip-hop elements. This tribute to an endlessly inventive band should please old fans and inspire some new ones.

Cyrus comes in like a wrecking ball on the first track, reimagining the spare "Psycho Killer" as a full-blown dance anthem. She makes some bizarre changes to the lyrics: "I love you psycho killer / I'm a love you forever / You know I'll never run away," she sings.

The National follow the opening track with an earthy rendition of the lovely ballad, "Heaven." Later, Paramore offers a faithful rendition of "Burning Down the House." Both are meticulously executed, but it is hard not to wonder what greater risks might have yielded.

Lorde offers a different angle on "Take Me to the River." Where Talking Heads vocalist David Byrne's reedy vocals register as a plea on his band's take on the Al Green song, Lorde is clearly in control and delivers lyrics like commands.

Girl in red's "Girlfriend is Better" alters the narrative - kicking off with the chorus instead of the first verse, like in the original version.

Norah Jones, gently backed by Canadian band BadBadNotGood, treats "This Must Be the Place (Native Melody)" like raw honey. Talking Heads composed the song by switching instruments among the bandmates, and the new rendition is faithful to the

playful nature of the original.

The tribute also features some terrific contributions from up-and-coming artists.

Blondshell, the musical moniker of Los Angeles musician Sabrina Teitelbaum, shines on "Thank You for Sending Me an Angel" with soaring vocals over power chords.

The Linda Lindas follow Blondshell with an energetic rendition of "Found a Job." They play it fast and tight and, among the artists on this tribute, perhaps best capture the goofy fun that was so central to the Talking Heads' appeal.

Some of the artists take the transformation further. DJ Tunez delivers a slowed-down, haunting "Life During Wartime," conveying the soul-crushing exhaustion of protracted conflict. The listener believes it when he sings, "This ain't no party / This ain't no disco."

And on "Swamp," the experimental musician Jean Dawson delivers alt-country backwater terror that would have been at home on the soundtrack of the first season of "True Detective."

The sum of it all is a varied but remarkably coherent album from a broad array of artists that's a testament to the enduring excellence of "Stop Making Sense."

Also:

LOS ANGELES: On Friday, June 7, one of the most exciting voices in contemporary country music, Carly Pearce, will deliver a new album, "Hummingbird." It is her first since 2021's "29: Written in Stone," a continuation of her EP "29," which chronicled her divorce from singer-songwriter Michael Ray. That's important to note, because it gives additional context to this release: Still concerned with grief and loss, but now energized by a new sense of autonomy and hope, Pearce's songwriting is as sharp as ever. The title track is deeply-felt bluegrass; "fault line" recalls '70s country a la Tammy Wynette and George Jones. She also co-produced the album with collaborators Shane McAnally and Josh Osborne.

BUCHAREST, Romania: Romania's minister of culture says she will ask French luxury fashion house Louis Vuitton to acknowledge that a traditional Romanian

blouse directly inspired items in one of its 2024 collections.

"We will request that Louis Vuitton recognize the heritage and cultural value

of the traditional blouse model with ribbons," Raluca Turcan wrote on Facebook late Monday, adding that it's an opportunity for international recognition of the "inestimable value" of Romanian tradition.

The blouse in question is known in Romania as an "IE" (pronounced "E-eh"), which typically has intricate embroidery and tassels and is widely recognized as a symbol of the country's rich folk culture. In 2022, the garments with a specific style of embroidery were added to a UNESCO list of intangible cultural heritage. (AP)

NEW YORK: Big Sean, Camila Cabello, Doja Cat, Hozier, Keith Urban, Gwen Stefani, New Kids on the Block and Paramore are among the performers this fall at the 2024 iHeartRadio Music Festival in Las Vegas, which will be broadcast live.

The lineup for the two-day event, which will take place Sept. 20-21 at the T-Mobile Arena, also includes Shaboozey, The Black Crowes, Thomas Rhett and best new artist Grammy winner Victoria Monét.

Ryan Seacrest will host, and fans can hear it all via iHeartMedia radio stations or watch it streaming on Hulu.

The general public can buy tickets starting June 14 on AXS.com, with Capital One cardholders able to get access beginning June 12 at 1 p.m. ET/10 a.m. PT. (AP)



In this March 18, 2016 file photo, the childhood home of Muhammad Ali is seen in Louisville, Ky. The house where Ali grew up dreaming of boxing fame is up for sale. The house was converted into a museum offering a glimpse into the boxing great's formative years. It went on the market Tuesday, June 4, along with two neighboring homes. (AP) - Details Page 11 (10/012)

Exploring robust cybersecurity measures to protect sensitive data

solutions by stc sponsors 'Cyber First Kuwait' conference

KUWAIT CITY, June 5: solutions by stc, the specialized business arm of Kuwait Telecommunications Company – stc, sponsored the “Cyber First Kuwait” as the official ‘Digital Partner’ of the conference. Organized by Events First Group (EFG) in collaboration with the National Cyber Security Center and the Central Agency for Information Technology (CAIT), the conference marks a significant step towards securing Kuwait’s digital future in line with New Kuwait Vision 2035. solutions by stc’s sponsorship of the conference aligns with the Company’s ongoing support towards the Kuwaiti community, leveraging its expertise and experience to empower platforms that bring together like-minded individuals within the evolving digital world.

Held at the Radisson Blu Hotel, the conference outlined a transformative journey towards a digitally secure and sustainable future for Kuwait. The increased digitization witnessed across various sectors, both government and private, have highlighted the urgent need for robust cybersecurity measures to protect sensitive data. In response to the rising cyber threats, the Kuwaiti government has established the National Cyber Security Strategy, prioritizing and safeguarding the nation’s cybersecurity landscape. This strategy, coupled with proactive measures from the private sector, is driving Kuwait’s cybersecurity market towards remarkable growth.

The Cyber First Kuwait conference gathered cybersecurity experts, including professionals in Information Security, Risk, Compliance, Forensics, and Cyber Law. The event aimed to foster collaboration across public and private sectors to battle the efforts of malicious attacks and strengthen Kuwait’s cybersecurity resilience. Representatives from stc, Eng. Fahad Al Ali CTO and Acting - CEO of e-Portal Holding, Eng. Issa Al-Suwait- GM Cyber Security of stc, Ali Al Yaseen GM –Sales and Business solutions and directors from the Business Sales and Products teams along with the Corporate Communications Teams, attended the conference. During the conference, solutions by stc showcased its comprehensive cybersecurity solutions, with a team of specialists addressing queries and concerns

raised by the attendees visiting the Company’s booth. solutions by stc also participated in a panel discussion titled “Leveraging AI to Address Cyber-Attacks and the Evolving Threat Landscape”, where Eng. Issa Al-Suwait, GM of Cyber Security at stc, shed light on the power of AI and its role in mitigating the threats faced by Kuwait’s cyber landscape. The discussion covered the role of AI in threat detection through enhanced capabilities, identifying patterns, and swiftly recognizing anomalies in the evolving cyber-threat landscape. The panel also highlighted the effectiveness of AI-driven response strategies through the exploration of their impact on mitigating cyber threats. Additionally, challenges and benefits of AI-drive behavioral analytics were discussed, along with the importance of adaptive AI models that are significant to continuous learning and adaptation to combat new cyber threats.

Environment

solutions by stc highlighted in a statement that it will remain committed to supporting the technological and digital infrastructure in Kuwait by providing cutting-edge solutions that enhance the country’s cybersecurity ecosystem. By participating in key conferences and initiatives, solutions by stc will contribute towards building a secure and resilient digital environment in line with Kuwait’s Vision 2035. With the rapidly evolving digital world, solutions by stc actively explores the latest technological tools and systems to keep pace with advanced cybersecurity threats and possible malicious attacks. Moving forward, the Company will continue to introduce the latest cybersecurity solutions to support and provide 360-protection to its B2B customers.

solutions by stc also built and solidified its reputation as one of the key players in the market offering comprehensive connectivity, ICT, IoT, and enterprise solutions to support network, infrastructure, and application needs. Through its active and progressive approach, it has grown into a powerful one-stop shop for business and wholesale solutions, catering to the needs of government and corporate entities nationwide and across the region.



stc and solutions by stc’s management stand out at the conference.



Minister of Health Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi with the Kuwait Synthetic Sclerosis Patients Association members during marking of World Multiple Sclerosis Day.

‘Sclerosis Patients Association serves more than 3,000 patients’

Health minister unveils plans for MS treatment center

KUWAIT CITY, June 5, (KUNA): Minister of Health Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi announced Tuesday the formation of a technical committee in prepare for establishing a center specialized in treating multiple sclerosis (MS) within the Al-Sabah Medical District, which should include a scientific research department. During a celebration held by the Kuwait Synthetic Sclerosis Patients Association, marking World Syndrome Day, which coincides on May 30th annually, Minister Al-Awadhi said that the Ministry will spare no effort in helping (neuro sclerosis) patients. Al-Awadhi added that the State of Kuwait is “one of advanced countries in treating MS and provides neurological clinics in all hospitals, as well as keeping

up with the latest treatments,” stressing keenness to meet the needs and requirements of patients and reach the highest quality standards in the service provided. The minister noted, “the Sclerosis Patients Association serves more than three thousand patients and has been spreading awareness in Kuwaiti society since its founding in 2010.” For his part, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Kuwait Sclerosis Patients Association, Yosef Al-Kandari, praised the “distinguished services” provided by the Health Ministry to MS patients, including all treatments, hoping as well to speed up the establishment of this specialized center.

Algorithm block proposed

NY considers regulating kids’ social media feeds

NEW YORK, June 5, (AP): New York lawmakers on Tuesday said they were finalizing legislation that would allow parents to block their children from getting social media posts curated by a platform’s algorithm, a move to rein in feeds that critics argue keep young users glued to their screens.

Democratic Gov. Kathy Hochul and Attorney General Letitia James have been advocating for the regulations since October, facing strong pushback from the tech industry. The amended version removes provisions that would have limited the hours a child could spend on a site. With the legislative session ending this week, Albany lawmakers are making a final push to get it passed.

“The algorithmic feeds are designed as dopamine for kids,” Assembly sponsor Nily Rozic, a Democrat, said Tuesday. “We are trying to regulate that design feature.”

The legislation in New York follows actions taken by other US states to curb social media use among children. Republican Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis signed legislation banning social media accounts for children under 14 and requiring parental permission for 14- and 15-year-olds. Utah in March revised its policies, requiring social media companies to verify the ages

of their users, but removing a requirement that parents consent to their child creating an account. A state law in Arkansas that also would have required parental consent was put on hold last year by a federal judge.

Protect

Supporters say New York’s Stop Addictive Feeds Exploitation (SAFE) For Kids Act, which would prohibit algorithm-fed content without “verifiable parental consent,” is aimed at protecting the mental health and development of young people by shielding them from features designed to keep them endlessly scrolling.

Instead of having automated algorithms suggest content classified as addictive and based on what a user has clicked on in the past, young account holders would see a chronological feed of content from users they already follow.

Rozic said the New York bill doesn’t attempt to regulate the content available on social media, only “the vehicle that supercharges the feed and makes it more addictive.”

Critics of the bill, including the Surveillance Technology Oversight Project, warn it could make things worse for children, including leading to internet companies collecting more information about users.

US CDC recommends using antibiotic as morning-after pill for STD prevention

NEW YORK, June 6, (AP): Some people should consider taking an antibiotic as a morning-after pill to try to prevent certain sexually transmitted diseases, US health officials recommended Tuesday.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention finalized its endorsement of taking doxycycline after unprotected sex as a way to prevent chlamydia, gonorrhea or syphilis infections.

CDC officials called it the first new prevention tool against sexually transmitted infections in decades, and said innovation is badly needed. Rates of syphilis, chlamydia and gonorrhea have been rising for years, although the latest data suggested chlamydia and gonorrhea cases stopped rising in 2022.

Studies have demonstrated doxycycline works in that group, but there’s not sufficient evidence to make the same recommendation for other people, agency officials said. Officials call the treatment doxy PEP, short for doxycycline postexposure prophylaxis. Doctors can write a prescription for one dose of 200 milligrams of doxycycline to be taken within three days of unprotected sex, the CDC said.

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Reflective side of Irving has been front and center in playoff run with Mavs

Celtics stars feel better equipped to tackle 2nd chance

Sun become 7th team in WNBA history to start the season 9-0



New York Liberty's Breanna Stewart (30) drives to the basket as Chicago Sky's Isabelle Harrison (20) defends during the second half of a WNBA basketball game in Chicago. (AP)

Liberty get past Sky for fourth straight win

UNCASVILLE, June 5, (AP): DeWanna Bonner had 20 points and eight rebounds, Brianna Jones added 15 points and the Connecticut Sun beat the winless Washington Mystics 76-59 on Tuesday night to become the seventh team in WNBA history to start a season with nine straight wins.

All of the previous six teams to begin 9-0 reached the WNBA finals.

Connecticut (9-0) hosts New York on Saturday, looking to become the fourth team to start 10-0. The Minnesota Lynx hold the WNBA record with 13 straight wins to begin the 2016 season.

BASKETBALL

Washington (0-9) set a franchise record with nine consecutive losses to start a season. The Mystics return home to play Chicago on Thursday.

Tyasha Harris added 14 points and Alyssa Thomas had seven points, seven rebounds and seven assists for Connecticut. Bonner reached 20 points for the fifth time this season.

Rookie Aaliyah Edwards scored a season-high 14 points, to go with nine rebounds, for Washington. Myisha Hines-Allen added 10 points.

Connecticut trailed at halftime for the first time this season when Stefanie Dolson made a 3-pointer with 2.9 seconds left to give Washington a 33-32 lead. It was Washington's first lead since 6-4.

The Sun took control after the break by outscoring Washington 26-10 in the third quarter. The Mystics were 2 of 15 from the field in the period, including 0 for 8 from inside the arc.

Washington finished with a season-low point total.

Liberty 88, Sky 75

In Chicago, Breanna Stewart scored a season-high 33 points and grabbed 14 rebounds to lead the New York

Contract extended to 2026

Perez stays at Red Bull in F1

MILTON KEYNES, England, June 5, (AP): Sergio Perez is staying with Red Bull after signing a two-year contract extension with the Formula 1 team through 2026.

The Mexican driver's contract had been due to expire at the end of this season. There was speculation he might be replaced after difficulty matching the pace of his teammate and defending champion Max Verstappen.

The 34-year-old Perez, nicknamed "Checo", has not won a race since the Azerbaijan Grand Prix in April 2023, even as Verstappen sealed last year's title with a record 19 wins. However, Perez has won praise for his defensive driving to keep rivals off Verstappen's back, especially when he held up Lew-

is Hamilton before Verstappen took his first title in Abu Dhabi in 2021. Verstappen leads the standings this season with 169 points ahead of Ferrari's Charles Leclerc with 138. Perez is fifth with 107.

MOTOR RACING

"I want to thank everyone for all the trust they are putting in me, it is a lot and I want to pay it back with excellent results on track, and off track," Perez said in a team statement. "I think we have a lot of work to do, we have a lot more Championships to win together."

With seven-time champion Lewis Hamilton leaving Mercedes for Ferrari

next year, Red Bull could be the only one of F1's three biggest teams to keep the same lineup for 2025.

The two-year extension also means Perez will drive under the new rules being introduced in 2026, when cars will be more reliant on the electric component of their hybrid systems.

"Now is an important time to confirm our lineup for 2025 and we are very pleased to continue working together with Checo. Continuity and stability are important for the team and both Checo and Max are a successful and robust partnership," team principal Christian Horner said.

Perez has been with Red Bull since 2021 and has won five races with the team, and one more with Racing Point in 2020.

Liberty to victory over the Chicago Sky, who lost rookie Angel Reese to an ejection in the fourth quarter.

Reese was thrown out with 2:31 remaining after receiving two technical fouls following a brief interaction with

an official. Sabrina Ionescu added 24 points for the Liberty, who won their fourth straight.

New York opened the game on a 21-6 run after making five of its first seven 3-pointers, while Chicago

started 3 of 16 from the field. The Sky responded by scoring 33 points in the second quarter to get within 49-48 at the break.

New York started the fourth quarter on a 15-2 run, including 10 straight points, to extend its lead to 80-68. Stewart and Ionescu each scored six points in the frame.

Storm 80, Mercury 62

In Seattle, Ezi Magbegor scored 13 of her 21 points in the first quarter, Skylar Diggins-Smith added 17 points and Seattle won their fifth straight game with a victory over Phoenix.

On the day Seattle (6-3) announced a contract extension for Magbegor that will keep her with the team through the 2025 season, the forward from Australia sparked the Storm to a fast start. The 13 points in the first quarter were the most Magbegor has scored in any quarter of her career, as she hit her first six shots before a miss.

Jewell Loyd finished with 15 points, seven rebounds and six assists, and Seattle led by as many as 21 in the first half on its way to the easy victory.



Phoenix Mercury guard Natasha Cloud drives to the basket against Seattle Storm guard Jewell Loyd (24) as center Ezi Magbegor (13) and Mercury forward Liz Dixon (20) watch during the second half of a WNBA basketball game in Seattle. (AP)

BOSTON, June 5, (AP): For almost the entirety of their time together in Boston, Jayson Tatum and Jaylen Brown have been linked.

They were drafted by the Celtics third overall in back-to-back years.

They possess similar skillsets - two explosive and skilled wing players with an ability to score from nearly every spot on the court.

And they both have been central to the success of a Celtics team that has reached the NBA Finals for the second time in three seasons. It helped Brown earn the NBA's first \$300 million contract last summer. And, Tatum is expected to get one this offseason.

The team has branded the All-Stars as "The Jays" in a marketing campaign shown during games that pitted them against one another in mini competitions.

It has created natural comparisons between them along the way, fostering an atmosphere in which fans and sports pundits alike have tried to parse out which one of them is better, whose spot is most untouchable on the roster and which of them is more pivotal to the Celtics' success as they prepare to lead the team to the franchise's 18th NBA title.

BASKETBALL

It reached a new level last week during a segment on ESPN's "Get Up" in which panelists debated whether the 26-year-old Tatum expressed excitement or disappointment while watching the 27-year-old Brown garner Eastern Conference finals MVP honors.

"I think it's unfair to both of them," Celtics coach Joe Mazzulla said of what he viewed as an attempt to manufacture friction between the two stars.

But even as Tatum and Brown have distinguished themselves as the most important players on Boston's roster and the keys to the Celtics' fate in their NBA Finals matchup with the Dallas Mavericks, Mazzulla has hope that people will start viewing them differently.

"They're, like, two completely different people. They're two completely different players," Mazzulla said. "They're great teammates, they love each other and they go about winning and they go about their process in a different way. Why they have to always be lumped together I think is unfair."

Tatum and Brown, along with Al Horford, are the only returning start-



Dallas Mavericks guard Kyrie Irving gets off a shot against the Minnesota Timberwolves during the first half of Game 5 of the Western Conference finals in the NBA basketball playoffs in Minneapolis. (AP)

ers from the 2021-22 team that lost to the Golden State Warriors in six games in the Finals after holding a 2-1 series lead.

While Horford has taken on mostly a reserve role this season, backing up 7-footer Kristaps Porzingis, Tatum and Brown have taken their play up a notch.

Tatum's scoring numbers have remained steady from the regular season (26.9 per game) into the playoffs (26.0), while his rebounding has increased from 8.1 to 10.4 per game in the postseason. Brown, too, has seen jumps in those categories, going from 23.0 points and 5.5 rebounds per game to 25.0 points and 6.1 rebounds in the playoffs.

Tatum believes they've both used lessons from the 2022 NBA Finals' loss, as well as last year's conference finals loss to Miami, to grow into players more equipped to accomplish their championship goal this time around.

"Obviously, we've been there before, we came up short," Tatum said. "You don't always get a second chance, so really just looking at it as a second chance and trying to simplify things as much as we can."

And being each other's biggest cheerleaders, too.

After Brown made a game-tying 3-pointer late in Game 1 of the conference finals matchup with Indiana to send the game to overtime in an eventual Celtics' victory, the highest praise came from Tatum.

"Big time players make big time plays," Tatum said of Brown.

Unhappy end to PSG career

Mbappé elated at joining Real

PARIS, June 5, (AP): Kylian Mbappé spoke Tuesday of his "immense pleasure" at finally joining Real Madrid and felt his time at Paris Saint-Germain came to a sad end.

Madrid has reached a widely expected deal with the France star, bringing together a prolific scorer and a record 15-time Champions League winner.

"Finally, it's official, I am going to be a Real Madrid player for the next five years. It's an immense pleasure, a dream coming true, a lot of emotions," Mbappé said at a pre-match news conference in Metz where France hosts Luxembourg on Wednesday ahead of the European Championship. "I'm very, very happy (and) relieved, very proud to be joining a club where I've always dreamed of being."

Mbappé's seven years at PSG came to a somewhat difficult end, and his final season started and ended amid tensions.

He was left out of a pre-season tour to Japan in July after not taking up the option of a one-year contract extension, and then initially left out of the squad as the club insisted he could not leave for free and would be sold.

Mbappé was dropped from the squad for the opening league game of the season and feared he would not be playing at all.

"I was told that, I was made to understand it, things were very clear. I was aggressively spoken to. I was convinced I would not play (that season)," said Mbappé, who praised the intervention of coach Luis Enrique and PSG's soccer advisor Luis Campos on his behalf. "Without them I would never have played."

Mbappé informed club president Nasser Al-Khelaifi in February that he

was leaving at the end of the season. But when the player made it official that he would not sign another deal with PSG, he did so in a video posted on X and not through the club's communications department.

There was no ceremony prepared by the club for Mbappé's final home game against Toulouse, where he was jeered by some fans.

"I wasn't unhappy at PSG, that would be to spit in the soup (to be ungrateful)," Mbappé said. "(But) some things and some people made me unhappy."

Mbappé did not give names. His relationship with Al-Khelaifi reportedly grew increasingly tense when it became clear Mbappé would not sign a contract extension, despite PSG offering him the most lucrative deal in the club's history when he signed a new contract in 2022.

SOCCER

Although he scored 44 goals in 48 games and won the French league and French Cup double, Mbappé was not always at his best this season.

He was largely ineffective in the Champions League semifinal defeat to Borussia Dortmund, failing to score in both legs and trudging off the field after PSG went out.

"Someone who's happy has more chance of playing well but there are no excuses for some of my performances," Mbappé said. "It wasn't as high as my usual standards. Yet just to play, to win trophies was my biggest pride. But next season I won't be satisfied with a season like that."

Although tensions at PSG affected him, Mbappé said that someone in his position should not complain too much.

Yohannes scores in debut

US down South Korea as Olympics loom

ST. PAUL, June 5, (AP): Sixteen-year-old Lily Yohannes scored in her national team debut and the United States defeated South Korea 3-0 in an exhibition.

Crystal Dunn and Sophia Smith also scored for the U.S., playing its second game under coach Emma Hayes. Hayes was named coach last November but remained in Europe to finish the season with Chelsea. She replaced Vlatko Andonovski, who stepped down after the U.S. was knocked out of the Women's World Cup last summer in the round of 16.

The U.S. also won the first friendly match over South Korea 4-0 on Saturday in Commerce City, Colorado. Mallory Swanson and Tiarna Davidson each had a pair of goals.

Hayes will now turn her attention to selecting an 18-player roster for the U.S. Olympic team. The U.S. opens the Olympics on July 25 against Zambia in Nice.

Hayes made sweeping changes to the starting lineup for Tuesday's match played in steady rain at St. Paul's Allianz Field. Only captain Lindsey Horan and Jenna Nighswonger also started on Saturday.

Alex Morgan, who did not play in the first match against South Korea because of a minor injury, was among the starters.

Dunn, making her first start at forward since 2017, scored in the 13th minute off a cross from Nighswonger. Dunn, who has played primarily at left back in recent years, had not scored since October 2018. She has 25 career goals.

XXXXXXXXXXXX

Casey Murphy preserved the lead when she dove to push away a free kick in the 30th minute.

Smith scored her fourth goal of the year in the 67th minute at a tight angle off a backheel pass from Swanson.

Yohannes, who plays for Dutch club Ajax, got her goal just 10 minutes after coming into the game as a substitute, scoring from out through traffic on a cross from Trinity Rodman in the 82nd. Yohannes became the third-youngest player to score for the national team.

Midfielder Rose Lavelle played in her 100th match for the United States.

The national team has two more matches before leaving for France. They'll play Mexico on July 13 at Red Bull Arena in New Jersey before a sendoff match against Costa Rica in Washington D.C.

Vacancy Announcement

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SPORTS

England, Scotland share points at T20 World Cup

Netherlands rout Nepal



Tim Pringle of the Netherlands bowls against Nepal during an ICC Men's T20 World Cup cricket match at Grand Prairie Stadium in Grand Prairie, Texas. (AP)

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados, June 5, (AP): Defending champion England and Scotland shared the competition points after their Twenty20 World Cup cricket opener ended in a no result because of rain.

England went into Tuesday's game as a heavy favorite at Bridgetown Barbados but Scottish chances increased significantly when rain set in.

Scotland openers George Munsey and Michael Jones made a spirited 90-0 in a revised 10-over innings before England's target was recalculated up to 109 in 10 overs under rules devised for rain-shortened matches.

But rain prevented any further play, making it the first washout of the June 1-29 tournament.

Netherlands had a six-wicket win over Nepal in Tuesday's other game at Grand Prairie, Texas.

The first ever T20 international between England and Scotland had already twice been interrupted before rain intensified.

"There's no easy games at all, but we were confident," England captain Jos Buttler said. "The disappointment is for everyone - both sides and all the crowd here."

Scotland captain Richie Berrington said it was frustrating not to get a chance to challenge Eng-

CRICKET

land's batters on a tricky wicket.

"It would have been interesting to see how the weather affects the pitch," he said. "I think if we'd bowled well, we certainly had an opportunity there."

Rain had kept the players off the field first for nearly an hour after Scotland won the toss and elected to bat. Jones (45 not out) and Munsey (41 not out) negotiated the pace threat of Mark Wood and Jofra Archer in the power play before rain returned in the 7th over with Scotland at 51-0.

Munsey got a lucky escape on 16 before the second rain interruption when Buttler took a well judged running catch at third man only to see Mark Wood had been no-balled for over-stepping the crease.

On resumption, Munsey and Jones hit another 39 runs off the remaining 22 balls as spinner Adil Rashid gave away 26 off the two overs.

Barbados-born Archer made his T20 World Cup debut for England after returning from injury and had showed glimpses of his full fitness during a recent 2-0 series victory against Pakistan. He bowled two overs for 12 runs, but both Scottish openers batted with confidence against him under overcast conditions.

Netherlands beat Nepal with eight balls remaining in a tight contest that was also delayed by rain.

The Dutch opted to bowl first and dismissed Nepal for 106 in 19.2 overs, led by captain Rohit Paudel's 37-ball 35.

Tim Pringle (3-20 in four overs) and Logan van Beek (3-18 in 3.2 overs) did the damage as Nepal lost wickets at regular intervals on a surface suited for fast bowlers.

Dutch opener Max O'Dowd led the successful chase, hitting 54 not out in 48 balls as his team finished on 109-4 in 18.4 overs.

Sompal Kami, Dipendra Singh Airee and Abinash Bohara took a wicket apiece. Nepal's hopes were briefly raised when Netherlands dropped to 80-4 in the 16th over after Bohara bowled Netherlands captain Scott Edwards (5).

But O'Dowd and Bas de Leede (11 not out) shared an undefeated 29-run partnership for victory.

India and Ireland meet in New York in the first of Wednesday's three games. Australia takes on Oman at Bridgetown, Barbados and Papua New Guinea is against Uganda in Providence, Guyana.

5th manager

Conte confirmed as Napoli coach

MILAN, June 5, (AP): Antonio Conte was confirmed as the new Napoli coach on Wednesday, making him the team's fifth manager in little more than a year for the deposed Serie A champion.

Napoli announced Conte signed a three-year contract, which Italian media reported will earn the former Italy coach six million euros (\$6.5 million) a season plus bonuses.

"Napoli is a club of huge importance on the international stage," Conte said in a statement. "I'm happy and excited by the idea of taking my seat in the Napoli dug-out."

"I can certainly promise one thing: I'll give my all to develop the team and the club. I'm fully committed to the task at hand, as are my staff."

Conte, a league title winner in England and four times in his native Italy, has been away from the dugout for more than a year after leaving Tottenham by mutual consent in March 2023.



Conte

His departure came shortly after a post-match rant against his players and club ownership. It was not the first time Conte made public outbursts against his bosses, having done so several times at previous clubs and earning himself a reputation for being fiery.

Napoli lifted its first Serie A trophy in more than three decades - since the days of Diego Maradona - in 2023, after running away with the league under Luciano Spalletti. However, Spalletti departed after saying he needed a year off, only to become Italy coach after Roberto Mancini's shock resignation. Napoli went on to be one of the worst defending champions in the league's history.

SOCCER

Rudi Garcia, Walter Mazzarri and Francesco Calzona all had stints as coaches but Napoli went from bad to worse and finished the season in 10th place to miss out on all European competitions.

"I'm so proud that Antonio Conte is Napoli's new coach," club president Aurelio De Laurentiis said. "Antonio is a top coach and a leader, so I'm convinced that we'll be able to rebuild the foundations in the way that we need to following the conclusion of the cycle that led us to Scudetto glory last year after many years at the top of Italian soccer."

"An important, new chapter in Napoli's history gets underway today."

De Laurentiis also posted a photo on X of him and Conte signing the contract, which runs until June 30, 2027. He captioned it "Benvenuto Antonio!" ("Welcome Antonio!").

Napoli also published photos on Instagram of Conte superimposed on famous views of the Italian city.

Conte's last job in Italy was with Inter Milan, which he left in 2021, shortly after steering the team to its first Serie A title in 11 years in his second season in charge.



Chief Guest, D.K. Dileep receives a plaque of appreciation from an official.

ICSK Salmiya hosts 'Beyond the Rim' seminar on basketball

The Indian Community School, Salmiya, initiated a one-day seminar entitled 'Beyond the Rim' exclusively and inclusively for students aged 10-18 from all different branches of ICSK schools administered and chartered by Dr. Binumon Principal & Senior Administrator ICSK.

The session was led by the esteemed Chief Guest, D.K. Dileep, a renowned sports advisor, organizer, and motivational trainer.

Dileep illuminated the gathering with insights into the technical aspects of basketball, emphasizing the importance of vigilance on the court and the virtues of fair play. His engaging briefing captivated the audience, comprising students eager to learn.

Students were actively involved in live practice sessions, receiving hands-on guidance on adhering to the

game's rules. The opportunity for one-on-one interaction with Dileep further enriched the experience, infusing the session with energy and enthusiasm.

The presence of all Physical Education teachers added a dynamic dimension to the event, amplifying the spirit of camaraderie and learning.

The ICSK is committed to fostering innovation for student development, recognizing the significance of both sports and academics in holistic growth.

The seminar was impeccably organized and orchestrated under the meticulous direction of the Vice-Principal, Mrs. Susan Rajesh Pothan reflecting ICSK's dedication to nurturing well-rounded individuals.

Deputy Vice-Principal Mrs. Mini Shaji Joseph proposed the vote of thanks. The event was compered by Mrs. Teena.



Motivational trainer Dileep demonstrates to participants during the seminar.

Veteran out to show he's still a force

Ronaldo back in the global spotlight at Euro 2024

LISBON, June 5, (AP): Cristiano Ronaldo had tears in his eyes as he walked off the field and seemingly into international retirement.

It was the 2022 World Cup and Portugal had just lost to Morocco in the quarterfinals, a shocking result that left Ronaldo inconsolable.

He was nearly 38 years old. Unarguably past his best. No longer a guaranteed starter for his country.

Was this the last time the soccer world would see Ronaldo - one of the game's greatest-ever players - in a Portugal jersey?

We really shouldn't have underestimated him.

Eighteen months later, Ronaldo is still scoring hat tricks, still breaking records, still owning that will to win and self-belief - not to mention the toned physique - which has long set him apart from pretty much anyone else.

And still a key member of the Portugal team heading to the European Championship in Germany as one of the tournament favorites.

Indeed, Portugal coach Roberto Martinez, who was hired weeks after the World Cup, has retained the 39-year-old Ronaldo as captain.

SOCCER

"For us, he brings that experience," Martinez said, "but, more than anything, probably the biggest surprise is that he approaches every day as a new way to be the best, a new way to keep impressing."

The Euros represent an opportunity for Ronaldo to remind soccer fans that he is still a force in the game.

Since the start of 2023, he has been playing in Saudi Arabia, pretty much out of the global spotlight and in a league that has thrown money at some high-profile - if maybe over-the-hill - superstars to generate attention and change the impression of soccer in the kingdom.

Ronaldo, earning a reported \$200 million a year, is still pouring in the goals - he was the top scorer in the Saudi Pro League with 35, a record in that division - even if critics have been quick to point out the low standard of play in the country.

"We don't make choices based on where the players play," said Martinez, who could not be more impressed with what Ronaldo has been doing in Saudi. "He has become a central figure of a new project and the important thing for us, as a national team coach, is that he has been able to carry on scoring goals," Martinez said.

"His stats are better than anything, subjectively, that you can say. He's been the top goal scorer in 2023 in world football and he makes a total new beginning in a league that in the next few years is going to be talked about a lot."

Ronaldo committed himself to Portugal even though it looked like his time with the national team was up after being benched for its knockout-stage games at the World Cup.

However, Portugal changed coaches - Martinez came in for Fernando Santos - and Ronaldo felt he still had plenty more to offer, not least adding to his world record of goals scored in men's internationals that now stands at 128.

In a qualifying group for the Euros that didn't feature any of Portugal's top rivals, Ronaldo started nine of the

Arbitration hearing to start on Monday

City reported legal action against Premier League has potential to change the face of English soccer

MANCHESTER, England, June 5, (AP): Manchester City's reported legal action against the Premier League has the potential to change the face of English soccer.

At a time when the most popular league in the world is trying to clamp down on out-of-control spending, the removal of its Associated Party Transaction (APT) rules could pave the way for never-before-seen excess and, it's feared, ultimately kill competition.

City is already England's most dominant team of recent times, having won six of the last seven leagues and an unprecedented four in a row.

Backed by the ruling family of Abu Dhabi, it is one of the richest clubs in the world and has spent exorbitantly on star players like Erling Haaland and Kevin De Bruyne. If restrictions over its spending powers were relaxed, City's dominance is only likely to grow, with fewer rivals able to compete.

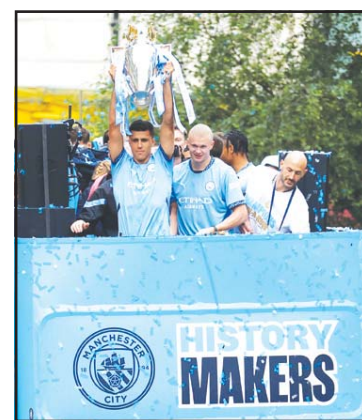
The league introduced ATP rules in December 2021 after Newcastle was bought by Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund.

The rules dictate that commercial deals with organizations linked to a club's ownership represent "fair market value."

Regulations prevent clubs from artificially inflating deals to gain an "unfair advantage over domestic competitors."

One of City's main sponsors is Abu Dhabi-based Etihad Airways. Saudi-backed Newcastle is sponsored by Saudi firm Sela, which is owned by the PIF.

It is reported that City claims it is



In this file photo, Manchester City's Rodri celebrates with the Premier League trophy on an open top bus during a trophy parade in Manchester, England after winning their fourth successive Premier League title. (AP)

the victim of "discrimination."

An arbitration hearing is reportedly due to start on Monday and will last for two weeks.

If ATP rules are proved to be unlawful and scrapped, there is the potential for sponsorship deals to be vastly inflated going forward without regulation from the league.

The concern is the possibility that clubs could take advantage of commercial deals with companies linked to their owners and, if abused, that could artificially distort revenues.

That would be a problem for the league's profit and sustainability regulations (PSR), which are designed to control spending in relation to reve-

nues and currently allow clubs to make losses of up to 105 million pounds (\$133 million) over a three-year period. In its most extreme case, without regulation, a club could hypothetically set the value of sponsorships at any figure that would allow it to meet PSR requirements.

City has been accused by the league of more than 100 alleged rules breaches including financial wrongdoing. If upheld, it could face a fine, points deductions or even expulsion from the league. City denies the charges.

City was banned from European competition by governing body UEFA in 2020 for breaching its Financial Fair Play rules, including "overstating its sponsorship revenue." The ban was overturned on appeal at the Court of Arbitration for Sport.

The Premier League's competitiveness is among the main reasons why it is so popular around the world and earns billions of pounds in broadcast revenue.

At a time when even mega-rich rivals like Manchester United are struggling to compete with City, a strengthening of its already vast spending powers runs the risk of widening the gap between the top and the rest.

Top-flight clubs meet on Thursday for their annual general meeting where, among other issues, a spending cap will be discussed to help increase the competitiveness of the league.

They will be given the chance to trial an "anchoring" system, which will limit clubs to spending only a multiple of the combined prize money and cash from TV rights earned by the last-placed team in the league.

The Czech Republic and tournament debutant Georgia. But, what if Portugal plays France or the Netherlands in the quarterfinals, as could happen according to the knockout bracket: Does Ronaldo start then?

A big difference to the World Cup is that his backup, Goncalo Ramos, hasn't been a regular starter at Paris Saint-Germain since his move from Benfica. He isn't pushing Ronaldo for a starting place as much as he was in Qatar, where he arrived in red-hot form.

Martinez seems willing to forgo some of Ronaldo's limitations - his inability to press as well as others, for example - because he is still so dangerous in front of goal.

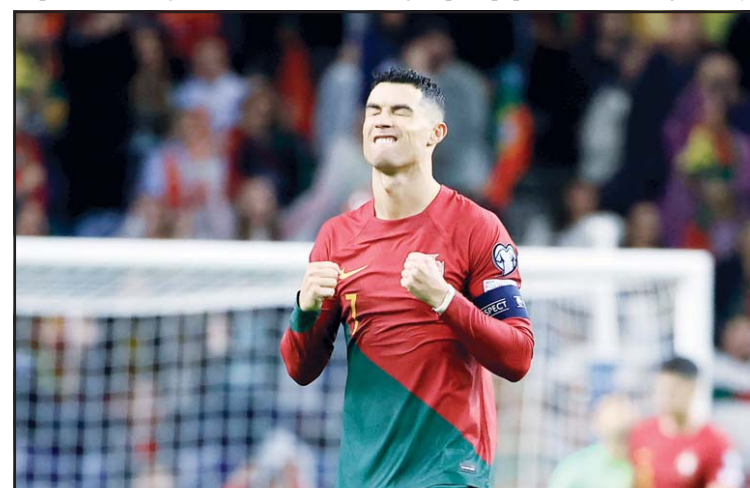
Ronaldo has a long list of exciting midfielders and wingers ready to feed him chances - Bruno Fernandes, Rafael Leao, Diogo Jota, Bernardo Silva, Joao Felix. With holding midfielder Joao Palhinha protecting so well a defense that conceded just two goals in the entire qualifying campaign, there's so much to like about Portugal's chances in Germany.

Ronaldo saw his longtime rival, Lionel Messi, grab all the limelight at the World Cup by leading Argentina to the title.

Maybe there's one more big major tournament left in Ronaldo, too.



Scotland's George Munsey plays a shot from a delivery of England's Moeen Ali during an ICC Men's T20 World Cup cricket match at Kensington Oval in Bridgetown, Barbados. (AP)



In this file photo, Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo celebrates at the end of the Euro 2024 Group J qualifying soccer match between Portugal and Slovakia at the Dragao stadium in Porto, Portugal. (AP)



Kuwait coach Rui Pinto holds a press conference on the eve of a key joint World Cup and Asian Cup qualifier against India in Kolkata.

Sports

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Kuwait seek 'redemption', qualification against India

Sunil Chhetri plays last game

By Khaled El Anzi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KOLKATA, June 5: Kuwait faces India at 4:30 in Kolkata for the fifth round of the joint Asian qualifiers for the 2026 World Cup, to be held in the USA, Mexico, and Canada, and the 2027 Asian Cup in Saudi Arabia.

Group A also includes Qatar and Afghanistan, who will play at 7:00 pm at Abdullah bin Jalawi Sports City Stadium in Al-Hofuf, Saudi Arabia.

Qatar has already secured the first qualification spot for the decisive stage of the World Cup qualifiers and a place in the Asian Cup finals, leading the group with a perfect score of 12 points. Kuwait with 3 points is competing with India and Afghanistan, each with

SOCCER

4 points, for the second qualification spot.

Al-Azraq aims to achieve several goals in this match: to regain its reputation after a 1-0 loss to India at Jaber Al-Ahmad International Stadium last November, to stay in the running for qualification, and to break a year-long winless streak against India, including a draw and a penalty shootout loss in the Indian International Championship last June.

Preparation for this match included a week-long training camp in Bangkok before arriving.

Rui Pinto shared his optimism for a good match in a press conference yesterday. Pinto stated, "Both teams are vying for a ticket to advance to the next stage of the qualifiers."

He added, "We've faced the Indian national team three times in the past year, resulting in two draws and one loss. Technically, these matches have been evenly balanced."

Pinto emphasized the recent development and progress of football in Kuwait, expressing confidence in their preparations and the players' ability to deliver a satisfactory result.

Meanwhile, Bandar Buresli also highlighted the team's readiness, stating that all players are prepared to perform at a convincing level to achieve a positive result. He anticipates a strong and competitive match from both sides.

India is eight points behind leading Qatar and second place in Group A, marginally ahead of Afghanistan on goal difference, and takes on last-place Kuwait in Kolkata. A win would take



Kuwait junior volleyball team poses for a group photo with the technical staff



Kuwaiti players hold their final training session.

India close to the last stage of continental qualifying for the first time.

"It's a huge game," India coach Igor Stimac said. "The careers of the boys can change with this game. I want them to enjoy and do their best in the game."

It is also the last match for Sunil Chhetri, who will retire after his 151st international appearance. Of the players still active, only Cristiano Ronaldo

and Lionel Messi have scored more international goals than Chhetri's 94.

"Every training that I do with the national team, I'm just going to enjoy it," the 39-year-old Chhetri said when he announced his retirement last month. "I don't feel that pressure. The game demands pressure. Against Kuwait, we need the three points to qualify for the third round. But in a strange way, I don't feel the pressure."

action on the pitch, rather than with words."

With English Premier League stars such as Son of Tottenham Hotspur and Hwang Hee-chan of Wolver-

SOCCER

hampton Wanderers on the roster, South Korea's game at Singapore National Stadium is a 50,000-seat sellout.

Intensive training for junior volleyball team 'ahead' of the Arab & Asian Championships

By Khaled El Anzi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, June 5: In preparation for upcoming international competitions, including the Arab U-18 Championship in Jordan from July 1 to 13, and the 15th Asian Championship in Bahrain from July 26 to August 5, the Board of Directors of the Volleyball Association has approved a training plan for the junior national team. This plan is overseen by national coaches Khaled Al-Mutairi and his assistant Mishal Al-Sabti.

Nayef Al-Flekawi, Head of the Training and National Teams Committee, explained that the training plan is divided into two phases. The first phase, conducted locally, is an intensive program designed to enhance the players' physical fitness and technical and tactical skills in preparation for the Arab Championship. Following this, the team will attend an external training camp in

Turkey from July 15 to 26 before participating in the Asian Championship in Bahrain.

Al-Flekawi emphasized the Association's commitment to providing all necessary resources to ensure the national teams are well-prepared for international competitions.

Junior team coach Khaled Al-Mutairi confirmed that the techni-

VOLLEYBALL

cal staff is focused on preparing the players comprehensively for the upcoming Arab Championship. The initial emphasis is on improving physical fitness and technique, with the training program set to expand later in the month to include tactical aspects. This will help finalize the playing strategies and the main lineup for the Arab Championship.

Best of the Rest

Germans happy for Euros:

Nearly 32 percent of Germans expressed their excitement and happiness that the European Football Championship (EURO 2024) would be held in German stadiums, recent YouGov poll revealed.

According to the poll, 12 percent of respondents were "very concerned" about possible terrorist attacks, with 35 percent considering the potential threat "worrying." The poll added that 12 percent were "not at all concerned," 24 percent were "somewhat concerned," and 16 percent were guarded to reveal their opinion.

Regarding citizens' interest in the football tournament, the survey indicated that 46 percent were "not interested" in the tournament, 11 percent rejected it being held in their country, and 11 percent did not reveal their opinion on the event.

Regarding the concerns of possible terrorist attacks, nearly half of Germans fear possible terrorist attacks during Euro 2024 which would begin in nine days.

Speaking at a news conference on Tuesday, German Interior Minister Nancy Faeser said that German authorities have no indications of terrorist attacks, stressing that her country is "well prepared" to host the tournament.

This came at a time when preparations are underway for the tournament, which would begin on June 14 and end on July 14. (KUNA)

Kabak out of Euro 2024:

Turkey defender Ozan Kabak will miss the European Championship after tearing a cruciate ligament in his right knee in a friendly against Italy, the Turkish Football Association said on Wednesday.

Kabak was injured after challenging Italy forward Matteo Retegui for the ball shortly before halftime in the friendly, which finished 0-0.

The Turkish federation confirmed Kabak was out of its Euro 2024 squad and didn't name a replacement.

The 24-year-old former Liverpool defender plays in the Bundesliga for Hoffenheim, which said he would spend "many months" in recovery.

"This is an unbelievably bitter piece of news and a personal tragedy for Ozan," Hoffenheim managing director Alexander Rosen said in a statement, adding Kabak dreamed of playing for Turkey in Germany at Euro 2024. (AP)

Saudi Arabia need point in Pakistan to advance

South Koreans aim for a momentum shift in World Cup Asian qualifying

SINGAPORE, June 5, (AP): After a tough 2024 so far, Son Heung-min and his South Korea teammates can change momentum with a win over Singapore on Thursday that would be enough to secure a spot in the last round of World Cup Asian qualifying.

South Korea remains on course for its 11th successive World Cup appearance but is still without a permanent coach after Jurgen Klinsmann was fired in February following the team's disappointing performance at the Asian Cup.

Hwang Sun-hong, the initial interim coach, didn't get a permanent appointment after South Korea failed to secure qualification for the Olympics for the first time since 1984.

Now Kim Do-hoon is in charge for the games two games in six days against Singapore and China in Group C, with the South Koreans needing just one point to progress to the next stage.

"We will have to present our fans with the direction we want to take," Kim said. "And we must do it with our

Costa sends Gremio into Copa last 16

RIO DE JANEIRO, June 5, (Xinhua): A first-half goal from former Chelsea and Atletico Madrid striker Diego Costa fired Gremio to a 1-0 away win over Huachipato in their Copa Libertadores Group C clash on Tuesday.

Costa put the Brazilian side ahead in the sixth minute by nodding home at the far post after Franco Cristaldo's cross. The Chilean outfit dominated possession and had 18 shots on goal but were unable to find a way past Gremio's Argentine goalkeeper Agustin Marchesin.

The result guaranteed Gremio a place in the competition's last 16 while Huachipato were eliminated.

Gremio, who are working through a backlog of matches after their games were suspended for almost a month because of severe floods, will play

their final Copa Libertadores group game when they host Estudiantes on Saturday.

Bruno Gomes and **Lucas Alario** scored either side of halftime as Internacional claimed a 2-0 away win over **Real Tomayapo** in their Copa Sudamericana Group C clash on Tuesday.

Gomes put the visitors ahead just after the half-hour mark by blasting a shot into the top-right corner after **Hyoran Dalmoro's** cross.

Alario saw his tame penalty attempt saved by goalkeeper **Alex Arancibia** in the 88th minute but the Argentina made amends a minute later by sending a close-range header beyond Arancibia.



South Korea midfielder Ji Soyun (10) and United States defender Sam Staab (2) compete for possession of the ball during the first half of an international friendly soccer match in St. Paul, Minn. US won 3-0. (AP)

— See Page 14