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KUWAIT AMNESTY BENEFITS 35,000 EXPAT OFFENDERS Grace period departees may return

Residency law violators face deportation post-June 17

KUWAIT CITY, June 6: The Ministry of Interior said in a statement that about 35,000 residence law violators out of the 120,000 have benefited from the grace period granted by the Ministry of Interior, reports Al-Anba daily.

The amnesty which was issued in March ends on June 17. It has been reported that many have left the country while others have adjusted their status or have started the process.

The source added that those benefiting from the grace period until yesterday are either expatriates who left the country through the exits without paying the due fines, or expatriates who applied to residency affairs departments and transferred their residencies and paid the fines due on them, or expatriates who submitted travel documents allowing them to leave the country due to the expiration of their travel documents or not having these documents.

In a related context, the Ministry of Interior called on residency law violators to comply with the ministerial decision that allows them to leave the country without being questioned about the late fine from any of the country's exits, or to adjust their

Kuwait issues scam alert for chalet rentals

By Munif Nayef, Jaber Al-Hamoud, and Fares Al-Abdan

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, June 6: Citizens and residents were cautioned against unreliable websites for booking chalets during the summer vacation, as hundreds have fallen victim to fraudulent schemes involving fake reservations and payments.

Fraudsters are active on social media platforms like Instagram and TikTok, enticing victims with attractive prices lower than usual.

Security sources reveal that scammers exploit the summer holidays and Eid al-Adha to prey on people's eagerness for vacationing in chalets. Some create fake accounts and websites, luring victims with enticing offers before disappearing after receiving deposits or payments.

The Cybercrime Department has received numerous complaints related to fraudulent chalet reservations, with perpetrators being tracked down and legal action taken against them. Scammers often operate from abroad to evade prosecution.

Experts emphasize the importance of verifying rental sites and confirming chalet details before making any payments. Victims can file fraud cases and seek legal assistance to recover losses.

Dr. Safaa Zaman, President of the Information Security Association, warns that social engineering techniques are evolving, making fraud detection more challenging. The spread of advanced technologies further facilitates fraud operations, emphasizing the need for legislation to regulate technology use.

Specialist Qusai Al-Shatti advises verifying advertisements and the authenticity of rental entities or brokers. Families are urged to exercise caution and report suspicious activities to security authorities to avoid falling victim to scams.

Fraud carries penalties of imprisonment and fines, with civil compensation lawsuits available for victims. Lawyer Inaam Haider stresses the importance of legal recourse for recovering embezzled amounts and damages.

As fraud methods become increasingly sophisticated, public awareness and legislative measures are crucial for combating cybercrime and protecting individuals from financial losses.



Photo by Rizalde Cayanan, courtesy of Dar al-Athar al-Islamiyyah
The unique 'Video Game Music Concert' featuring Faisal Al-Busairi (left) and the world-renowned pianist Tony Yang (right) took place at Yarmouk Cultural Centre. The event showcased video game music specifically composed for piano, marking a first in the genre. Tony Yang, the youngest laureate in

the history of Chopin's international piano competition, enthralled the audience with his exceptional performance

KUNA photo

Towering buildings dominate the Kuwait skyline under scorching Thursday daytime temperatures, peaking between 47 and 49 degrees Celsius.

humid air mass along with northwesterly winds

that will shift to light to moderate southeasterly

be very hot, with light to moderate northwesterly to variable winds at speeds between 8 and 38

kilometers per hour. Maximum temperatures are

expected to range between 47 and 49 degrees Celsius, and the sea will be light to moderate

Al-Qarawi added that Thursday's weather will

Newswatch

KUWAIT CITY: His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah received a phone call from Jordan's Heir Apparent Prince Al-Hussein bin Abdullah II who expressed heartfelt congratulations on His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's Order designating him to the post.

The Jordanian Heir Apparent wished His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad lasting good health and further development, progress and prosperity for the State of Kuwait and its brotherly people, in the shadow of the sagacious leadership of His Highness the

His Highness the Crown Prince expressed gratitude to Prince Al-Hussein for the gracious gesture, the true brotherly sentiments that depict the depth of the relations between the two brotherly countries. He also wished him life-long good health and well-being, progress and promotion for the brotherly Jordanian people under the wise leadership of the Jordanian King Abdullah II. (KUNA)

□ □ □ T CITY· Amiri

KUWAIT CITY: Amiri Diwan advisor **Sheikh Faisal Humoud Al-Sabah** has said that the political leadership was keen on empowering youth who were considered a national wealth and the foundation for the advancement of societies.

Sheikh Faisal, in a statement marking the 3rd Gulf Youth Day, said celebrating the Gulf Youth Day reflected the desire of the GCC leaders to invest in the potentials of the youth. (KUNA)

Social media role in crisis mitigation 'vital': Al-Ajmi

The Meteorological Department has predicted

that the country's weather over the weekend

will be humid and extremely hot during the day,

and hot to very hot at night. Director of the Me-

teorological Department, Abdulaziz Al-Qarawi,

informed the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) that

weather maps and numerical models indicate

that the country will be influenced by the exten-

sion of the Indian monsoon, bringing a hot and

KUWAIT CITY, June 6, (KUNA): Social media platforms play an important role in mitigating and managing crises, said a Kuwaiti academic on Thursday.

Speaking to KUNA at the conclusion of the KUNA Center for the Development of Media Skills' training course on managing media crises via social media, Professor at Kuwait University Dr. Fawaz Al-Ajmi indicated that the direct line to the wider audiences made social media such an important communication tool.

Administrators and experts at various institutes must be aware of how to deal with media crises and

speak to the public through social media platforms to avoid mishaps, he affirmed.

Kuwait sizzles as weather brings sweltering humidity

In regards to the program, which began on June 2, Dr. Al-Ajmi revealed that it dealt with several stages of media crises, including false advertisement and manipulation, which required tools that would enable media personnel to refute and defuse.

Established in December 1995, the KUNA Center for the Development of Media Skills had provided many training courses and programs to boost media personnel's skills and elevate journalists' capabilities.

Ministry of Health unveils Travelers' Clinic, interactive map for Kuwaitis

with waves between 2 and 5 feet.

He stated that weather in the evening will be

hot to very hot and humid, with varying winds

turning northwesterly, light to moderate, at

speeds between 8 and 28 kilometers per hour.

The minimum temperature is expected to be be-

tween 28 and 31 degrees Celsius, and the sea

Continued on Page 5

By Marwa Al-Bahrawi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, June 6: Minister of Health Dr. Ahmed Al-Awadhi revealed that his ministry is working on three tracks to complete the 100-day plan; the first of these tracks is related to digital health and the electronic file aimed at easing the burdens of citizens and to move from paper to electronic system, while the second track is related to the opening of health facilities like dispensaries, hospitals and specialized centers.

In a press statement on the side-

lines of the inauguration of the travelers' clinics at Al-Raqi Health Center, Al-Awadhi confirmed this is part of the ministry's commitment to guarantee the health and safety of community members. He also affirmed the inauguration of six travelers' clin-

ics in various governorates.

He stated that the third track is related to public health, specifically improving the health of the individual and the family. He disclosed this is part of the societal health, pointing out that the ministry is keen on

Continued on Page 5

status and benefit from the specified grace period, which ends on the 17th of this month.

It pointed out that those wishing to amend their residency status and are listed under security surveillance (arrested for residency expiration, visa expiration, or absconding) must visit the various residency affairs departments in all governorates during the morning period after meeting the necessary conditions. The following are accepted:

-- Violators whose residency or visa has expired and wish to renew or issue a residency permit must go with their sponsor to the residency affairs department and pay the due fine, then complete the procedures.

-- In case of domestic workers, those wishing to transfer their residency to another sponsor must have both the old and new sponsors present along with the domestic worker and complete the transfer and waiver procedures after paying the due fine.
-- A violator holding Article 18

Labor Department and complete the procedures, then visit the residency affairs department.

-- Residents holding Article 22 (joining family) and wishing to renew their children's residency must

residency (companies) must visit the

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Strike kills 30

Kuwait denounces Israeli provocation

KUWAIT CITY, June 6, (Agencies): Kuwait's Ministry of Foreign Affairs strongly condemned the provocative march led by Israeli occupation's government, Knesset members, and a number of settlers in Jerusalem, violating the sanctity of the Holy Mosque and assaulting Palestinians.

In a statement on Thursday, the Ministry denounced such horrendous act that undermines the two-state solution and promotes a culture of hatred and violence.

The statement renewed the call to the international community and the UN Security Council to take responsibility and execute resolutions on stopping those violations, hold those responsible accountable, and protect civilians.

It further reaffirmed Kuwait's unwavering stance by the Palestinian people and their right to an independent state with East Jerusalem as its capital.

Meanwhile, the State of Kuwait's

Meanwhile, the State of Kuwait's support to the just Palestinian cause is firm and unwavering, said a Kuwaiti diplomat to an international conference on Thursday.

Speaking to the 112nd the International Labor Organization's (ILO) conference, Kuwait's Permanent Representative to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva Ambassador Naser Al-Hayen told a special session on labor in occupied Arab lands that the current disastrous situation in the Gaza Strip should be addressed promptly to avoid further bloodshed.

The forced displacement of millions of Palestinians is heinous crime, which the Israeli occupation was solely responsible of, affirmed the Kuwaiti diplomat who did not fail to mention the apocalyptic scenes of destroyed infrastructures throughout Gaza.

Continued on Page 5



POSING as the ruler of Syria and claiming to have control of all intelligence and security agencies, a Syrian man managed to deceive some citizens of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries with promises of large sums of money.

He masterminded elaborate charades, such as phoning his driver to arrange transportation and pretending to engage in conversations with notable figures in Syria, such as the Syrian President or the Head of Syrian Intelligence.

However, his ruse came to an end when he was apprehended in a Gulf country and charged with having ties to terrorist organiza-

We have his name and address and are willing to share it. It is our hope that his country will wake up and hold him accountable for defending accountable.

frauding several Gulf citizens. ... Yet tomorrow is another day.

Zahed Matar

Expected weather for next 24 hrs: By Day: Very hot and humid with light variable wind to light to moderate southeasterly wind, with speeds of 08-32 km/h and some scattered clouds will ap-

By Night: Hot to rather hot and relatively humid over coastal areas with light variable wind to light to moderate northwesterly wind, with speeds of 08-28 km/h.

Weather

Station **Max Exp** Min Rec Kuwait City **Kuwait Airport** Jahra Salmiyah Nuwaisib Wafra

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

Sheikh Sabah Khaled receives congratulations from Jordan Heir Apparent, Egypt PM

Experts optimistic as new Crown Prince pledges economic prosperity

KUWAIT CITY, June 6: Experts and economists continue to extend their congratulations to His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Sabah for gaining the confidence of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishaal Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, as they expressed their optimism about the country's economic and development future, reports Al-Qabas daily.

They stressed that His Highness the Crown Prince has great experience as a result of his holding many leadership positions, and that he is fully aware of what the country needs, especially in terms of economic prosperity, launching development projects, diversifying sources of income, and supporting the private sector, so that the country returns to its former era at the forefront of countries in the re-

They added that the Crown Prince's personality is an influ-

ential leader who has a rich legacy at the three levels (political, diplomatic and economic), and that the financial, investment and economic circles are very optimistic about this choice, as His Highness has a career full of national Sh Sabah Khaled achievements, which



he gained from his leadership of many economic and investment files, and his overcoming many challenges

During his career, this will greatly advance the country's development efforts and enhance economic prosperity and well-being, in light of the local, regional and international transformations.

Congratulate

Chairman of the Board of Directors of Salhia Real Estate Company, Ghazi Al-Nafisi, said: I congratulate His Highness Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah on his recommendation as Crown Prince, by His Highness Prince Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah. All Kuwaitis are happy on this day, and it is a successful

He stressed that the love of the peo-ple of Kuwait for His Highness is clear, and he wished His Highness and Kuwait a bright future and more achievements, asking God to grant him good health and wellness

For his part, Talal Behbehani, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the National Bank of Kuwait Group, congratulated His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Sabah for gaining the confidence of His Highness the Amir and his appointment as Crown Prince, expressing his confidence in the achievements that will be achieved in various sectors, especially finance and banking, in the coming period.

He said: The banking sector and the business community are confident of the prosperity of economic activity in Kuwait and the launch of many development projects that will lead to Kuwait returning to its previous position at the forefront of the Gulf Cooperation Council countries in terms of all development indicators.

Confidence

For his part, the Chairman of the Board of Directors and CEO of the Coast Development and Investment Company, Asaad Ahmed Al-Banwan, said: We congratulate the high confidence of His Highness the Amir of the country, Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad, in recommending Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled as Crown Prince, as he is a wise choice and the best support and support for the Emir of the country, as His Highness has a rich balance of experience at the level. Political and economic, he is a statesman, as his extensive diplomatic, political and economic career attests to him.

He added: His Highness the Crown Prince is known for his wisdom, patience, gentle manners, high behavior, integrity and dedication. He is an influential leadership figure who has a rich legacy at the "political, diplomatic and economic" lev-

He stressed that the financial, investment and economic circles feel very optimistic about this choice, as His Highness the Crown Prince has a career full of national achievements, which he gained from his leadership of many economic and investment files, and his overcoming many challenges during his career, which will greatly advance the country's development efforts and enhance economic prosperity and well-being. In light of the local, regional and international transfor-

He pointed out that during the period of His Highness's presidency of the Council of Ministers, he demonstrated his ability and wisdom in dealing with challenges and managing crises, including the Corona pandemic file, as the decisions at the time contributed to alleviating its economic and social repercussions.

Achievements

He added, His Highness had notable achievements in developing the digital infrastructure in the country. His Highness's efforts are clear in transforming the digital landscape in the country during this period, by launching many technological applications that facilitated government transactions and services.

Al-Banwan stated that the private sector is expected to play a broader role in the next stage in light of His Highness the Amir's encouragement to diversify the economy and sources of income, and to direct national resources, and the insightful vision of His Highness the Crown

HH the Amir congratulates Sweden's King on Nat'l Day

KUWAIT CITY, June 6, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a congratulatory cable to King of Sweden Carl XVI Gustaf on his country's National Day on Thursday, wishing him a long healthy life and more prosperity for Sweden and its friendly people.

Meanwhile, His Highness

the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah sent a congratulatory cable to King Carl XVI Gustaf on his country's National Day, wishing him a long healthy life and more prosperity for friendly

Also, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah sent a congratulatory cable to King Carl XVI Gustaf on country's National Day on Thursday.

Prince will support sustainable development efforts, and an extension of the path of goodness and construction.

Chairman of the Board of Directors of the International Financial Advisory Holding Company (IFA), Saleh Al-Sulami, said: We congratulate His Highness the Amir and Kuwait on this choice, which has warmed the hearts of all the people of Kuwait, due to His Highness's knowledge, morals, knowledge and humility. This choice only indicates that His Highness the Amir He put the people of Kuwait before his eyes in every matter, present and future.

He pointed out that through His Highness's technocratic handling of the various issues that were in his hands when he was Prime Minister, in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and in the rest of the positions he held, we can be certain that thinking about the future will be better than it was before his recommendation for this position.

President of the Asian Shooting Confederation Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah congratulated His Highness Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah on being appointed as Crown Prince.

In a statement on Thursday, Sheikh Salman; also the honorary president of the Kuwait Shooting Club, said that His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled is a top supporter of sports in Kuwait, especially shooting

His Highness the Crown Prince also supported the Kuwait-based Confederation throughout the different positions he had served, allowing the shooting sport to develop in the country and compete on an international level.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad on Wednesday received a phone call from Jordan's Heir Apparent Prince Al-Hussein bin Abdullah II who expressed heartfelt congratulations on His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's order designating him to the post.

The Jordanian Heir Apparent wished His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad lasting good health and further development, progress and prosperity for the State of Kuwait and its brotherly people, in the shadow of the sagacious leadership of His Highness the

His Highness the Crown Prince expressed gratitude to Prince Al-Hussein for the gracious gesture, the true brotherly sentiments that depict the depth of the relations between the two brotherly countries. He also wished him life-long good health and well-being, progress and promotion for the brotherly Jordanian people under the wise leadership of the Jordanian Monarch Abdullah II.

Kuwait's Crown Prince His Highness Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad on Thursday was congratulated over a phone call by Egypt's Prime Minister Mostafa Madbouly, who wished him every success as he assumes his new role.

His Highness the Crown Prince thanked the Egyptian prime minister for the gracious gesture, saying it was a testament to the camaraderie between Kuwait and Cairo.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad has received a phone call from Chair of the African Union Commission Mousa Faki Mahamat, expressing heartfelt congratulations on the Order by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, appointing him as the Crown

He wished His Highness the Crown Prince lasting good health, further development, progress and prosperity for the State of Kuwait, the Government and the people of the country, under the sagacious leadership of His Highness the Amir.

His Highness the Crown Prince expressed gratitude to the head of the African Commission for the gracious overture and the sincere sentiments and wished him lasting good health and welfare.

'Kuwait keen to boost women's role in peace & security issues'

Training course held on 'mediation & protecting refugee rights'

CAIRO, June (KUNA): **Assistant** Foreign Minister for **Human Rights Affairs** Sheikha Jawaher Ibrahim Duaij Al-Sabah affirmed Wednesday Kuwait's keenness on allowing women to play greater role in peace and security issues as well as in the decision-making process.

Speaking to KUNA after her participation in a training course on "mediation and protecting refugee rights" in Cairo on June 3-4, Sheikha Jawaher said that her country has recently formed a national committee to implement the UN Security Council Resolution No. 1325 of 2000 on women, peace, and security.

The UN resolution acknowledged the disproportionate and unique impact of armed conflict on women and girls.

Perspective

It calls for the adoption of a gender perspective to consider the special needs of women and girls during conflict, repatriation and resettlement, rehabilitation, reintegration, and post-conflict recon-

Sheikha Jawaher also commended the Arab League efforts to help Arab women play an active role in mediation.

The two-day course was organized by the Arab League in collaboration with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the UN Women Regional Office of Arab States for members of the Arab Women Mediators Network.

Sheikha Jawaher said that this training course aimed to enhance the capabilities of members of the Arab Women Mediators Network on mediation and protecting the rights of refugees and to shed light on the current challenges facing the

Displacement is one of the major repercussions of conflicts and the number of refugees have increased recently, she stated, adding that the majority of refugees are women and children.

Field work to tackle existing problems in **Mubarakiya Market**

KUWAIT CITY, June 6: Governor of the Capital Governorate Sheikh Abdullah Salem Al-Ali said the joint committee, whose members are from the governorate and Volunteer Work Center, will soon start its field work to find plausible solutions to the problems in Mubarakiya Market, in cooperation with the concerned government agencies, and then submit reports on the developments, work and achievements in this regard, reports Al-Anba

The minister's announcement is included in a press statement issued by the Capital Governorate after the first meeting of the joint committee in the presence of the governor, Head of the Volunteer Work Center Sheikha Amthal Al-Ahmad and representatives of a number of concerned government

Sheikh Abdullah Salem Al-Ali added that the meeting was the result of the inspection tour conducted by the committee last week; during which many obstacles were reviewed in terms of public cleanliness and development of facilities and services, while preserving the heritage and aesthetic value of such a vital area.

Meanwhile, Sheikha Amthal Al-Ahmad stressed the importance of finding radical solutions to the problems in Mubarakiya; not just the issuance of violation citations related to food establishments and restaurants through the coordinated efforts of all concerned govern-



Assistant FM for Human Rights Affairs Sheikha Jawaher Ibrahim Duaij Al-Sabah during the training course on 'mediation and protecting refugee rights'



Sheikh Jarrah Jaber chairs the consulate and diplomatic corps' meeting.

KUNA photo

Deputy FM chairs consulate, diplomatic meeting

Deputy Foreign Minister Ambassador Sheikh meeting, during which items on the agenda were Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah chaired on Thursday a consulate and diplomatic corps

discussed, according to a ministry statement.

130 violating properties discovered

Municipality's 'Home of a lifetime without any violation' campaign gains momentum

KUWAIT CITY, June 6: Kuwait Municipality has confirmed the continuation of its campaign to inspect residential and commercial properties under construction to ensure strict compliance with the regulations, mechanisms and license purposes, reports Al-Rai

Inspectors from the Municipality branch in Mubarak Al-Kabeer Governorate recently checked private housing areas to uncover building regulation violations and to guide citizens who own plots where construction works are ongoing through the 'Home of a Lifetime without Violations' cam-

Building supervisor at the branch Eng. Mohammad Al-Marri disclosed that as per the directives of Director General of the Municipality Eng. Saud Al-Dubous, the abovementioned campaign has been launched in all governorates. He explained this campaign has several aspects like educating citizens, monitoring violations, issuing warnings and taking legal action against violators.

Responsibility

"Through this campaign, we inform citizens that the responsibility falls on the shoulders of the owner of the plot, the engineering office and the contractor in all stages of the construction work. The engineering office supervises the project and the contractor implements it; so the latter shoulders the largest part of the responsibility once violations are found in the property that is under construction," Al-Marri elaborate. He underscored the need for all

parties involved in the construction process to refrain from violating the license purposes and construction plans approved by the Municipality. He said the most common violations uncovered in under construction properties include expansion of the construction site; that is, beyond the licensed area. He warned this violation could lead to the suspension of the construction work, stressing that the engineering office supervising

3,599 companies without HQs established during 5 months

KUWAIT CITY, June 6: According to reports issued by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, a total of 3,599 companies without headquarters have been established in Kuwait during the period from October 2023 to the end of March 2024, reports Al-Anba daily.

Such companies do not require workers other than the owner to do the job. They also do not need shops or the approval of the concerned authorities. These companies enjoy the exemptions from the conditions included in the executive regulations of the law for granting licenses to commercial shops.

According to the records of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, the number of transactions of this special kind of companies was 884 in the last quarter of 2023, which reduced by 21 percent during the first quarter of 2024.

The records showed that a total of 1,051 nano companies were established from October 2023 to the end of March 2024. The number of nano com-

panies established in the first quarter of 2024 was 27 percent lesser than the number of companies established in the last quarter of 2023.

Regarding mobile groceries, there are no new records, as they have been suspended since 2021 until the necessary regulations are set.

the project and the contractor will be suspended as well. He added the violation report is submitted to the Legal Department to take the necessary action.

He pointed out that "before this campaign, citizens were educated through publications and advertisements on the importance of adhering to building regulations and approved license purposes to avoid delays in the construction of their properties.

Warnings

In addition, acting Director of the Violations Department in the branch Matar Al-Marabi told Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) that the inspection team has discovered more than 130 violating properties since the beginning of the year. He revealed some of the owners of these properties received warnings, while violation reports were written for others.

He said the campaign targeted properties under construction in Funaitees, where a number of violations were uncovered such as the construction of additional floors not registered in the license. He affirmed these construction works have been suspended, warnings were issued to the owners of the properties and they were instructed to visit the Municipality to correct the violations prior to the registration of a violation report. He stated that based on the Mu-

nicipality's instructions and regulations, the Audit and Violations Monitoring and Management Team conducts field campaigns periodically to uncover violations and warn violators. He added the campaign aims to educate citizens about the importance of adhering to the regulations and the security and safety procedures in construction works; as well as ensuring that the building conforms to the specifications stated in the licenses issued by the Municipality like the number of floors, the need to construct only in the designated areas and to refrain from encroaching on State properties or disturbing the neighbors.

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A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

'Urgent need to safeguard personal info in digital age'

"GIVEN the remarkable advancements in modern technology, the digital data, particularly personal data, has become indispensable," Dr. Dhari Adel Al-Huwail wrote for Al-Qabas daily.

"It facilitates transactions and services across various sectors, from corporate entities to individual users.

"However, this wealth of data also attracts exploitation, ranging from large corporations to individual

hackers. As the volume and diversity data collection grow, so does urgency the to safeguard it against misuse and unlawful exploitation. "Consider

alone,



Dr Al-Huwail

world collectively spent over 12.5 trillion hours online. What sites were visited? How much personal information was willingly shared for services or purchases? In essence, we possess a digital treasure trove.

"Hence, it's imperative to protect this data through prudent legislative frameworks that balance privacy concerns with fostering innovation and supporting the digital economy.

"Personal data theft stands out as a prevalent privacy violation, even in Kuwait, encompassing names, addresses, phone numbers, and civil IDs.

"This pilfered data often fuels illegal activities like fraud or identity theft, a reality supported by ample evidence. The onus of safeguarding personal data lies on all stakeholders, from individuals cautious about online sharing to governments enacting protective laws, and organizations implementing best practices in data

"Given the escalating threat of data breaches and illicit exploitation, nations worldwide recognize the need for stringent controls and legislation.

"Over 120 countries have already implemented data protection laws to shield their citizens and their data. These laws encompass privacy safeguards, regulating data collection, usage, and storage, alongside measures combating cyber-crime and enforcing data security standards.

Kuwait stands as a front runner in this arena, exemplified by Law No. 20 of 2014 on electronic transactions, featuring a dedicated chapter on "Privacy and Data Protection.'

"However, merely enacting legislation isn't sufficient: strict enforcement is imperative. The commendable efforts of institutions like the National Cybersecurity Center and the Communications and Information Technology Commission are lauda-

ble but require further reinforcement. "It's crucial to educate individuals about the risks of personal data theft and how to mitigate them while imposing stricter penalties on those exploiting personal data.

"By implementing rigorous controls and legislation, ensuring their vigilant enforcement, and fostering public awareness, we can uphold personal data security and preserve privacy in the digital era. Data protection is a collective responsibility."

Also:

"His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad, under divine protection, embodies exceptional wisdom, foresight, and a forward-thinking approach," Dr Muhammad Al-Muqata wrote for Al-Jarida daily.

"Since ascending to the position of Crown Prince in October 2021, his leadership has been marked by sagacity, knowledge, and a vision for the future.

"He has ushered in a new era, emphasizing course correction through serious reforms, efficient appointments, diligent oversight, and ac-countability, thereby fostering a transformative developmental journey for the nation.

"From the outset, His Highness demonstrated remarkable leadership qualities, swiftly steering Kuwait towards unprecedented progress.

"His historic address on June 22, 2022, signaled a departure from past conflicts and electoral boycotts, fostering national unity and optimism. This speech laid the groundwork for anticipated political reforms, which garnered widespread support and enthusiasm.

"Subsequent addresses, notably his opening speech to the National Assembly in June 2023 and his crowning speech on December 20, 2023, further underscored his commitment to reform and adherence to constitutional principles.

"His Highness consistently emphasized the importance of preserving constitutional norms and safeguarding national identity, denouncing any attempts to undermine Kuwaiti nationality. His unwavering dedication to upholding the integrity of the state and its fundamental principles has been evident throughout his tenure.

"The recent historic decision to recommend His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled as Crown Prince reflects His Highness's astute leadership.

"This recommendation, met with widespread jubilation and support, signifies a shift towards merit-based succession rather than adhering solely to traditional conventions.

"By adhering to constitutional frameworks and ensuring peaceful succession within the lineage of Sheikh Mubarak, Kuwait sets an example of constitutional governance.

"This visionary approach to leadership will undoubtedly yield positive outcomes, setting a precedent for emulation across all state institutions. His Highness's discernment in selecting a capable Crown Prince and the unified support garnered from the populace exemplify his leadership prowess and commitment to national



"Fatwa of the Endowments ... The Fatwa Authority at the Ministry of Endowments issued a fatwa stating that mosques were not built to promote goods; hence, it is not permissible to use them for advertising, and that they must be kept clear of these matters!" columnist Talal Al-Saeed wrote for Al-Seyassah daily.

"This came from the mouth of the Endowments, stating such act is condemned. We raise some important questions: Is it permissible to promote extremist, ISIS and Muslim Brotherhood ideologies in mosques? What did the ministry do to combat these ideologies? Did it spread moderation and encourage the rejection of extremism?

'When a company places a water cooler at the mosque, this is beneficial and not harmful even if it puts its name on the cooler, or another company donates air conditioning for the benefit of the worshipers. What is wrong with that?

"The real danger is when the Jazeera Lions Cell, whose idea was born and grew in one of the oasis' mosques, emerges and begins to carry out its terrorist activity and tries by force to impose its ideology. Yet, the ministry does not care!

"When ISIS tries to bomb a mosque in Sulaibiya, the ministry does nothing, and there are countless other incidents. Where is their fatwa?

"To put it bluntly, the ideology of the Muslim Brotherhood controls the ministry. It plants its followers in every mosque. It vigorously fights against moderation and the ideology that rejects extremism. It tries to confine moderation inside a small square, curbs its spread and tries to thwart efforts to promote the ideology, while the responsible parties turn a blind eye to them and leave them alone. Advocates of mediocrity fall prey to them.

"Now, a certain fatwa from the ministry is an urgent requirement. Is it permissible to pray for those who have normalized relations with Israel in our mosques on the occasion of praying for Gaza? Is it permissible to pray for the Jewish usurpers, while knowing some from the Gulf states have normalized relations with Israel, whose affairs we are very concerned about and which we do not approve

"However, it is the extremist ideology that Hassan Al-Banna's descendants are trying to impose on our mosques as per the instruction of the international organization of the Brotherhood, not the instruction of the ministry!

"They say that mosques were not built for propaganda and they should be kept away from all that.

"Gentlemen, honorable people, our mosques have been hijacked, and the ministry must rise up to liberate them. As a reminder, Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled took over them for months. He was able to bring about real change, but they returned to what they were after he left them. We pray behind them and we believe in their prayers for us ... Good.'

— Compiled by PFX Fernandes & Mahmoud Ateyieh

7-year jail sentence with hard labor against ex-minister, others upheld

Court upholds imam's life imprisonment in molestation case

By Jaber Al-Hamoud, Munif Naif

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff and Agencies

KUWAIT CITY, June 6: The Court of Cassation has rejected the appeal of former minister Mubarak Al-Aro and upheld the ruling of a lower court that sentenced him and other individuals to seven years in prison with hard labor for obtaining kickbacks by signing a contract with a company; while one defendant was acquitted, reports Al-Sevassah daily.

The Permanent Investigation Committee for the Prosecution of Ministers was assigned to four defendants, including the former minister, who claimed to be part of the ministry in order to obtain kickbacks by signing a contract with a local company.

The committee said the former minister and another defendant concluded and signed the contract without presenting it to the Legal Advice and Legislation Department, State Audit Bureau (SAB) and Central Agency for Public Tenders (CAPT) for approval.

As per the contract, the company will establish a comprehensive central system for managing resources using artificial intelligence (AI) in cooperative societies affiliated with the Union of Consumers Cooperative Societies for a period of 10 years.

This was in exchange for KD10 annually for each item supplied to the cooperative, with the Ministry of Social Affairs and the Union being obligated to ensure that the cooperative societies implement the terms of the contract, and that the contract is not subject to cancellation.

Fugitive Al-Khalidi gets 5-yr jail: The Criminal Court sentenced the fugitive Salman Al-Khalidi to five-

for defaming the Amir. The Criminal Court also has set the session of June 27 to issue a

year imprisonment with hard labor

ruling on the State Security case filed against blogger Neron.

Ruling set for June 27: The

Court of Cassation, presided over by Judge Saleh Al-Muraishid, adjourned to June 27 the pronouncement of ruling in the "Malaysian Fund" case filed against a ruling family member, his



Al-Muraishid

family ing member, his partner and the two expatriates to ten-year imprisonment and the lawyer to seven-year imprisonment, obligated them to return \$1 billion, and fined them jointly KD 145 million, which is equivalent to half a billion dollars.

The

the

rul-

Imam gets life imprisonment:

The Court of Cassation upheld the verdict issued by a lower court which sentenced an Arab expatriate who works as an Imam in a mosque to life imprisonment for sexually assaulting a child.

In accordance with the Penal Code and the Child Protection Law, the Public Prosecution had charged him with luring a child to the mosque, molesting him, and abusing him psychologically and physically.

Ex-minister referred to CoM:

The Permanent Investigation Committee for the Prosecution of Ministers, headed by Judge Omar Al-Masoud with Judges Saud Al-Sanea and Ahmed Al-Muqlad as members, referred former defense minister Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah to the Court of Ministers (CoM) after investigating him on charges of contracting spy devices and uncovering the seizure of public funds through the contract.

Ex-lawmaker gets 6 months: The Criminal Court sentenced a former lawmaker to six months in prison with hard labor for insulting the judiciary.

The court also imposed KD150 fine on a local television channel broadcaster

The two defendants were referred for trial when the former MP uttered statements deemed offensive to the judicial authority and questioned the integrity of the judges during a television interview with the broadcaster.

Right to irrevocable divorce: The Court of Appeals upheld the ruling of a lower court that granted irrevocable divorce to a woman and obligated her to complete the waiting period once the ruling is

According to the case files, the woman's lawyer -- Attorney Mohammad Safar -- based his argument on the fact that his client got married to the defendant under a marriage contract and she gave birth to their children. However, the defendant mistreated her and her family, so she could not continue living with him in this manner.

She previously filed a divorce lawsuit on grounds that the husband harmed her and the court responded to it; but upon appeal, she reconciled with the husband. She asked for divorce after causing her harm once again; hence, it is no longer possible for them to live together.

She is afraid that she will not fulfill her marital duties, and that she will offer to return to him the entire dowry he paid in exchange for him divorcing her in accordance with the Personal Status Law.

Safar clarified that the legislature approved the divorce system to prevent harm and relieve the embarrassment of both parties to the marital relationship, as it allowed married couples to divorce by mutual consent.

If they do not agree, the wife has the right to divorce if she gives up all of her legal financial rights including the dowry, completes the waiting period and immediately returns the dowry paid to her. This is in addition to her admission that she hates life with her husband and that there is no way for life to continue between them. If the husband does not agree,

the court will try to reconcile the spouses and then appoint two arbitrators to follow up. If reconciliation is not achieved and the two arbitrators also fail to do so, the court verifies if the wife returned the dowry after checking her declarations and then grants the divorce.

Ex-board referred to Nazaha: Minister of Social, Family and Childhood Affairs and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Dr. Amthal Al-Huwaila has referred the former board of directors of a cooperative society in Jahra Governorate to Kuwait Anti-Corruption Authority (Nazaha) for committing violations in accordance with the recommendation of the Investigation and Audit Committee that looked into the work and accounts of this cooperative.

Sources informed the daily that is the first decision taken by Al-Huwaila in terms of holding accountable the violating cooperative societies based on the reports of the concerned committees.

Sources said the minister took this decision in view of the grave financial and administrative violations committed by the former board of directors of the abovementioned cooperative. Sources added the minister assured those in charge of the committees that she will not hesitate to hold accountable any violating party and to use an iron fist in dealing with anyone who dares tamper with shareholders' funds.

Ex-MP detained: The Criminal Court decided to detain former MP Hamad Al-Olayan on charges of challenging the powers of His Highness the Amir. The trial session has been set for June 13 to pronounce the ruling. Al-Olayan was charged with

challenging the powers of His Highness the Amir, and defaming him on social media. During the court session, Al-

Olayan denied the charges leveled against him.

Asian's vehicle stolen: An Asian expatriate has filed a case against an unknown person who stole his vehicle in Mutlaa.

According to a security source, the Asian man informed police officers about the theft of his Japanese-made vehicle in Mutlaa, and provided them with its description and data.

Investigations have launched to find the vehicle and arrest the thief.

Al-Nawaf leads police affairs meeting

Al-Muzain praises proficiency, advanced capabilities of officers

KUWAIT CITY, June 6: Lieutenant General Pilot Bandar Al-Muzain, Chief of the General Staff of the Army, expressed his satisfaction with the proficiency and advanced capabilities demonstrated by officers undergoing training in planning and executing joint military operations, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

This commendation came during a press statement issued by the Ministry of Defense following Lieutenant General Al-Muzain's visit to the Mubarak Al-Abdullah Joint Command and Staff College, where he attended the conclusion of Command and Staff Course No. 28's final joint exercise.

During his visit, Al-Muzain received a comprehensive overview of the exercise's phases, observing the student officers' execution of joint operations plans and the utilization of specialized technological resources in simulated combat scenarios.

These exercises directly contribute to enhancing the Kuwaiti Army's combat doctrine for application in real-world joint operations. Al-Muzain also lauded the efforts of the edu-

cational and administrative staff at Mubarak Al Abdullah College, highlighting their dedication to curriculum development aimed at enhancing the educational process and preparing commanding officers for their roles effectively.

Additionally, Al-Muzain was briefed on the proceedings of the joint final exercise, which saw participation from officers of the Kuwaiti Army, Ministry of Interior, National Guard, as well as counterparts from brotherly and friendly nations.

Meanwhile, ground forces commenced activities for the "Desert Panthers 3" leadership

exercise in Qatar, running from June 4 to 13. The exercise, featuring participation from Ku-

waiti, Qatari, and American forces, aims to bolster joint training, planning, command and control operations, and unify operational concepts through collaborative efforts among allied nations.

Meanwhile, Lieutenant General Sheikh Salem Al-Nawaf, the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Interior, presided over a gathering of the General Committee for Police Affairs, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Accompanied by Assistant Undersecretaries of the Ministry of Interior, the meeting delved into various agenda items, recent developments, and potential solutions. Decisive measures and recommendations were formulated to address the matters at hand, ensuring effective response and resolution.

'Municipality keen to dismantle all encroachments on govt land'

KUWAIT CITY, June 6: Engineer Majid Al-Mutairi, the head of the Violations Removal Department at the Al-Ahmadi Governorate Municipality Branch, announced the removal of three encroachments on state property -- awnings, in the Mahboula area, reports Al-Jarida daily.

Al-Mutairi stated in a press release that these actions were carried out during field tours conducted by the supervisory team, under the direct supervision and followup of the branch director, Saad Al-Shaiba, in Al-Ahmadi Governorate.

The Public Relations Department of the Kuwait Municipality said inspection teams across all municipal branches in the governorates will keep an eye on encroachments on

This initiative is being implemented under the directives of the Director General of the Kuwait Municipality, Engineer Saud Al-Dabbous. The municipality reaffirmed its commitment to conducting field tours and urged violators of regulations to prompt-

ly comply with removal orders to avoid legal penalties.

'30K positions vacant in 21 state institutions for 3 yrs'

KUWAIT CITY, June 6: According to a survey conducted by Al-Shahed daily, there are 30,000 positions that have been vacant in 21 state institutions for almost three years.

The survey revealed that a number of ministries are not committed to the Kuwaitization policy, as they renew contracts with expatriate workers. In some cases, such contracts are terminated only to be replaced by contracts signed with new expatriate workers. They also sign contracts with contractors who provide expatriate workers.

The survey also revealed that 12 public institutions have 600 vacancies each. Based on the data obtained from these institutions, the Ministry of Education constitutes 49 percent of all the vacancies, followed by the Public Institution for Social Security in second place with 180 vacancies. The Ministry of Finance justified the vacancies in the ministry by claiming that the vacant positions do not attract Kuwaiti



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Resident detained for interrogation outlined the charges against the individual.

KUWAIT CITY, June 6: The Public Prosecution has issued a detention order for a resident accused of several serious charges, including joining and advocating for a banned group, engaging in hostile acts against a foreign country, illegal training in explosives manufacturing and usage, and undermining the authority of the emirate, reports Al-Qabas daily.

In a press statement released through its official channels, the Public Prosecution

Following interrogation, the accused admitted to the charges brought against him. Investigation procedures are currently underway to further address the matter and gather additional evidence.

This development underscores the commitment of the Public Prosecution to uphold the law and ensure accountability for individuals involved in activities that threaten public safety and security.

Spanish Ambassador highlights intersection of culture and science

Scientific Center inaugurates 'Age of Glass' exhibition



His Excellency, the Spanish Ambassador Miguel Moro Aguilar during the inauguration of the 'Age of Glass' exhibition.

Significant development underway

Digital transformation in the Arab world enhances economic growth

KUWAIT CITY, June 6: The recent symposium on "Smart Cities in the Arab World and Digital Transformation," organized by the Basil Fuleihan Financial and Economic Institute in Beirut, shed light on the significant development underway in digital transformation across the Arab world, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

This transformation is increasingly shaping economic and social progress, leading to a pivotal shift in the lives of citi-

Diplomats, representatives, and academics gathered for the symposium, which commenced with welcoming remarks from Dr. Lamia Al-Moubayed Basat, the institute's head, and Ghassan Al-Zaani, the Administrative and Financial Director.

Dr. Nidal Abu Zaki, General Manager of Orient Planet Consulting Group, delivered a keynote speech emphasizing the crucial role of smart technology and digital transformation in fostering community well-being, improving living standards, enhancing service efficiency, and promoting sustainability in Arab cities.

Dr. Abu Zaki highlighted, "Smart cities represent an advanced concept aimed at leveraging information and communications technologies to enhance various aspects of life and provide citizens with better services through the automation of government tasks.

This contributes to reducing time and effort, enhancing service efficiency, and ensuring accessibility around the clock, thereby facilitating user interaction and flexibility."

Moreover, Dr. Abu Zaki emphasized the contribution

Moreover, Dr. Abu Zaki emphasized the contribution of smart cities to economic development and job creation across various sectors, including data management, software development, and infrastructure maintenance.

Anticipating the future of smart cities in the Arab world, he stated, represents a progressive step towards fulfilling the aspirations of Arab societies for cognitive, economic, social, and environmental growth.

By Paul Francis X. Fernandes

Arab Times/Al-Seyassah Staff

KUWAIT CITY, June 6: The Scientific Center Kuwait (TSCK), one of centers of the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS), inaugurated the 'Age of Glass' Exhibition under the patronage of His Excellency, the Spanish Ambassador Miguel Moro Aguilar.

The exhibition was an opportunity to explore the profound transparent beauty and significance of this material in our every-day lives and its pivotal role in shaping the modern world.

In his address to the gathering, the Spanish envoy emphasized the significance of the exhibition, describing it as a testament to human ingenuity and collaboration across nations. He highlighted the essential role of culture and science in fos-

He highlighted the essential role of culture and science in fostering connections and advancing civilization, emphasizing the importance of working together towards a better future.

The inclusion of selected items from the Dar al Athar al Is-

The inclusion of selected items from the Dar al Athar al Islamiyyah in the exhibition, he said, adds depth, highlights the rich historical tapestry of Islamic glass and its intersection with cultural and scientific traditions. The exhibition paid tribute to the Islamic glass industry's pinnacle in the eighth century, showcasing the intricate fusion of science and artistry.

The General Manager of The Scientific Center, Msaed Alyaseen said, since its establishment in 2000, The Scientific Center has played a key role in engaging the public and inspiring children in science. Through workshops and educational programs, it has made science accessible for all ages.

The exhibition is held at a time, he said, as "We are celebrating World Environment Day, which focuses on accelerating land restoration, boosting drought resilience, fighting land degradation, and addressing these crucial issues that impact half of the world's population.

"The 'Age of Glass' exhibition," he went on to say, "showcases the journey of humanity through innovation and



Photo by Rizk Taufik Part of the exhibition.

scientific progress with glass. This exhibition aligns with our mission to inspire and highlight the potential of glass in creating a sustainable future."

Beyond being a celebration of the material itself, the "Age of Glass" Exhibition serves as an educational endeavor, providing a unique opportunity for students, researchers, and the general public to engage with the wonders of glass.

Through interactive exhibits and hands-on workshops, it aims to demystify scientific concepts and cultivate a deeper understanding of the world.

The Scientific Center Kuwait has been instrumental in engaging the public and inspiring a love for science, particularly among children. Through its interactive exhibits and educational programs, it makes science accessible and captivating for all ages, fostering curiosity and promoting a deeper understanding of scientific principles and their real-world applications.

Minister oversees 'contract signing' for 8 power modernization stations

Al-Kharafi hosts dinner in honor of outgoing Qatar, Saudi envoys

KUWAIT CITY, June 6: The Ambassador of the State of Kuwait to Cyprus, Abdullah Al-Kharafi, hosted a dinner reception at his residence to bid farewell to the Ambassadors of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the State of Qatar, marking the conclusion of their

diplomatic tenure in Cyprus, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Among the distinguished guests in attendance was George Papanastasiou, the Cypriot Minister of Energy, Industry, and Trade, alongside several Arab ambassadors and officials.

Boosting China ops

EQUATE 'expands' with new office in Shanghai

KUWAIT CITY, June 6: EQUATE Petrochemical Company has inaugurated an office in Shanghai, marking a significant step in its global expansion strategy, particularly in the Chinese market, and aiming to bolster economic cooperation between Kuwait and China, reports Al-Jarida daily.

Jassem Al-Najem, the Ambassador of the State of Kuwait to China, emphasized the historical ties between Kuwait and China, stating that the new cooperation in the petrochemical sector underscores the commitment to strengthening these relations.

Ambassador Al-Najem highlighted the vast economic and investment potentials between Kuwait and China, emphasizing that deepening this partnership will contribute to broader economic cooperation between the two countries. He also noted Kuwait's pioneering role as the first Middle Eastern country to sign a memorandum of understanding for cooperation with China in the Belt and Road Initiative back in 2013.

The opening ceremony was attended by various dignitaries, including the Consul General of Kuwait in Shanghai, Anas Marafi, and the Head of the Office of the General Investment Authority of the People's Republic of China, Abdul Razzaq Al-Baijan, among others. The event signifies the commitment of Kuwaiti oil companies to further engage with the Chinese market and expand their global presence.

Bids extended

KUWAIT CITY, June 6: Dr. Mahmoud Boushahri, Minister of Electricity, Water, and Renewable Energy and Minister of State for Housing Affairs, oversaw the signing of a contract to modernize 8 electrical power production units at the Al-Zour South Electric Power Generation and Water Distillation Station, reports Al-Jarida daily.

The modernization efforts include extending the lifespan of boilers and replacing the control systems for boilers, steam turbines, and auxiliaries. These initiatives aim to meet the community's energy and water needs.

Moreover, the Central Agency

Moreover, the Central Agency for Public Tenders announced the postponement of the deadline for submitting bids for the tender related to the construction and maintenance of civil works for 26 water filling stations until July 9.

Through this tender, the Ministry of Electricity is working on the comprehensive development of these stations located across various governorates. The goal is to keep pace with the latest global technology in water filling, ensuring the provision of fresh water while minimizing waste and increasing collection amounts from these stations.

The Ministry places great importance on filling stations by closely monitoring their activities and ensuring their ability to provide water, especially in new areas and cities in the country where the permanent availability of water is crucial.

18 tenders slated for maintenance projects

Electronic system to oversee road work

KUWAIT CITY, June 6: Reliable sources within the Ministry of Public Works have disclosed plans to introduce a cutting-edge electronic system aimed at monitoring and overseeing road and highway maintenance endeavors nationwide, reports Al-Seyassah

This initiative comes in conjunction with the forthcoming issuance of 18 tenders slated for road treatment projects across the country, encompassing 12 contracts within the maintenance engineering sector and an additional 6 contracts managed by the Public Authority for Roads and Land Transport.

The implementation of this state-of-the-art

electronic system is poised to coincide with the commencement of maintenance contract work. It will empower ministry officials, from project engineers to the minister, with the capability to closely monitor the progress of work from the issuance of work orders to contractors through to the completion of contracts.

The primary objective is to uphold work quality, ensure adherence to contractual terms agreed upon with companies, and preemptively address any issues that may have arisen in the past.

This proactive approach underscores the ministry's commitment to enhancing transparency, efficiency, and accountability in road maintenance operations, ultimately fostering safer and more reliable transportation infrastructure for the benefit of all citizens.

Power 'consumption' index exceeded again

KUWAIT CITY, June 6: The country's power consumption index recently exceeded the 16,000-megawatt barrier for the second time; as the consumption peak has started due to the extremely high temperature during summer, reports Al-Jarida daily.



Catheterization unit at Jaber Al-Ahmad armed forces hospital.

Jaber Al-Ahmad Hospital unveils new cardiac unit

KUWAIT CITY, June 6: During the inauguration of the latest cardiac catheterization unit at Jaber Al-Ahmad Armed Forces Hospital, Lieutenant General Pilot Bandar Salem Al-Muzain, Chief of the General Staff of the Army, emphasized the significance of enhancing the healthcare system within the armed forces, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

He underscored the importance of advancing scientific expertise and capabilities while ensuring the provision of essential medical supplies to deliver exemplary medical care to armed forces personnel and their families.

Al-Muzain commended the dedication of the hospital's staff and those overseeing the new unit, urging the preservation of their excellence and superior performance.

In addition, Sheikh Dr. Abdullah Al-Sabah, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Defense, highlighted the inauguration of the cardiac catheterization unit as a significant enhancement to the array of medical services offered at Jaber Al-Ahmad Armed Forces Hospital.



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Diplomatic collaboration showcases musical legacy

France, Armenia hold photo exhibition in honor of Charles Aznavour

By Fares Al-Abdan

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, June 6: The embassies of France and Armenia have organized a photo exhibition at the Contemporary Art Platform in honor of Charles Aznavour -- a singer of Armenian origin with French nationality -- on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of his birth.

The photos showcased at the exhibition were taken by the late photographer Roger Kasparian.

In her speech, French Ambassador to Kuwait Claire Le Flécher said: "It is a great honor to stand before you this evening with the Embassy of Armenia as we honor the life and legacy of the exceptional French and Armenian singer,

Charles Aznavour, on the centenary of his birth. "Aznavour was an icon celebrated not only in France and Armenia, but around the world. His remarkable contributions to music and humanity have a lasting impact. He continues to inspire audiences everywhere. He was a true artist, constantly sharing his passion and heart with the world until his final days.

"He is known for speaking proudly about his dual heritage. He is remembered for his talent, his poignant lyrics, his escapism, his ability to convey emotions, his deep compassion, and his commitment to his two countries (Armenia and France).

This is also a symbol of Francophone, as it shows how the French language and Francophone values bring us together in our diversity, enhance communication between people and cultures, and build the world of tomorrow, while respecting individual differences and particularities.

"Francophone makes intercultural dialogue a driving force behind positive change, and opens an alternative to the painful premise of a clash of civilizations or a war of religions. We are global citizens.

"Today, we are also here to celebrate the art of Roger Kasparian whose photographs displayed in this exhibition are a timely witness to the spirit of Aznavour and his legacy. Although we are saddened by the recent death of Kasparian, we are honored



The French and Armenian Ambassadors pose for a group photo during the photo exhibition.

to have his daughter, Lydia Kasparian, with us tonight.

"Her presence is a poignant reminder of the enduring relationship between our two great countries and our shared admiration for Charles Aznavour.'

Furthermore, Armenian Ambassador to Kuwait Sarmen Baghdasarian also delivered a speech stating, "Aznavour's music touched the hearts of millions around the world, transcending borders, cultures and generations. The late Aznavour was more than just a musician. He was a poet, a leader, a symbol in France and Armenia, an ambassador, and a beacon of love and steadfastness.'

"Aznavour deeply loved his two countries, France and Armenia. In his own words, he was 100 percent French and 100 percent Armenian; although he was indeed both, he was also a citizen of the world.

"He composed and performed more than 1,200 songs in nine languages, including French, English, German, Russian, Italian, and of course, Armenian.

"Aznavour is considered one of the greatest songwriters of all time and an icon of popular culture in the 20th century. "In addition to his amazing career, Aznavour was also a great humanitarian. His fundraising campaigns were crucial

in overcoming the devastation caused by the earthquake that struck Armenia in 1988. Since then, he has raised funds for numerous humanitarian projects around the world, collaborated with fellow artists to help victims of the 2010 Haiti earthquake and funded research projects aimed at preventing and treating serious diseases," Baghdasarian concluded.

21st World Gold and **Jewelry exhibit ends**

KUWAIT CITY, June 6: The 21st World Gold and Jewelry Exhibition, organized by the Kuwait International Fair Company and hosted in Hall No. 4, concluded last week after a successful run spanning 10,000 square meters, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Basema Al-Dahim, Executive Director of the Marketing and Sales Sector at the Kuwait International Fair Company, highlighted the company's longstanding commitment to organizing this specialized exhibition for two decades

The exhibition attracted over 200 exhibitors, including representatives from renowned international gold, jewelry, and jewelry brands, as well as local and international companies, merchants, businessmen, and specialists, including jewelers, professionals, and designers from across the region and the globe.

Al-Dahim noted that the exhibition, sponsored by Aisha Jewellery, Emar Jewellery, and Burgan Bank, drew more than 150,000 visitors throughout its duration, comprising jewelry enthusiasts and aficionados of gold, jewelry, and precious stones.

Emphasizing the Kuwait International Fair Company's dedication to ensuring the successful organization of its exhibitions, Al-Dahim pledged to spare no effort in making this and future events a resounding

KU continues to progress in QS World University Ranking 2025

KUWAIT CITY, June 6: Kuwait University has made remarkable progress in the latest QS World University Rankings 2025, which was announced during a conference held in Washington on June 4, 2024, as Kuwait University's ranking rose to 801-850 in the world out of 5,663 universities. This progress reflects Kuwait University's firm commitment to improving the quality of scientific research and the continuous development of its academic programs, as well as emphasizing its presence locally and globally.

As the largest public university that provides the Kuwaiti youth with a variety of science specializations, from humanities and social sciences to engineering, health and medical sciences, Kuwait University is proud to produce distinguished cadres of competent graduates that meet the needs of the labor market and contribute to the development of society and the national economy.

On this occasion, Acting President of Kuwait University Professor Nawaf Al-Mutairi said: "Based on our university's strategic plan and our commitment to implementing operational initiatives and performance monitoring, we strive for excellence and more achievements that reflect our goals and ambitions. We conduct continuous evaluations and improvements in all areas related to the pillars of our four strategies: quality, innovation, sustainability, and presence, which reflects positively on the university's ranking."

KUWAIT CITY, June 6: Kuwait University

students are wrapping up their study sched-

ules for the summer semester this week in

preparation for classes commencing on

The Deanship of Admissions and Reg-

The registration period, including

istration has outlined the registration

dates for courses via text messages sent

withdrawal and addition, extends until

the day after tomorrow, Friday, acces-

sible through the registration system or

pre-assigned dates. Students are encour-

aged to finalize their schedules promptly

Deanship clarified that waiting lists have

been eliminated, and registrations for

courses without meeting requirements

have been voided. Students are advised to

review their schedules to ensure enroll-

Meanwhile, the Deanship of Admis-

ment in the appropriate courses.

Regarding course registration, the

Sunday, June 9, reports Al-Jarida daily.

to students

upon registration.



QS Ranking poster

Acting Secretary General of Kuwait University and the official spokesperson for the university Professor Fayez Al-Dhafiri affirmed the university's commitment to excellence in both the academic and administrative fields as it continues its path towards growth and positive impact and fulfilling the labor market's needs. He concluded that this progression in the international rankings is a testimony to the success of Kuwait University and its growth in the global academic area.

The QS World University Ranking is an annual publication by the Quacquarelli Symonds Foundation concerned with evaluating higher education institutions based on a variety of factors which include academic reputation, employer reputation, citations per faculty, faculty/student ratio, international faculty ratio, and international student ratio.

sions and Registration announced the

commencement of applications for elec-

tronic transfers between specializations

within Kuwait University colleges via the

Transfers within the same college are

permitted upon fulfilling general and spe-

cific transfer conditions. Eligible students

will receive notification of their success-

For internal transfer requests, students

from the 2020 batches onwards can ap-

ply electronically. However, students

from batches prior to 2019 must visit the

guidance and counseling office in their

college during the designated period. Stu-

dents not meeting transfer requirements

will receive guidance on fulfilling condi-

It's important to note that students en-

rolled in specific faculties, including law,

medicine, pharmacy, dentistry, and al-

lied medical sciences, are not eligible for

tions for future transfer requests.

registration website until tomorrow.

Transfer processes underway

KU preps for summer semester registration

Merchants dispel 'rumors' about rise in prices for sacrificial sheep

Ministry intervention sought, calling for oversight

By Abdul Nasser Al-Aslami Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, June 6: Several sheep experts in Kabd expressed their shock by the rumors that the prices of sacrificial sheep have risen to such an extent that it has hit the limit of KD 200 or KD 220 per

They denied this, clarifying that this number is due to the auctions for the sheep that are not designated to be slaughtered as sacrifices for Eid.

In a press statement, the sheep experts affirmed that the price of sheep required for the Eid sacrificial market ranges between KD 130 and KD 170 depending on the specifications, the type of sacrifice, its origin, and its breeder.

Some of them said, "Sometimes the prices that people circulate are real and sometimes they are based on speculations in the black market between some sheep sellers in order to raise the price. However, people will be held accountable if they sell at a high cost, or their sheep will remain in their possession without being sold."

In this regard, sheep trader Abu Miteb said the

prices are normal and within people's reach.

He explained that, "The increased prices are artificial, and it terrifies people and makes them fear the entire process of sacrificing. In reality, the cost is much less than that. In the market, sheep marked for Eid Al-Adha are priced at KD 120. Some cost KD 130, and some others may

be higher than those prices." Furthermore, the sheep trader Saleh Al-Watari said the astronomical numbers that people circulate as prices of sacrifices are not correct, affirming that the reality is that they pertain to the auctions intended for livestock that are not prepared for slaughter, but for breeding and animal production.

He stressed that the costs of the sacrifices are within everyone's reach; even though it may increase or decrease a little, it never exceeded the

Regarding the availability of sheep and sacrificial livestock, Al-Watari said, "There is no local Naimi sheep in the State of Kuwait, except for a very small quantity. The Naimi sheep that arrived from some Arab countries are less in number, and half of them cannot be sacrificed, as they are small and not fit to be slaughtered as sacrifices.

The current alternative to the local Al-Naimi, which bears its specifications as sacrifice, is the Iranian Shafali. They are raised in Kuwait for six months and above, with good breeding and clean fodder. These sheep will be sold on the day of the sacrifice for KD 140 and KD 150 each.' He commented on the prices spread among

people by affirming that some people exagger-



Traders at Kabd sheep market.

Pilgrims granted permits

Kuwait Hajj pilgrimage preparations complete

JEDDAH, June 6, (Agencies): Kuwait's preparations for the annual Islamic Hajj pilgrimage are now fully in place, the country's consul general to Saudi Arabia's Red Sea city of Jeddah Mohammad Al-Mutairi said on Tuesday, citing a higher national committee.

Kuwait, thanks in part to its geographical location, has long been a "crossing point" for Muslim pilgrims heading to the holy city of Makkah to attend Haj, said the official, who also serves as the country's permanent delegate to the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, highlighting their immense contributions towards the pilgrimage

Holding talks with Saudi Arabia's Hai minister Dr. Tawfiq Al-Rubaie, the Kuwaiti diplomat thanked the Gulf Arab kingdom for their strenuous efforts every year to ensure the Hajj pilgrimage is held smoothly and successfully, praising the meteoric development Riyadh has seen in recent years.

Chairman of Kuwait Hajj Caravans Union Ahmad Al-Dhuwaihi has confirmed the issuance of permits for all Kuwaiti pilgrims; indicating that the first group of pilgrims from Kuwait will depart for the Holy Land on the Third of Thul-Hijjah, reports Al-Anba daily.

Al-Dhuwaihi disclosed in a statement to the daily that preparations have been completed to receive the guests of Allah who will perform the blessed Hajj. He thanked the government of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques for exerting tremendous efforts to ensure the best service and comfort for the guests of Allah from various countries, especially the Kuwaiti Haji caravans, wishing that the Hajj of all the guests of Allah will be accepted and their sins will be forgiven.

He revealed all the Kuwaiti pilgrims will travel on Mashaer Train from Mina to Arafat, Muzdalifah for the stoning of the Jamarat. He affirmed that the Mina, Arafat and Muzdalifah camps have been distributed to the Kuwaiti Hajj caravans and are now ready to receive the guests of Allah.

On the other hand, Head of the delegation of the Ministry of Endowments and Islamic Affairs in the Kuwait Hajj Mission Sattam Al-Muzain presided over the meeting of the Ministry of Endowment and Islamic Affairs team at the headquarters of the Kuwait Hajj Mission in Makkah Al-Mukarramah to explain the work mechanism during the Hajj season.

ate, and send messages and pictures to claim that the cost of a sacrificial sheep has reached KD

Regarding the services for sheep at Kabd's sheep market, a number of sheep traders there asked the Ministry of Social Affairs to send an observer to look into the missing services they have in the market and to activate them, saying, "The ministry appointed 12 observers in the market but we did not see any of them. We are the ones who open the market, organize it, and take care of its affairs without an official status". They stressed the presence of a Kuwaiti auc-

tioneer instead of Asians and some Arabs. They demanded the physical presence of a team from the Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources (PAAAFR) to observe how the non-Kuwaiti brokers deal with the fodder and distribute them, as there is no orga-

Grace period

Continued from Page 1

pay the fine and then complete the pro-

It clarified that a violator holding a valid passport can leave the country through the exits without the need to visit the residency affairs departments or pay the fine or lift the absconding status.

It mentioned that a violator wishing to leave the country and does not hold a valid passport or has lost a passport or has an expired passport, must visit the embassy of his/her country to obtain an emergency travel document, then visit one of the Farwaniya or Mubarak Al-Kabeer departments under the residency affairs administration during the evening period from 3 pm to 8 pm to register the document data in the system

and then leave through one of the exits. The ministry affirmed that the violator who left the country during the specified period can return to the country according to the regulations and conditions, and in case of arrest after the end of the specified grace period, all legal measures will be taken against the person, and will be deported and

will not be able to return again.

ful transfer.

The source emphasized that the Ministry of Interior, represented by the General Administration of Residency Affairs Investigations, has started planning to control violators who have not benefited from the adjustment period to solve this chronic problem.

transfer under this system.

In a related context, Major General Mishal Al-Shanfa, the director-general of the General Administration of Residency Affairs Investigations, called on all residency law violators to amend their status or leave, with the possibility of returning, or all legal measures will be taken against them after the end of the grace period.

Al-Shanfa stressed, in several awareness messages broadcasted by the Ministry of Interior yesterday, that after the end of the grace period, security campaigns will be launched in all regions against residency and labor law violators.

Ministry of Health

Continued from Page 1

bringing services closer to the citizens and easing access to these services. He reaffirmed his commitment to achieve these goals within an established and carefully planned program.

He said these clinics provide health services and guidance about the required vaccinations when traveling; as some countries require certain vaccinations, such as in some South American and African countries. He urged the citizens to visit these clinics to benefit from their services.

He then announced the launching of the interactive map for travelers -a new digital service for citizens. He explained the citizens can access this service through their smart phones whenever they are traveling; indicating the service includes instructions and advice that should be followed, in addition to obtaining the telephone and emergency numbers in the destination

On the other hand, Assistant Undersecretary for Digital Health Affairs Adel Al-Rashidi affirmed that the Travelers' Health Clinic is for citizens who intend to travel. Through the interactive map, the citizens can find information about the health challenges in the countries they wish to visit, type of required vaccinations, telephone numbers of the Embassy of the State of Kuwait, emergency and ambulance numbers and online appointment with a specialist doctor at the traveler's clinic, he added.

Kuwait sizzles

Continued from Page 1 will be light to moderate with waves

between 1 and 4 feet. For Friday, Al-Qarawi mentioned that the weather will be very hot and

humid, with variable winds shifting to a southeasterly direction, light to moderate, at speeds between 8 and 32 kilometers per hour. Maximum temperatures are expected to range between 46 and 48 degrees Celsius, and the sea will be light to moderate with waves between 1 and 4 feet. Friday night will also be hot to very hot and humid, with variable winds turning light to moderate southeasterly, at speeds between 8 and 28 kilometers per hour, and minimum temperatures between 28 and 32 degrees Celsius. The sea will have waves between 1

Regarding Saturday's weather, Al-Qarawi said it will be relatively hot and humid, with light to moderate at speeds between 10 and 35 kilometers per hour.

northwesterly to southeasterly winds

Kuwait denounces

Continued from Page 1

The ILO's Impact of the war in Gaza on the labor market and livelihoods in the Occupied Palestinian Territory clearly showed the catastrophic humanitarian situation, which touched all Palestinians specifically laborers there, he added.

He revealed that the report suggested that over 200,000 Palestinians have lost their jobs, adding to the unending crimes committed by the Israeli occupiers.

Ambassador Al-Hayed insisted that the Israeli occupation had crossed all redlines and also violated all international laws and norms including the ILO's constitution.

He pointed out that preventing laborers from across occupied territories to move freely and seek work was another criminal act carried out by the

Israeli aggressors. While the world celebrated the International Workers' Day back on May 1, the occasion is marred by Israel's brutalization of Palestinian laborers causing them to lose job security, stability, and peace, affirmed Ambassador Al-Hayen.

The Kuwaiti diplomat concluded with an affirmation that the State of Kuwait welcomed article 177 of the ILO report that called for an immediate halt of the unjust war in the Gaza Strip and the end of occupation.

Elsewhere, an Israeli strike early Thursday on a school sheltering displaced Palestinians in central Gaza killed more than 30 people, including 23 women and children, according to local health officials. The Israeli military said that Hamas militants were op-

erating from within the school. It was the latest instance of mass casualties among Palestinians trying to find refuge as Israel expands its offensive. A day earlier, the military announced a new ground and air assault in central Gaza, pursuing Hamas militants it says have regrouped there. Troops repeatedly have swept back into parts of the Gaza Strip they have previously invaded, underscoring the resilience of the militant group despite Israel's nearly eight-month on-

World News Roundup

Europe

Ukraine hits Russian oil facilities: Ukrainian drones struck an oil refinery and a fuel depot in Russian border regions, officials in the targeted areas said Thursday, in Kyiv's ongoing effort to disrupt the Kremlin's war machine and as Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy sought further Western support in Europe's biggest conflict since World War II.

Zelenskyy was due to join world leaders, including US President Joe Biden, at D-Day commemorations in France on Thursday. On Friday, he was due to meet with French officials.

The US military said that it doesn't control the missiles it provides to Ukraine or the targets, and NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said Thursday that the alliance has no plans to deploy forces to Ukraine.



Zelenskyy

"We are focusing on how we can establish a stronger framework for our support, with an institutionalized framework for the support to Ukraine and how to establish an agreed longterm financial commitment to ensure that we stand by Ukraine for as long as it takes," Stoltenberg said in Finland.

An overnight drone attack hit the

Novoshakhtinsk refinery in Russia's Rostov region and started a fire, Rostov Gov Vasily Golubev said. Firefighters had to pull out briefly because of a second attack, he said.

The extent of the damage to the facility wasn't immediately clear. Golubev said that there were no casualties. (AP)

'Russia could provide weapons to others': President

Vladimir Putin warned Wednesday that Russia could provide long-range weapons to others to strike Western targets in response to NATO allies allowing Ukraine to use their arms to attack Russian territory.

Putin also reaffirmed Moscow's readiness to use nuclear weapons if it sees a threat to its sovereignty.

The recent actions by the West will further undermine international security and could lead to "very serious problems," he said, taking questions from international journalists - something that has become extremely rare since Moscow sent troops into Ukraine.

"That would mark their direct involvement in the war against the Russian Federation, and we reserve the right to act the same way," Putin added.

The United States and Germany recently authorized Ukraine to hit some targets on Russian soil with the long-range weapons they are supplying to Kyiv. (AP)

Slovakia's Fico targeted for Ukraine views: Slovakia's populist Prime Minister Robert Fico said he believes he was targeted for having a Ukraine position contrary to the European mainstream but bears no malice toward the gunman who seriously wounded him three weeks ago.

The prerecorded speech posted online by Fico, who opposes military aid to Ukraine, was his first appearance since the assassination attempt and came just days ahead of his country's polling Saturday in European Parliament elections.

Fico, who took office last fall after campaigning on a pro-

Russian and anti-American platform, has been recovering from multiple wounds after being shot in the abdomen as he greeted supporters on May 15 in the town of Handlova. The assailant has been arrested, but not named by authorities, who at first said he acted alone but later said they were searching for a "third party." Seemingly in good shape as he spoke, Fico pledged to be back at work in about a month and said he felt "no hatred" towards his attacker and planned no legal action against him. "I forgive him," he said during the 14-minute speech. (AP)

Commission probes Russia, Belarus influence: A special commission tasked with investigating Russian and Belarusian influence in Poland was beginning its work on Wednesday, Prime Minister Donald Tusk announced.

At a news conference in Warsaw, Tusk and other officials described the commission as a non-partisan body of experts whose aim is to protect national security. Its work begins at a time of security concerns across the region as Russia's war against Ukraine is in its third year.

Tusk issued an order in May to establish a commission to investigate Russian and Belarusian influence in the years 2004-2024. He and other Polish officials say the country is facing intensified hybrid attacks from Russia and its neighbor and ally Belarus that include alleged acts of sabotage, cyberattacks and growing pressure along the Poland-Belarus border. (AP)

US-Russian citizen convicted in Russia: A dual US-Russian citizen was convicted for "rehabilitating Nazism" by a St. Petersburg court Wednesday over posts on social media.

Yuri Malev was sentenced to three-and-a-half years in a minimum-security penal colony, a penitentiary facility. Malev was arrested in December after sharing images on Russian social media site Odnoklassniki featuring the black-and-orange Saint George's ribbon - a symbol of Russian military pride.

Court documents said one post showed the ribbon pinned to a corpse alongside the caption of "how to wear the Saint George's ribbon properly." The documents described the posts as "humiliating the honor and dignity of World War II veterans.'

The St. Petersburg City Court sentenced Malev after he "admitted his guilt," the court's press service said in a statement. It said court documents described Malev as a security guard at the Match Point sports complex in Brooklyn. (AP)

Scholz vows to deport criminals: Chancellor Olaf Scholz vowed Thursday that Germany will start deporting criminals from Afghanistan and Syria again after a knife attack by an Afghan immigrant last week left one police officer dead and

four more people injured. The brutal attack in Mannheim, which was captured on vid-

eo and quickly went viral online, shocked the country. Scholz addressed parliament in a speech focused on security Thursday, just days before European elections in which far-right populists across the continent are expected to make

"It outrages me when someone who has sought protection here commits the most serious crimes. Such criminals should be deported, even if they come from Syria and Afghanistan,' the chancellor said to the applause of lawmakers. (AP)

Netherlands kicks off 4 days of EU polls: Polls opened in the Netherlands on Thursday to kick off four days of voting in European Union parliamentary elections across the 27 member

states that are expected to deliver gains for the hard right. Geert Wilders, of the far-right Party for Freedom, or PVV, was among the first senior politicians to cast his ballot.

Having sent shockwaves around Europe six months ago by becoming the biggest party in the Dutch national parliament, he now wants to build on that popularity and set the tone for much of the bloc, with calls to claw powers back to national capitals and away from the EU so member states have more autonomy on issues such as migration. (AP)

Czech Republic train collision kills 4: A passenger train collided head-on with a freight train in the Czech Republic, killing at least four people and injuring 27 others, officials said

Interior Minister Vít Rakušan said the crash took place late Wednesday night in the city of Pardubice, about 100 kilometers (62 miles) east of Prague.

The high-speed passenger train belonged to the private RegioJet company. Rakušan said none of the injured was in life-

threatening condition. Rescuers said 380 passengers were on board the train heading for the city of Kosice in eastern Slovakia and further to Chop across the border in Ukraine. (AP)

H. Stein said she can skip the hearing. (AP)





France's President Emmanuel Macron speaks after awarding 104-years-old British World War II veteran Christian Lamb, (second right), who helped to plan the D-Day landings in Normandy, with the insignia of Knight in the Legion of Honor order, as Britain's King Charles III and Britain's Queen Camilla, (left), looks on during a commemorative ceremony marking the 80th anniversary of the World War II D-Day Allied landings in Normandy, at the World War II British Normandy Memorial of Ver-sur-Mer on June 6. (AP)

As world marks 80th 'versary of D-Day landings, renewed war in Europe on minds of many

Leaders, veterans and visitors from around the world paid tribute Thursday to the D-Day generation in moving ceremonies on and around the Normandy beaches where the Allies landed exactly 80 years ago, with the war in Ukraine on the minds of many and a common message that tyranny cannot be permitted to prevail

Ever-dwindling numbers of World War II veterans who have pilgrimaged back to France, and Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine that has dashed hopes that lives and cities wouldn't again be laid to waste in Europe, are making the poignant anniversary of the June 6, 1944, Allied landings even more so. The break of dawn eight decades after Allied troops waded ashore under hails of gunfire on five code-named beaches - Utah, Omaha, Gold, Juno and Sword - kicked off a day of remembrance by Allied nations now standing together again behind Ukraine - and with World War II ally Russia not invited by host France. It cited Russia's "war of aggression against Ukraine that has intensified in recent weeks" for the snub. (AP)



Speaker of the House Mike Johnson. R-La, and other Republican leaders meet with reporters to condemn former US president Donald Trump's guilty conviction in a New York court last week, at the Capitol in Washington on June 4. Johnson also called US President Joe Biden the worst president in American history. (AP)





Menendez

America

Tornado hits Michigan: A toddler was killed and his mother was injured when a tornado struck suburban Detroit without warning, while five people were injured when a tornado in Maryland collapsed structures and trapped people inside.

Officials in Livonia, Michigan, said the tornado tore through several neighborhoods on Wednesday afternoon and developed so quickly that there was no advance notice from the National Weather Service or others that would have normally led to the activation of warning sirens.

The storm uprooted a massive tree that fell on one family's house and came through the roof, landing on a bed where a woman and her 2-year-old were sleeping, officials said in a post on the city's website. Crews worked for nearly an hour to remove the roof and parts of the tree and then lift the tree to get the victims out. (AP)

Menendez's wife excused: The wife of Sen Bob Menendez was excused Wednesday from appearing in court next week after her lawyer said she's experiencing intense and chronic pain after surgery to treat can-

Nadine Menendez was supposed to be on trial with the Democrat for the past month, but her trial was delayed until at least July after she was diagnosed with breast cancer.

She was scheduled to attend a pretrial hearing next Wednesday in Manhattan federal court before her lawyer, Barry Coburn, asked that her appearance be waived after the recent "invasive cancer surgery." Coburn wrote that she has "medical equipment implanted in her body and is in intense, chronic pain.

In an order late in the day, Judge Sidney



Politics

Scott to spend \$14m on outreach to voters

Trump campaign steps up VP vetting efforts son who will serve with him on the South Carolina Sen. Tim Scott, the

NEW YORK, June 6, (AP): Former US president Donald Trump 's campaign has begun requesting information from his potential vice presidential candidates, sending vetting paperwork to a list of top contenders in recent weeks, according to two people familiar with the effort.

Among those who have received requests are North Dakota Gov. Doug Burgum, Florida Sen. Marco Rubio, Ohio Sen. J.D. Vance and South Carolina Sen. Tim Scott, according to one of the people, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the outreach.

Florida Rep. Byron Donalds, New York Rep. Elise Stefanik and Trump's 2016 rival-turned cabinet member Ben Carson were also said to be on the list.

Exchanged

Various levels of paperwork have been exchanged with each, the second person said.

Representatives for the candidates did not immediately respond to requests for comment Wednesday. Aides have cautioned that Trump's

list is fluid and evolving and that the decision will be up to him. "Anyone claiming to know who or

when President Trump will choose his VP is lying, unless the person is named Donald J. Trump," Trump campaign spokesperson Brian Hughes said in a statement. The news comes a week after Trump

was found guilty by a jury in Manhattan of 34 counts of falsifying business records in his criminal hush money trial. He's set to be sentenced next month.

Trump has said he is in no hurry to announce his running mate, and could wait until the Republican National Convention in July to unveil the perGOP ticket.

In an appearance on Newsmax Tuesday night, Trump listed Scott, Burgum, Rubio, Vance and Carson as among those in contention.

The news that vetting materials had been sent to top contenders was first reported by NBC and the list by ABC.

Meanwhile, an appeals court has halted the Georgia election interference case against Trump and others while it reviews the lower court judge's ruling allowing Fulton County District Attorney Fani Willis to remain on the case. The Georgia Court of Appeals' order on Wednesday prevents Fulton County Superior Court Judge Scott McAfee from moving forward with pretrial motions as he had planned while the appeal is pending. While it was already unlikely that the case would go to trial before the November general election, when Trump is expected to be the Republican nominee for president, this makes that even more certain.

The appeals court on Monday docketed the appeals filed by Trump and eight others and said that "if oral argument is requested and granted" it is tentatively scheduled for Oct 4. The court will then have until mid-March to rule, and the losing side will be able to appeal to the Georgia Supreme Court.

A spokesperson for Willis declined to comment on the appeals court rul-

Also:

WASHINGTON: A top ally and potential running mate of former President Donald Trump is launching a new effort to win over Black and other nonwhite working class voters he argues could be the deciding factor in November's elections.

only Black Republican in the Senate, will lead a \$14 million campaign targeting minority voters in seven key swing states.

Scott's push comes as Trump's campaign is ramping up its own outreach efforts to Hispanic and Black voters, especially Black men, in his expected rematch against President Joe Biden. And it gives Scott, one of several Republicans being vetted for vice president, another platform to demonstrate his loyalty - and utility to the presumptive GOP nominee.

Scott says that, with Trump atop the ticket, he believes Republicans have a unique opportunity to chip into Democrats' historic dominance with minority voters. Polls show many Black and other nonwhite adults are dissatisfied with Biden's performance, though Trump could have an uphill battle winning them over given his own unpopularity with those groups.

"Much to the chagrin of many folks, there's no doubt that African American men are wide open for a political shift of partisanship," Scott said as he briefed reporters on the effort in Wash-

The new campaign will be run by Scott's Great Opportunity PAC, which was formed after he suspended his campaign for the GOP nomination last year. Aides say the group will work to win over more than 1 million potential voters it has identified in Georgia, North Carolina, Arizona, Wisconsin, Michigan, Nevada and Pennsylvania. The campaign will include canvass-

ing, digital advertising, direct mail, events and appearances by Scott and other elected officials in minority communities that Scott said Republicans have too often avoided.

preme Court justice in Buffalo, has been **NY judge to be replaced:** A New York serving as a "holdover" since his term on the Court of Claims expired last year, essenjudge who was censured after being seen on video shoving a police officer during a tially waiting to be reappointed. His name brawl with neighbors will be replaced on the did not appear on Gov Kathy Hochul's list bench, authorities said Wednesday.

Judge Mark Grisanti, an acting State Suof 25 judicial nominees considered Wednes-



In this photo released by Fire Department of Pardubice region, rescue workers help injured passengers after two trains collided in Pardubice, Czech Republic on June 6. A passenger train collided head-on with a freight train in the Czech Republic, killing at least four people and injuring 27 others, officials said Thursday. (AP)

day by the state Senate's Judiciary Committee and he was not reappointed, according to a spokesman for Sen. Brad Hoylman-Sigal, the commission's chair. Grisanti had not received formal notice

Wednesday that he would not be reappointed, said his attorney, Terrence Connors. (AP)

Biden's ex-wife, gf testify: Hunter

Biden's ex-wife and a former girlfriend testified Wednesday in his gun trial about finding his crack pipes and other drug paraphernalia, and jurors saw photos of the president's son in a bubble bath and heard about his visit to a club.

As the first lady sat in the front row, the courtroom grew quiet when Kathleen Buhle, who was married to Hunter for 20 years, walked in. She testified that she discovered her husband was using drugs when she found a crack pipe in an ashtray on their porch on July 3, 2015, a day after their anniversary. When she confronted him, "he acknowledged smoking crack," she said.

The trial, about whether he lied on a gun purchase form in 2018 when he said he wasn't using drugs, has quickly become a highly personal and detailed tour of the mistakes and drug use of Hunter Biden, whose struggles have been tabloid fodder for years and were used publicly by Republicans, including in their stalled impeachment effort against the president.(AP)

Africa

Cyril attends meet

More army support for Burkina: Russia

OUAGADOUGOU, Burkina Faso, June 6, (AP): Russia's foreign minister pledged more support to Burkina Faso in fighting militant groups as he pressed his whirlwind tour of West Africa in an attempt to fill a vacuum left by the region's traditional Western partners.

Sergey Lavrov spoke at a news conference in the country's capital of Ouagadougou while on the third leg of his latest Africa trip, after Guinea and the Republic of Congo.

Russia is seeking to shore up support from the region amid Moscow's full-scale invasion of Ukraine. A number of African countries in recent years have expressed growing frustration with their traditional Western partners such as France and the United States.



been working here and their number will increase," Lavrov said, adding that Russia has been helping train Burkina Faso's military and law enforcement personnel. "We have supplied and will continue to supply military equipment to help strengthen Burkina Faso's defense capability and allow it to eliminate the remaining terrorist groups."

"Russian instructors have

Lavrov Lavrov said he appreciated the "objective and fair" position of Burkina Faso on the war in Ukraine. "For our part, we are ready to provide our support for the just cause of Africans who are trying to free themselves from neo-colonial influence."

Burkina Faso, a landlocked nation of 20 million, has been ravaged in the past eight years by violence from extremist groups loosely affiliated with al-Qaeda and the Islamic State group, and from the fighting between government forces and the militants.

Crisis

The country also went through two coups in just 10 months, the second last year after which a military junta threw out French forces and turned to Russia for security support. However, the junta has struggled to contain the security and humanitarian crisis.

Burkina Faso has topped the list of the world's biggest neglected crises for the second year in a row, according to the Norwegian Refugee Council. A record 6.3 million out of 20 million people will need humanitarian assistance in 2024, the aid organization said, with many on the brink of starvation. Two million people remain internally displaced, about 60% of them children. Many have been traumatized, but resources to help them are scarce.

Jan Egeland, the agency's secretary-general, told The Associated Press that Western governments have been withdrawing financial aid from Burkina Faso and other countries in the Sahel, a region encompassing states on the fringes of the Sahara Desert, contributing to the vicious circle of poverty, violence, and extrem-

Later Wednesday, Lavrov arrived in Chad, which has also made the list of the world's neglected crises.

Lavrov visited Mali early last year and pledged military support. Also last year, he visited South Africa - seen as the most significant of several African nations to take a neutral stance on the war in Ukraine - and returned there to attend a meeting of BRICS bloc nations.

Also:

CAPE TOWN, South Africa: South African President **Cyril Ramaphosa** was meeting with senior officials of the African National Congress on Thursday to decide how to go about forming a government after the party lost its 30-year grip on power and left a post-election deadlock.

The party's National Executive Committee was meeting in **Johannesburg** to work through a split within the party's ranks over which direction to take. ANC lost its long-held majority in last week's vote but remained the biggest party, and now needs some form of agreement with others to run Africa's most industrialized country. ANC has indicated it's leaning toward a government of national unity that would bring together many of the political parties in a broad agreement, rather than a direct coalition with the main opposition, the Democratic Alliance, or DA.

"We want to bring everybody on board," ANC Secretary-General **Fikile Mbalula** said before Thursday's meeting, which was likely to last all day. Mbalula said a government of national unity was being proposed to the NEC to decide on, but he expected there to be debate and disagreement.

ANC is the party that was once led by **Nelson Mandela** and freed South Africa from the apartheid system of white minority rule by winning the country's historic first all-race vote in 1994. It had seen a gradual decline in its support over the last 20 years as South Africa struggles with high levels of poverty, unemployment and inequality.

The National Executive Committee that includes more than 80 of the ANC's top officials is expected to be the body to decide on which direction it will take.

The South African president is seeking a second term in office, and the agreement being sought will also decide if Ramaphosa is reelected.

JOHANNESBURG: A South African Cabinet minister who is a senior member of the African National Congress was arrested and appeared in court on Wednesday over allegations of bribery, just as his party was meeting for talks to work out a way forward for the

country after an election deadlock.

Sports, Arts and Culture Minister **Zizi Kodwa** faces charges of taking bribes of around \$90,000, according to police. He appeared in a courtroom in Johannesburg alongside another suspect in the case. Kodwa said he intended to plead not guilty to the charges.

He resigned as minister after the court appearance but denied the allegations, according to a statement from the ministry.

Kodwa, 54, is a member of the ANC's internal National Working Committee, which met Tuesday as the party discusses how it might form a government after losing its 30-year majority in an election last week. The ANC has not given any indication of which other party or parties it might strike an agreement with to co-govern but says it has met with officials from at least five other parties and talks are ongoing.

Kodwa was implicated in taking bribes from a businessman at a judicial inquiry in 2021 that looked into allegations of widespread government corruption involving ANC officials and others. The allegations relate to the time when Kodwa was the national spokesperson for the ANC and later the deputy minister of state security.

Police allege that Kodwa used some of the bribes to buy a "luxury" SUV vehicle.



South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol, (center left), and his wife Kim Keon Hee, (center right), salute during a ceremony to mark the 69th Memorial Day at the Seoul National Cemetery in Seoul, South Korea on June 6. (AP)



African National Congress party members protest as South African Président Cyril Ramaphosa meets with Senior officials of the ANC during the ANC's National Executive Committee on June 6 in Johannesburg, South Africa. (AP)





Kidwai

Modi

Subcontinent

3 detained in Kabul: The counter-intelligence agency of the national defense ministry of Afghan caretaker government has discovered military equipment and spare parts of aircraft in the Afghan capital of Kabul and arrested three persons, the state-run Bakhtar news agency reported Thursday.

The contraband, according to the state media, was worth about 1 million U.S. dollars, including 128 pieces of various spare parts of aircraft, eight pistols, wireless sets and ammunition.

Without identifying the arrested individuals, the news agency added that the three have been under further investigation. (Xinhua)

250K affected by Lanka weather: Around 250,000 people were affected by the adverse weather conditions in Sri Lanka starting from June 1, an official said on

Director of the Disaster Management Center (DMC) Pradeep Kodippili told the media that heavy rainfall was experienced in Colombo, Gampaha, Kalutara, Galle and Matara districts.

Landslide warning continues in Colombo, Kalutara districts in Western Province, Matara, Galle, Hambantota districts in Southern Province and Kegalle and Ratnapura districts in Sabaragamuwa Province.

The Department of Meteorology on Thursday requested the general public to take adequate precautions to minimize damages caused by temporary localized strong winds and lightning during thundershowers. (Xinhua)

India oppn makes comeback: India's bruised and battered opposition was largely written off in the lead-up to the national election as too weak and fragmented to take on Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** and his powerful Hindu nationalist governing party.

Description of the Albert of t

The election results released Wednesday also marked a revival for the main opposition Congress party and its allies, who defied predictions of decline and made deep inroads into governing party strongholds, resetting India's political landscape. The opposition won a total of 232 seats out of 543, doubling its strength from the last election.

tion.
"The opposition has proved to be tremen-

Asia

Indonesia's Mount Ibu erupts 3 times

South Korean group flies propaganda leaflets

SEOUL, South Korea, June 6, (Agencies): A South Korean activists' group said Thursday it flew large balloons carrying propaganda leaflets toward North Korea, although the North has threatened to send more balloons with manure and trash across the border in response to such campaigns.

The launches are escalating animosities, with South Korea suspending a tension-easing deal with North Korea and preparing to resume frontline military activities. North Korea had halted its flights of rubbish-carrying balloons but threatened to resume them if South Korean activists sent leaflets again.

Floated

The South Korean civilian group, led by North Korean defector Park Sanghak, said it floated 10 balloons tied to 200,000 anti-Pyongyang leaflets, USB sticks with K-pop songs and South Korean dramas and one-dollar US bills from a border town on Thursday.

Park's long-running balloon activities have caused furious protests from North Korea, which is extremely wary of any outside attempt to undermine Kim Jong Un's rule. The North's state media previously called Park "human scum without an equal in the world."

After North Korea started launching hundreds of trash-carrying balloons on South Korea last week, Kim's powerful sister, Kim Yo Jong, said the campaign was meant to carry out the North's threat to conduct a tit-for-tat action against a South Korean leafleting. Observers say North Korea was referring to Park's previous balloon activities in May.

"We sent the truth and love, medicines, one-dollar bills and songs. But a barbaric Kim Jong Un sent us filth and garbage and he hasn't made a word of apology over that," Park said in a statement. "Our group, the Fighters for Free North Korea, will keep sending our leaflets, which are the letters of truth and freedom for our beloved North Korean compatriots."

North Korea's balloon campaign was seen as an attempt to cause a divide in South Korea over its conservative government's tough policy on the North. South Korean officials say they have no legal grounds to ban private citizens from flying balloons to North Korea, after the country's constitutional court last year struck down a law criminalizing such leafleting as a violation of free speech.

In reaction to the North's balloon campaign, South Korea fully suspended a 2018 tension-easing agreement with North Korea. The suspension

dously resilient and shown courage of con-

viction. In many ways it has saved India's democracy and shown Modi that he can be

challenged - and even humbled by denting

his image of electoral invincibility," said

Boat explosion and fire at sea kill 6 Filipino fishermen as 6 rescued

MANILA, Philippines, June 6, (AP): An explosion and fire on a wooden fishing boat at sea killed six Filipino crewmembers while six others were rescued in the nighttime darkness, coast guard officials said Thursday.

The survivors, including the skipper of the F/B King Bryan, were still being treated at a hospital or were too traumatized to tell investigators what set off the explosion Wednesday night about 8 kilometers (5 miles) off Naga city in Cebu province, coast guard officials said.

One of the injured crewmen was

One of the injured crewmen was in critical condition at a hospital, the coast guard said.

Video and pictures issued by the coast guard show flames and smoke billowing from the fishing boat as rescuers scanned the waters in the darkness. Crewmembers with burn injuries are carried to safety by coast guard personnel.

The wooden-hulled boat, which had bamboo outriggers, apparently developed engine trouble before an explosion and a fire engulfed the vessel, injuring crewmembers and

forcing others to jump into the sea in panic. A passing tugboat helped put out the blaze and a coast guard search and rescue operation was launched, coast guard officials said.

Sea accidents are common in the Philippine archipelago because of frequent storms, poorly maintained boats, overcrowding and spotty enforcement of safety regulations.

Myanmar denies allegations:
A spokesperson for Myanmar's military government denied accusations that army troops and their local allies killed 76 people when they entered a village last week in the western state of Rakhine, statecontrolled media reported Wednesday.

Rakhine has become a focal point for Myanmar's nationwide civil war, in which pro-democracy guerrillas and ethnic minority armed forces battle the country's military rulers, who took power in 2021 after the army ousted the elected government of **Aung San Suu Kyi.**

allows South Korea to restart livefiring exercises and anti-Pyongyang propaganda loudspeaker broadcasts at border areas, actions that are certain to enrage North Korea and prompt it to launch its own military steps.

Also:

JAKARTA, Indonesia: Indonesia's Mount Ibu erupted three times on Thursday, spewing red lava and clouds

of grey ash. No injuries were reported.

The volcano, located on an island in the eastern **North Maluku** province, has been erupting almost every day since early May. Authorities have raised the alert to the highest level as the number of eruptions and deep volcanic earthquakes have significantly increased.

Thursday's eruptions sent ash clouds up to 1,200 meters (4,000 feet) into the air, said **Muhammad Wafid**, chief of Indonesia's Geology Agency. Photos and videos recorded by the agency from an observation post showed bursts of incandescent red lava with some lightning during the eruptions.

Authorities have urged people to stay at least 7 kilometers (4.5 miles)

journalist and political analyst Rasheed

The unwieldy grouping of more than two

dozen opposition parties, called INDIA,

was formed last year. Beset with ideological

from the 1,325-meter (4,347-foot) -high volcano.

More than 1,900 people have been evacuated from three villages close to the volcano, according to the National Disaster Management Agency. Thousands of hectares (acres) of farmland have been affected by the eruptions.

JAKARTA: A landslide at a sand mine in East Java, Indonesia, resulted in the death of two miners, with two more trapped under the debris.

The incident occurred in Pronojiwo village, Lumajang region, on Tuesday. Five miners were working near a cliff by the riverbank when the landslide struck, burying four and allowing one to escape.

The National Disaster Mitigation Agency (BNPB) announced on Thursday that two bodies have been recovered from the rubble, one found on Tuesday and another on Wednesday.

BNPB spokesperson **Abdul Muha-**ri said that the search for the remaining two miners is ongoing, with heavy machinery and rescue dogs aiding the effort.

differences and personality clashes, what glued them together was a shared perceived threat: what they call Modi's tightening grip on India's democratic institutions and Parliament, and his strident Hindu nationalism that has targeted the country's minorities, particularly Muslims.

The election battle is between "Narendra

Modi and INDIA, his ideology and INDIA," the alliance's campaign face, Rahul Gandhi, said at an opposition meeting last year. Gandhi, heir to India's Nehru-Gandhi dynasty, has long been mocked by Modi, his party and his supporters as a beneficiary of dynastic politics. Gandhi's father, grandmother and greatgrandfather were all prime ministers.

Under his leadership, the Congress party was reduced to a paltry 52 seats in 2019 when Modi romped to victory in a landslide win. And last year he was expelled from Parliament due to a defamation case after Modi's party accused him of mocking the prime minister's surname. (He was later returned to his seat by India's top court.)

But ahead of the 2024 election, Gandhi went through a transformation - he embarked on two cross-country marches against what he called Modi's politics of hate, re-energizing his party's members and rehabilitating his image.

rehabilitating his image.

During the election campaign, he, along with other opposition leaders, sought to galvanize voters on issues such as high unemployment, growing inequality and economic and social injustice, while targeting Modi over his polarizing campaign. (AP)



Kidwai.

Congress Party leader Rahul Gandhi, (center), leaves the party headquarters with his sister and party leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra after addressing a press conference in New Delhi, India on June 4. India's bruised and battered opposition was largely written off in the lead-up to the national election as too weak and fragmented to take on Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his powerful Hindu nationalist governing party. (AP)

OPEC+ extends production cuts amid market fluctuations

The oil market experienced significant fluctuations and losses yesterday evening following the conclusion of the OPEC+ group meeting over the weekend, reports Al-Jarida daily.

Despite the decision to extend most oil production cuts until next year to support the market amid slowing demand growth and increased supplies from other countries, speculation and fears among investors were raised by indications of returning part of the production

Key points from the 37th ministerial meeting of OPEC+ include: Production Cuts Extension — The coalition decided to extend current production levels, maintaining cuts of approximately 3.66 million barrels per day until December 31 of next year.

UAE Production Increase — The UAE will gradually increase

its production share by about 300 thousand barrels per day from January to September 2025.

Voluntary Reduction Extension -- Countries that announced voluntary reductions in oil production in April and November decided to extend these cuts until next September. These countries include Saudi Arabia, Russia, Iraq, the UAE, Kuwait, Kazakhstan, Algeria, and Oman.

Cancellation of Reductions -- The voluntary reduction in oil production is scheduled to be gradually lifted on a monthly basis starting from October until September 2025, contingent upon market conditions.

The market reacted anxiously to these decisions, with concerns about increased supplies amid a slowdown in global de-

Boursa delists PetroGulf shares

The Boursa Kuwait has announced the delisting of shares belonging to Gulf Petroleum Investment Company, known as PetroGulf, based on a decision made by the Board of Commissioners of the Capital Markets Authority.

The Authority cited the company's failure to meet the requirements outlined in its decision from December 3, 2023, within the specified timeframe, which expired at the end of March 2023.

In November 2023, the Authority's Board of Commissioners had issued

a decision regarding the potential delisting of the company's shares from the Kuwait Stock Exchange unless it addressed the underlying reasons for the suspension of trading by March

According to the Authority, this action was taken to ensure the processing of the company's financial data for the fiscal year ending on December 31, 2022, as well as subsequent interim data, in a manner that guarantees fair recording and balances of other relevant data.

Market Movements 06-06-2024

SAUDI	-	TASI
JAPAN	-	Nikkei 225
PHILIPPINES	-	PSEi

Change	Closing pts
+7.23	11,560.39
+213.34	38,703.51
+68.54	6,509.86



		Onange	Ciosing pis
ΑI	- DFMGI	-1.57	3,978.75
PT	- EGX 30	-205.65	26,428.65
STAN	- KSE 100	-357.51	73,802.00

Business

Oil sector's cybersecurity vital for economic protection, says Kuwait

Cyber threats highlighted in seminar

KUWAIT CITY, June 6, (KUNA): Acknowledging the potential detrimental impact on global economy, Kuwait's Ministry of Oil affirmed on Wednesday that cybersecurity plays a strategic role in safeguarding oil and assets and other sensitive information within the ministry.

Ths remarks by the Head of PR and Media at the Ministry of Oil Sheikha Tamadhur Khaled Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah came during a seminar organized by the Ministry, attended by Colonel Abdulrahman Al-Shatti of the Directorate of Cybersecurity at the Ministry of De-

With the increased reliance on technology in the Oil sector, cybersecurity became a necessity to protect operations, underscoring the necessity for advanced technology, strategic security integration, and periodic training programs, Sheikha Tamadhur said.

Developing cybersecurity in Kuwait, she continued, reflects an important aspect of the country's strategy in facing challenges in that space and protecting the infrastructure,

KUNA photo

calling on other government bodies to follow suit.

On his part, Al-Shatti gave a visual presentation showcasing cybersecurity in all its forms, the different effects on the civil and military level, and shared knowledge on evaluating

A group photo of the participants of the seminar organized by the Ministry of Oil

and managing cyber risks. Moreover, risks in cyberspace are present at individual, institutional,

and governmental levels, highlighting that those cyber threats can take the shape of espionage, pirating, and recruitment for organized terrorist groups as well as their activities.

Internal audit forum highlights governance and risk management

Kuwait Banking Association promotes internal audit awareness

KUWAIT CITY, June 6: The Kuwait Banking Association conducted its annual internal audit awareness campaign throughout May, coinciding with International Internal Audit Awareness Month, aiming to highlight the profession's significance and its pivotal role in banks, reports Al-Jarida daily.

As part of this initiative, the Federation organized the first forum for internal auditing in the banking sector on May 30, inviting international audit offices PricewaterhouseCoopers, Deloitte, and Protiviti to participate alongside heads of internal audit in the banking sector.

Sheikha Al-Issa, Deputy Secretary-General of the Kuwait Banking Association, emphasized the Union's commitment to raising awareness about internal auditing in Kuwaiti banks. She stressed the importance of internal auditing in enhancing transparency, corporate governance, and institutional per-

formance, aligning with international best practices and regulatory standards. Amr Al-Qasabi, Chairman of the Federation's Audit Committee and Head of the Internal Audit Sector at Commercial Bank, highlighted the evolving role of the internal audit profession, emphasizing its contribution to achieving banks' goals through analytical tools and continuous audit methodology.

He emphasized the importance of dispelling misconceptions about the pro-

fession and enhancing understanding of its critical role in organizational gov-

ernance, internal control systems, and risk management. The forum covered various topics related to internal audit activity in the banking sector. Hossam Samara from PricewaterhouseCoopers discussed the Combined Assurance model, focusing on harmonizing assurance activities to prevent gaps and duplication.

Senthil Kumar from Protiviti highlighted the internal audit function's role in supporting banks' initiatives while managing associated risks. Fadi Berjawi from Deloitte & Touche addressed sustainability, emphasizing the importance of internal audit in this area and discussing relevant regulations and guidelines from the Central Bank of Kuwait.

Throughout May, the Kuwait Banking Association, in collaboration with the Federation's Audit Committee, shared awareness messages on social media to underscore the importance of internal audit in banking operations and to enhance understanding of its role in organizational governance, internal control, and risk management.

These efforts aimed to promote a deeper appreciation of the profession's significance within the business community.

2nd workshop organized as part of company's 'weyak' initiative

stc hosts 'Financial Intelligence Workshop' with Waleed Al Saleem

KUWAIT CITY, June 6: Kuwait Telecommunications Company - stc, a world-class digital leader providing innovative services and platforms to customers, enabling the digital transformation in Kuwait, held its 2nd workshop for entrepreneurs in collaboration with the Kuwaiti content creator, Waleed Al Saleem. The initiative was organized as part of stc's extensive corporate social responsibility framework, under the educational pillar and through the Company's 'weyak' initiative that was launched to support entrepreneurs and start-ups in Kuwait. The workshop covered important topics related to financial intelligence and

effective investment strategies. Held at the stc training center, the "Financial Intelligence Workshop" was open to entrepreneurs interested in learning more about some of the key financial concepts that are essential for any entrepreneur, as well as risk-adjusted investment strategies that could potentially support them in funding their projects. The registration for the workshop was closed an hour after the announcement was made due to the high demand for the session.

During the workshop, Al Saleem went through an overview of managing finances and investment to the 40 attendees, followed by a Q&A session at the end of the workshop. The interactive session allowed participants to engage directly with Al Saleem, gaining personalized insights and advice tailored to their specific business challenges. The feedback from attendees was overwhelmingly positive, with many expressing a renewed confidence in managing their financial affairs and strategizing for future growth.



Waleed Al Saleem with the participants in the financial intelligence workshop.

stc indicated in a statement that the workshop comes as a continuation of the series of workshops that the Company has and will continue to organize for entrepreneurs under its 'weyak' initiative. Through initiatives like the 'weyak' program and workshops such as these, stc seeks to support and equip motivated business leaders with the knowledge and tools they need to succeed and thrive. Providing educational and informative platforms is a key component of stc's commitment to fostering a robust entrepreneurial ecosystem in Kuwait. These efforts are designed to empower entrepreneurs with the skills and resources necessary to navigate the complexities of the modern business landscape, ultimately contributing to Kuwait's economic development and innovation.

Upon concluding another successful workshop, stc once again thanked Al Saleem for his expert guidance and valuable insights, which will surely add great value to the participating entrepreneurs. The Company also expressed gratitude to all the attendees for their active participation and engagement. The enthusiasm and level of interaction demonstrated by the participants reinforce stc's commitment to continuing the introduction of informative and educational programs and workshops.

'Relations strengthen across various sectors'

China to accelerate Mubarak Al-Kabeer port development

KUWAIT CITY, June 6: Zhang Jianwei, the Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Kuwait, has affirmed that efforts will be intensified to swiftly achieve initial milestones for the development of Mubarak Al-Kabeer Port. He also emphasized collaboration in areas such as renewable energy, wastewater treatment, and artificial intelligence.

Speaking to Al-Seyassah, Ambassador Jianwei highlighted a meeting between Wang Yi, Member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China, and Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Abdullah Al-Yahya in Beijing.

During this meeting, they dis-

cussed the robust bilateral relations and strategic partnership between the two nations, along with avenues to bolster cooperation across various sectors and levels.

Ambassador Jianwei further mentioned that recent regional and international developments were also on the agenda.

He revealed that China is keen to enhance collaboration regarding the Mubarak Al-Kabeer Port project in Kuwait, along with endeavors in renewable energy, wastewater treatment, and artificial intelligence. To facilitate this, a Chinese delegation comprising specialized experts and engineers visited Kuwait for an inspection visit and project review at

Punctuality rate hits 88.2%

Kuwait Airways ranks second in MENA for flight punctuality

KUWAIT CITY, June 6: In its latest report for April 2024, the renowned CIRIUM website, specializing in airli.ne data analysis, revealed Kuwait Airways' remarkable performance in terms of flight punctuality, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The report highlighted that Kuwait Airways secured the second position in the Middle East and Africa region, marking a significant advancement from sixth

With an impressive punctuality rate of 88.2% in April 2024, Kuwait Airways demonstrated a notable improvement compared to previous months, achieving 85.6% in March and 79.4% in February of the same year.

This accomplishment underscores the airline's commitment to implementing strict policies on accuracy and punctuality, aiming for continuous progress and excellence in meeting international aviation standards with utmost efficiency and professionalism.

Recognized as one of the most reliable sources globally for aviation data analysis, the CIRIUM website provides vital information to airlines, travel agencies, aircraft manufacturers, and financial institutions.

Kuwait Airways' dedication to ensuring punctuality reflects its unwavering commitment to delivering exceptional service and upholding its reputation as a leading international airline

Kuwait Fund participates in climate financing workshop

KUWAIT CITY, June 6: The Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development recently took part in the second workshop on climate financing organized by the Arab Coordination Group, reports Al-Seyassah

Held at the headquarters of its Saudi counterpart in Riyadh, the workshop exemplified ongoing collaboration among development institutions within the Arab region. Attended by various member institutions and funds, the event aimed to enhance cooperation and synchronize international efforts towards achieving sustainable development goals.

Represented by Ahmed Ali Al-Sabaĥ, Assistant Économic Advisor, and Manar Mansour, Senior Specialist Engineer, the Kuwaiti Fund actively participated in discussions focused on refining collaborative

methodologies and fostering unified approaches to addressing climaterelated challenges.

In a statement issued following the workshop, the Kuwaiti Fund emphasized its commitment to the environmental sector, highlighting its support for clean energy projects aimed at mitigating carbon dioxide emissions. This includes initiatives such as the development of new thermal electricity generation plants and enhancing the efficiency of existing

The Arab Coordination Group serves as a strategic alliance dedicated to advancing sustainable development initiatives across societies. Through collective efforts and shared goals, the group endeavors to drive positive change and foster resilience in the face of environmental challenges.

Capital welcomes 5.2 mln visitors

Istanbul's 'cultural significance' boosts Türkiye's tourism sector

ISTANBUL, June 6, (Xinhua): Türkiye's bustling city Istanbul set a record high by welcoming 5.2 million foreign visitors in the first four months of 2024, signaling promising prospects for the country's ambitious goal of tour-

Istanbul's unique allure has resulted in a notable 10-percent increase in visitors during the January-April period compared with last year, according to data from the Ministry of Culture and Tourism.

The ministry's recent data also revealed that the number of foreign tourists increased by 11.75 percent in the whole country, reaching 10.7 million in the same period.

Hamit Kuk, chief adviser to the president of the Turkish Travel Agencies

Association (TURSAB), said this remarkable influx underscored Istanbul's enduring appeal, signaling a broader rebound in tourism. "Achieving an annual growth rate of 10 percent is not just desirable, but

(also) essential for our industry's revitalization after the pandemic," Kuk told Xinhua in a recent interview. "June appears hovered for exceptional occupancy rates, and as we approach

July and August, the peak of the tourism season, optimism is already soaring in the city," he said.

Spanning across the continents of Europe and Asia, Istanbul with a population of 16 million people is uniquely situated along the Bosphorus Strait, adding to its rich cultural and geographical significance, Kuk noted.

Istanbul, a captivating metropolis, pulsates with life round the clock and boasts a history, rendering it one of the world's oldest cities, Kuk noted, adding that "its alluring charm also lies in its vibrant culinary scene, offering a tapestry of flavors that enchant visitors from around the globe.'

Award in recognition of its leadership and innovative achievements

KFH wins two prestigious awards from EMEA Finance

KUWAIT CITY, June 6: Kuwait Finance House (KFH), the world's leading Islamic institution, has won "Best Islamic Finance House" and "Best Financial Institution Sukuk" awards at the 16th Annual EMEA Finance Middle East, Africa and Europe Banking

Awards for the year 2023.

The "Best Islamic Finance House" award acknowledges KFH's leadership, exceptional performance within the Islamic banking sector, and contributions to the advancement of the banking industry. The "Best Financial Institution Sukuk" award celebrates KFH's successful US\$1 billion, 5-year Tier 1 Sukuk issuance under its US\$4 billion Sukuk Program.

At the recent London awarding ceremony, KFH General Manager Treasury Kuwait, Ahmad Eissa Al-Sumait highlighted KFH's success in solidifying its role and expanding its business across local, regional, and global markets, both in Kuwait and for the Group as a whole.

He added that KFH, the first Islam-

ic bank in Kuwait, has also achieved remarkable progress at all levels and established economic foundations which are based on human capital development and meeting the needs of the customers and corporate in the markets where the Group operates.

"These achievements have worthily made KFH an Islamic banking reference at the global level." said Al-Sumait.

He emphasized that KFH's outstanding performance, professional approach, and unwavering commitment to Sharia principles have sigment to Snaria principles have sig-nificantly enhanced its reputation. This strong reputation is built on the bank's solid financial position, extensive operations, high-quality services, and dedication to Islamic finance. These factors have all contributed to strengthening the Islamic finance industry, which has become a significant and influential sector in the global economy.

He went on to say that these awards

highlight the integration of KFH's performance and the synergy of its strategy towards the major developments in global markets, noting that the Bank's aspirations and achievements reflect its strategy of continuous development and sustainability for the future. These forward-looking plans also reflect KFH's efforts in maintaining its pioneering positionas the first and the largest Islamic bank in Kuwait and the world.

Al-Sumait added: "Winning these awards serves as a motivation for further success and continuous improve-

Ahmad Eissa Al-Sumait: an international recognition that affirms KFH's success in the Islamic Finance Industry

ment to reach even higher standards." He pointed out that Best Financial Institution Sukuk" award highlights KFH's successful issuance of their US\$1 billion, 5-year senior unsecured Sukuk, the first offering under their US\$4 billion Sukuk Program. "The issuance attracted significant investor interest, exceeding demand by more than three times. Notably, the Sukuk received strong participation from regional and global investors across the Middle East, Europe, and Asia, with participation primarily from banks, financial institutions, and investment funds. It was oversubscribed within a single day," he added.

Al-Sumait explained that the aim of this issuance is to finance KFH's operations and expand its financing and investment capabilities, support the infrastructure projects and the local economic sectors in Kuwait.

Moreover, he affirmed that KFH has maintained its leading position in the Primary and Secondary Markets of the International Islamic Liquidity Management (IILM) Sukuk Program by topping the Primary and Secondary Market lists of the program for 2023.KFH achieved the top rank as a Primary Dealer and ranked first as a Secondary Dealer for the third year in a row amongst several international and regional banks by IILM. This unique excellence emphasizes the Bank's outstanding status and expertise. The Group Treasury expanded further its ESG Sukuk exposure by further increasing the ESG compliant Sukuk investments

Al-Sumait highlighted KFH Capital's success in leading and arranging Sukuk issuances for a diverse range of issuers, including both sovereign entities and corporations across various sectors and geographic regions. KFH Capital's role as Joint Lead Manager & Bookrunner for numerous Sukuk deals in Kuwait and internationally further demonstrates its expertise in this area

He noted that KFH is continuing its Sukuk issuance endeavors, benefiting from the high demand of the global financial markets, for which governments and companies worldwide are focused on to contribute to implementing expansion and growth plans.



Ahmad Eissa Al-Sumait receiving the Baytak Award.



Ahmad Eissa Al-Sumait and Faisal Al-Saraei received the Baytak Awards.

UN chief calls for a 'tax' on the

Prominent awards KFH's recognition stems from the evaluation of EMEA finance's economy and financial analysts, bankers, and consultants. These experts consider a variety of significant factors, including financial performance, market share, growth, profitability, the quality of

innovation in products and services. The EMEA Finance Middle East Banking Awards are a highly respected recognition program that celebrates exceptional achievements and contributions within the Middle Eastern financial services sector. The program's 16th edition attracted participation from leading financial insti-

Banknotes bearing portrait of King Charles being rolled out

LONDON, June 6, (AP): People have financial impact of the change been queuing Wednesday outside the Bank of England's headquarters in London and at post offices around the U.K. to get their hands on the first U.K. banknotes featuring the portrait of King Charles III.

The portrait of the king will appear on all four banknotes issued by the Bank of England - 5, 10, 20 and 50 pounds - with no other alterations to the existing designs. The notes will coexist alongside those featuring his late mother, Queen Elizabeth II, whom he succeeded as monarch on her death in September 2022.

The rollout of coins and stamps bearing the image of Charles have already been rolled out.

People may not notice the new notes immediately in their change or withdrawals from ATMs, not least because so many transactions are now done cashless.

Though cash payments have declined over the years, they remain particularly important for lower income households and those who get welfare benefits at their local Post Office. In 2023, legislation was passed as part of to protect access to

In line with guidance from the Royal Household, the new notes will only be printed to replace those that are worn, and to meet any overall increase in demand - the approach aims

There are more than 4.6 billion Bank of England notes in circulation. worth about 82 billion pounds (\$105

"This is a historic moment, as it's the first time we've changed the sovereign on our notes," said Bank of England Governor Andrew Bailey. "We know that cash is important for many people, and we are committed to providing banknotes for as long as the public demand them. Bringing these new notes into circulation is a demonstration of that commitment."

In April, Charles was presented with the first banknotes bearing his portrait and praised them as "very well designed" while expressing his surprise at being only the second monarch to feature on them.

Although the Bank of England started to produce banknotes in the 17th century, Charles's mother, Queen Elizabeth II, was the first British monarch to be given the honour in 1960 on a 1-pound note.

People will be able to snap up the new-look currency at selected Post Office branches across the U.K.

"Our local customers come into our branch every day to withdraw or deposit cash for their daily needs, so we were excited to be one of the first branches to have the new banknotes available," said Karen Stonham, branch manager at the Portsmouth Post Office in southern England.

to minimise the environmental and

Bid to cut oil imports

EV sales are booming in Nepal

KATHMANDU, Nepal, June 6, (AP): Nepal's abundant hydroelectric power is helping the Himalayan nation cut its oil imports and clean up its air, thanks to a boom in sales of electric vehicles.

Nearly all of the electricity produced in Nepal is clean energy, most of it generated by river-fed hydroelectricity. Thanks to that abundant source of power, the country is quickly expanding charging networks and imports of EVs have doubled in each of the past two years, according to customs data.

The Nepal Electricity Authority estimates use of EVs has reduced oil import costs by \$22 million a year, and the savings are increasing.

Access to electricity in Nepal has soared in the past three decades as hydroelectric projects were completed. Now all but 6% of the population can reach the country's fast-expanding grid. That is enabling the country to leapfrog its neighbors in adopting EVs.

Nepal so far has the peak capacity to produce 2,600 megawatts of power and that is increasing as new hydropower plants are completed. A very small amount of power is also generated by solar plants.

"Our electricity in the grid is from hydropower so it is clean energy. And so Nepal is ideally placed to use electricity to run our vehicles in the best way it should be, which is that the energy source itself is clean. It is not coal, gas or nuclear or petroleum," said Kanak Mani Dixit, a leading environment and civil rights activist.

Official data on sales were not available, but Chinese automaker BYD's Atto 3 and Indian maker Tata's Nexon appear to dominate

sales of electric passenger sedans. Nepal has made boosting use of EVs part of its national commitments to curbing climate changing emissions, pledging to raise EVs to 25% of all auto sales by 2025 and 90% by

profits of fossil fuel companies Guterres calls them 'godfathers of climate chaos' **GENEVA**, June 6, (AP):

Secretary-General António Guterres has called for a "windfall" tax on profits of fossil fuel companies to help pay for the fight against global warming, calling them the "god-

fathers of climate chaos." Guterres spoke in a bid to revive the world's focus on climate change at a time when elections, inflation and conflict in places like Ukraine, Gaza and Sudan have seized the spotlight.

In a speech timed for World Environment Day, the U.N. chief drew on new data and projections to make a case against Big Oil. The European Union's Copernicus service, a global reference for tracking world temperatures, said that last month was the hottest May ever, marking the 12th straight monthly record high.

The service cited an average surface air temperature of 15.9 degrees Celsius (60.6 degrees Fahrenheit) last month -1.52 degrees Celsius higher than the estimated May average before industrial times.

The burning of fossil fuels - oil, gas and coal - is the main contributor to global warming caused by human ac-

The World Meteorological Organization said the global mean near-surface temperature for each year from 2024 to 2028 is expected to range between 1.1 and 1.9 degrees Celsius hotter than at the start of the industrial era. The landmark Paris climate accord of 2015 set a target of keeping the rise below 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit).

"Beyond the predictions and statistics is the stark reality that we risk trillions of dollars in economic losses, millions of lives upended and destruction of fragile and precious ecosystems and the biodiversity that exists there," Ko Barrett, the WMO's deputy secretary-general, told a news conference in

"What is clear is that the Paris agreement target of 1.5 degrees Celsius is hanging on a thread. It's not yet dead, but it's hanging by a thread," she

"This forecast is affirmation that the world has entered a climate where years that are as hot as 2023 should no longer be a surprise," Noah Dif-

Company to be rebranded

Menzies Aviation completes Groundforce Portugal deal

LONDON, June 6: Menzies Aviation, the leading service partner to the world's airports and airlines, an Agility Global company, has completed its acquisition of a 50.1% stake in Groundforce Portugal.

Groundforce Portugal manages more than 100,000 aircraft turns every year across five of the busiest airports in Portugal, where it provides ground and air cargo services to several leading global airlines. Upon completion, Menzies secures a 65% market share in Portugal.

The successful completion of this transaction, more than 12 months after the agreement was first announced in March 2023, marks a significant milestone in the recovery and revitalization of the ground handling company with an impact on the entire national economy. It reaffirms Menzies' commitment to strengthening handling capacity across the aviation network in Portugal, in partnership with TAP which retains

a 49.9% stake in the business. Groundforce Portugal will be rebranded as Menzies Aviation, becoming part of the world's largest aviation services company with 50,000 employees and operations at over 290 locations in more than 65 countries, on six continents. Menzies will welcome more than 4,000 employees working across five airports: Humberto Delgado Airport (LIS) in Lisbon, Francisco Sá Carneiro Airport (OPO) in Porto, Gago Coutinho Airport (FAO) in Faro, Cristiano Ronaldo International Airport (FNC) on Madeira and Porto Santo Airport (PXO) on Porto Santo Island in Madeira.



Menzies Aviation - Groundforce workers

Together with TAP, Menzies Aviation will invest in advanced technology, in a strategic move to underscore its dedication to elevating standards, enhancing efficiency, and ensuring sustained growth. It will also support staff development as the company builds its presence in Southern Europe.

Hassan El-Houry, Executive Chairman, Menzies Aviation said: "Today's announcement is the culmination of a year-long process to transfer ownership and progress the revitalization of the Portuguese aviation sector. We are committed to our strategic investment in the region, paving the way for a future where innovation and excellence take centre stage. This milestone opens

a new chapter for Menzies in Portugal and the Southern European region, and we look forward to working together to deliver high-quality services across the country's aviation network."

Philipp Joeinig, Group CEO, Menzies aviation said:"We are delighted to embark on an exciting venture in Portugal, working with TAP Portugal and our new employees to deliver unmatched aviation services, upholding our commitment to safety, security, and excellence. The integration of Ground force Portugal employees into Menzies is eagerly anticipated, as their expertise will provide invaluable in fostering the growth and expansion of Portugal's aviation sector."

fenbaugh, a professor at Stanford's Doerr School of Sustainability, said in

A study released Tuesday by 57 scientists said that as the world keeps burning fossil fuels, Earth is likely to reach the 1.5 degrees Celsius limit in four-and-a-half years.

U.N. experts and academics have repeatedly highlighted how rising temperatures can upend climate patterns and cause drought, flooding and forest fires. That can lead to climate migration, higher costs for farm products or insurance and greater public health risks linked to high heat or water scar-

city.
"While some individuals may escape direct consequences, we will all be affected," said Waleed Abdalati, who heads an environmental sciences institute at the University of Colorado

Guterres appealed to media and technology companies to stop taking advertising from the fossil fuel industry's biggest players, as has been done

in some places with Big Tobacco. He also repeated concerns about subsidies paid in many countries for

fossil fuels, which help keep prices low for consumers.

"Climate change is the mother of all stealth taxes paid by everyday people and vulnerable countries and communities," he said. "Meanwhile, the godfathers of climate chaos - the fossil fuel industry - rake in record profits and feast off trillions in taxpayer-funded subsidies."

Guterres said global emissions of carbon dioxide must fall 9% each year to 2030 for the 1.5-degree Celsius target under the Paris climate accords to

What's On

Abdul-Mohsen Al-Rushaid emphasizes cybersecurity importance

NBK holds awareness session on electronic fraud & prevention measures for employees

KUWAIT CITY, June 6: National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) always seeks to intensify efforts to increase awareness on electronic fraud risks and protection methods among the public, as part of its continued participation in the "Let's Be Aware" campaign introduced by the Central Bank of Kuwait, in cooperation with Kuwait Banking Association (KBA), which aims to promote financial literacy and raise awareness about the role of the banking sector and ways to maximize the benefit from its various services.

In this context, NBK's Digital Communication team organized an awareness session for employees to highlight the latest forms of electronic fraud, the common methods used by scammers, and how to avoid falling victim to

Commenting on this, Abdul-Mohsen Al-Rushaid, AGM, Head of Digital Communications at National Bank of Kuwait said, "NBK aims to expand its efforts in spreading banking and fi-nancial awareness among all sectors of society, including employees, by familiarizing them with the latest forms of electronic fraud and how to steer clear of them, and highlighting how crucial is cybersecurity.

"The engagement was great, as employees enjoyed the session and gained valuable insights that will undoubtedly benefit them and customers as well, thus minimizing electronic fraud cases," he remarked.

"Such awareness activities help foster a fraud-resilient environment, which underscores our proactive approach in educating and empowering the public



Abdul-Mohsen Al-Rushaid, Head of Digital Communications at National Bank of Kuwait.

against fraud. As a leading financial institution in Kuwait and across the region, NBK frequently organizes various activities that contribute to raising awareness about all topics related to the banking and help in combating fraud and financial crime," he mentioned.

"NBK uses all its digital channels to highlight different fraud types including fictitious investments whether in cash, commodities, virtual currencies or real estate. Additionally, it always warns customers against all fraud attempts via SMS, e-mail or phone calls by sharing messages on its social media platforms to warn customers against clicking unverified ads like those promising high gains, enticing individuals to register their personal



Group photo of NBK team.

information on fake trading platforms or accounts promising financial aids," he explained.

It is worth mentioning that NBK is a key promoter and participant in all CBK's campaigns and initiatives to increase financial and banking awareness among different sectors of society. The bank also ranked first in promoting the "Let's Be Aware" campaign in 2023 according to CBK, outperforming all





Photos during the event.

Alfouz draw offers mega annual prize

ABK unveils Mohammad Boshehri as winner of Alfouz KD 10,000 draw prize

KUWAIT CITY, June 6: Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) announced Mohammad Yaqoub Boshehri, as the KD10,000 Alfouz weekly draw winner on Monday, 3 June 2024, whereby the draw was held under the supervision of the Ministry of Commerce and

Since its launch, the Alfouz account continues to offer an impressive weekly draw of KD10,000. The Bank has recently expanded its offering by adding a new alluring monthly draw of KD20,000, and an exceptional quarterly draw of KD100,000.

The account also retains its hallmark mega annual draw of a KD5,000 monthly salary for ten years. Furthermore, the Bank now offers customers an increased opportunity to win for every KD10 as opposed to KD100 pre-

ABK encourages everyone to open an Alfouz draw account and/or increase their balances to have more chances in winning in the upcoming weekly draw



Alfouz account winner.

winner announcement, which will take place on Monday,10 June 2024. The higher the deposits, the higher the chances to win.

For more information about ABK,

please follow the Bank's Instagram account @abk_kuwait, visit eahli.com, contact Ahlan Ahli 1 899 899 or visit one of the Bank's branches across Ku-



AUK president, Dr. Rawda Awwad, and faculty during the ribbon cutting ceremony.



AUK president, Dr. Rawda Awwad, and dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, Dr. Ali Charara, talking to one of the students.



General photo of the exhibition.

IEI Kuwait Chapter conducts seminar along with AGM

The Institute of Engineers India (IEI) - Kuwait Chapter recently conducted an insightful seminar on "Quality Auditing to Improve Construction Project Quality" Followed by IEI KC AGM, This seminar aimed to provide valuable insights and practical knowledge to professionals in the construction industry.

The seminar was attended by large numbers of IEI

KC engineers and guests.
Seminar Presentation by: Dr. Abdul Razzak Rumane, FIE, CQP-FCQI, Former Chairman, IEI-KCDr. Abdul Razzak Rumane, a distinguished expert in the field of quality and auditing in construction projects, delivered an engaging presentation. His extensive experience and deep knowledge provided attendees with practical strategies and innovative approaches

to enhance the quality of construction projects. Dr. Razzak delved into quality auditing principles and practices, emphasizing their importance in the construction industry. Attendees learned about various techniques for implementing robust quality control measures in their projects.

The seminar featured a lively and informative question and answer session, where IEI members actively participated, sharing their experiences and seeking advice from Dr. Razzak. The IEI - Kuwait Chapter extends its gratitude to Dr.

Abdul Razzak Rumane for his invaluable contribution and presented with a memento.

Stay tuned for more enriching events that provide opportunities for professional growth and networking.

IMA Kuwait hosts career guidance event for students

KUWAIT CITY, June 6: The Indian Muslim Association (IMA) Kuwait successfully organized and executed its highly anticipated X & XII Std Student's Felicitation & Career Guidance Event. The event aimed to provide valuable insights, guidance, and recognition to students who have excelled themselves in board examination in 2024, marking the beginning of their educational and profes-

The event took place at Awqaf Auditorium, Reggae, on the evening of 31st May organized by the Indian Muslim Association (IMA) Kuwait. It witnessed an overwhelming participation of students from various Indian Schools in Kuwait, along with their Parents, School faculties, and experts in career guidance and motivation.

Shri Nikhil Kumar, Second Secretary - Political, Press, Information & Culture, from the Embassy of India in Kuwait, graced the event as the Chief Guest. In his speech, he congratulated the students on their tremendous achievements and expressed his gratitude to IMA Kuwait for organizing such a meaningful event.

The distinguished Principals of esteemed schools in Kuwait who attended the event as Guests of Honor in-

■ Mr. Radhakrishnan C – Principal, United Indian School, Jleeb Al Shoyoukh, Kuwait

■ Mr. Mahesh P Iyer – Principal, Smart Indian School,

Jleeb Al Shoyoukh, Kuwait ■ Dr. Anis Ahmad – Principal, Salmiya Indian Model School, Salmiya, Kuwait

■ Mrs. JaseelaNoufal - Vice Principal, Indian Learners Own Academy School, Jleeb Al Shoyoukh, Kuwait All Guests of Honor congratulated the students and acknowledged IMA's efforts in hosting this special event to

honor the meritorious students. Keynote Speakers at the event included:

■ Dr. Binumon Vasudev, Principal of ICSK Senior, Salmiya, Kuwait, who delivered an enlightening talk on

'Pathways to Success: Navigating Life after Class 12' ■ Mr. Sharfuddin B S, a renowned motivational speaker, who spoke on 'How to Score Well in the Exam of

Both talks were well-received by the attentive audience, offering valuable insights and practical advice.

The Speeches were followed up by the much-anticipated 'Facilitation Ceremony'.

Top 100 Ranked Students were selected on basis of their Merit, evaluated through their mark sheets submitted via an online link circulated during event promotion. Top 20 Students in main category (10 from each grade- X & XII) were presented with Certificates of Appreciation and Mementos by the Speakers & Distinguish Guests. The students in the 10th grade had total marks ranging from 493 to 485 in the best of five subjects, while the students in the 12th grade had total marks ranging from 494 to 483 in the best of five

Next Top 70 Rankers received Certificates of Appre-



Photo of the organizers

ciation for their outstanding performance in the 2023-24 academic year.

Additionally, IMA presented mementos to the top 10 performing children of its members in a separate cate-IMA Kuwait has started 'Maulana Abul Kalam Azad

Student of the Year Award' this year, which was presented by the Chief Guests to the following top Scoring Students

■ Samia Adil from Carmel School, Std X, with 98.6% ■ Pranav Pradeep from United Indian School, Std X, with 98.6%

■ Rea Sabu Pillai from Indian Community School Kuwait, Std XII, with 98.8%

It was joyous & proud moment for the students and their parents that their accomplishments were recognized in front of distinguished guests, faculties, and hundreds of attendees. All the attendees enthusiastically congratulated these young talents, acknowledging their achievements through applause and best wishes for their future endeavors.

Mr. Mohammad Umar, the President of IMA Kuwait, presented bouquets to the Chief Guest, Guests of Honor, and Speakers appreciating their unwavering support to the Event. He also thanked all Parents and School Principals in his concluding speech for their attendance and active participation in the program.

Imran Khan, the Event Organizer, delivered the Vote of Thanks, expressing gratitude to the Chief Guest, Guests of Honor, Speakers, Attendees, and IMA members for their relentless efforts. Special thanks were extended to the Awqaf Auditorium authorities for their generous sup-

The event commenced with Recitation and Translation of Holy Quran by Master Ashaj Jawwad Khan and conducted by Farhan Zain.

Children Snacks were sponsored by Al Faysal Bakery and Water bottles were sponsored by Malabar Gold. IMA extends its heartfelt thanks for their continued support. Tea and Snacks were served to the attendees during tea



Group photo from the event.

Industry experts evaluate Capstone Design projects

AUK unveils Spring '24 Capstone Design Exhibition

KUWAIT CITY, June 6: The Art & Graphic Design Department at the American University of Kuwait (AUK) launched its Spring 2024 Capstone Design Exhibition which took place at the University's exhibition center. The exhibition offered senior students an opportunity to display their creative work, which covered a range of themes, including social and cultural awareness, corporate identity, and entrepreneurship.

The exhibition ran for one week and participating students were evaluated by industry experts based on their creativity and presentation, their ability to conduct and use graphic design research strategy effectively, and their ability to plan and implement a compelling graphic design display.

Acting Chair of the Art & Graphic Design Department, Dr.Fahad A. Dhawi, commented on the exhibition and what it represents, "This year was exceptional as we hosted our Spring 2024 Capstone Exhibition Event in-house, providing a wonderful opportunity for students, faculty, and visitors to see students' work and experience our campus and the new exhibition center in the G-Building. It's inspiring to see AUK's commitment to student potential. This year's capstone proved that we are stronger and bolder as a community when we collaborate. On behalf of the department, we extend our heartfelt appreciation to the president and the dean of the College for their continued support.'

Held biannually, the Capstone Design Exhibition brings

together visitors from graphic design studios, publishing houses, film and video production companies, advertising, and multimedia firms. Commenting on the success of this year's exhibition, cap-

stone professor, Rita Merheb, stated, "In today's rapidly evolving graphic design field, our students have embraced these advancements, ensuring they are well-prepared for industry demands. Their projects highlight the importance of staying current with technological trends. The Capstone Exhibition provides a unique opportunity for the public, including industry professionals and potential employers, to witness the future of graphic design through our talented graduates' eyes.'

Sharing the same sentiment was capstone professor Nadim Matta, "This year's capstone event was a successful collaboration based on the feedback of all faculty members of the Art and Graphic Design Department. Students explored in their design journey across different projects multiple themes and creative outputs that tackled real-life problems and aimed at providing creative, original and compelling visual solutions. The student's work reflected their creative, cultural and visual maturity as they progressed in their mode of study to reach their capstone proect". AUK's Graphic Design Capstone Exhibition presents an opportunity for senior students to fully incorporate their design strengths and learning into a focused and extended process of research and visual expression.

NBC puts pop culture spin on Paris Olympics with star power

LOS ANGELES, June 6, (AP): NBC is inserting some pop culture flavor into the world's biggest sports spectacle: From Megan Thee Stallion dancing with dressage horses at the Palace of Versailles to Peyton Manning riding a giant baguette blimp over the Eiffel Tower, the network has strategically partnered with several big names to build anticipation for the Paris Olympics.

Enlisting a plethora of entertainers and non-Olympic athletes is designed to entice viewers after the network - and longtime Olympics broadcaster in the US - drew lackluster ratings for the last Summer Olympics, in Tokyo, and the Winter Olympics in Beijing. Held amid the coronavirus pandemic, those Games proceeded with muted fanfare and few announcers on-site.

But with over 11 million expected to attend the two-week Summer Games that start July 26, NBC - which holds the broadcasting rights to the Olympics through 2032 - wants to attract more viewers by bringing

Olympic stories to life with popular and diverse personalities.

"We speak to a broader audience," said Snoop Dogg, who has been brought on as a primetime NBC correspondent for Paris. The ultrasmooth rapper had become a fan favorite during the Tokyo Games, when he and Kevin Hart did in-studio commentary for Peacock.

Snoop Dogg will be on the ground in Paris by late July, exploring the city's landmarks and attending competitions and events. He's already had casual on-video interviews with a few Olympians about their respective sports, including women's basketball player A'ja Wilson, gymnast Sunisa Lee, skateboarder Jagger Eaton and beach volleyball players Sara Hughes and Kelly Cheng.

"We have different perspectives and different views," Snoop Dogg said of the recruited entertainers. "The world that we live in right now,

it is appropriate for me to give our side of the story, because we've always been a great voice and a great instrument. But we've never been the conductor. Now I get to play the role of conductor.

After the pandemic-delayed Tokyo Games in 2021, NBC created a new playbook to increase excitement for this summer's coverage. Network researchers found that people between the ages of 26-40 wanted an Olympics that infuses more pop culture into the everyday conversa-

Ceremony

Singer Kelly Clarkson and NFL legend Peyton Manning will join sportscaster Mike Tirico in Paris as hosts of the opening ceremony along the Seine, held for the first time outside a stadium setting. Comedian Leslie Jones will contribute to on-air and social media coverage. Podcaster Alex Cooper of "Call Her Daddy" fame will host live, interactive watch parties in Paris called "Watch with Alex Cooper," a Peacock program where she'll appear in a picture-in-picture view sharing her insights and answering questions from fans in real time.

'I'm not a former Olympian, but they sort of convinced me that we are just celebrating these athletes and a little bit about what drives them," said Manning, a Pro Football Hall of Famer and two-time Super Bowl winner. He's also the co-host of the ESPN-produced "Monday Night Football with Peyton and Eli" with his brother and fellow former NFL quarterback Eli Manning.

Hart returns too, collaborating with Kenan Thompson on an eight-episode commentary series offering comical recaps of the best and most unexpected Olympic moments.

"It's under the umbrella of sports, but it's really a cultural celebra-

tion," said Tirico, who will host his fourth opening ceremony of the Olympics. He will team up with Jimmy Fallon along with past Olympians Tara Lipinski and Johnny Weir for NBC's closing ceremony

Tirico said integrating more pop culture elements into the coverage was a "grand slam" idea.

"If we bring a little cross-section of America together to give you a flavor of the games and do it under one tent, it'll keep you around for 17 nights," he said. "That's our plan. Our goal. We're so glad that we've got people like Snoop, Peyton, Kelly and to help us do it."
Along with Megan Thee Stallion and Manning's commercials, sev-

eral other promotional spots have already aired on NBC: Rapper Cardi B appeared in a promo, getting her nails done with track star Sha'Carri Richardson. Actor Lily Collins reprised her "Emily in Paris" role to pitch executives a new wardrobe idea for sprinter Noah Lyles. Paris Hilton helped reveal the Olympics logo. Dolly Parton collaborated with the network on a video for her cover of "We Are the Champions/ We Will Rock You," which has been used to promote coverage.

"We wanted to be a part of the cultural zeitgeist," said Molly Solomon, executive producer and president of NBC Olympics Production. 'We wanted to make sure that it feels like more than just a sporting event. It's really an entertainment and pop culture event that is centered around athletes stories.

So far, the commercials have generated strong numbers. According to NBC, Collins' promo spot drew more than 30 million viewers on the network's platforms. Megan Thee Stallion's ad garnered 12 million views, while Snoop Dogg pulled in just under 10 million through their social media channels.

Variety



This image released by Max shows Dakota Johnson in a scene from 'Am I Ok?' (AP)

Film

LOS ANGELES: "The Traitors," a reality/competition show hybrid, has announced a lineup of reality television all-stars, actors and even a British aristocrat for the cast of

its upcoming season.
A slew of stars from the "Real Housewives," "Survivor," the "Bachelor" franchises and more popular television shows will join host Alan Cummings for

The ensemble of television personalities and familiar faces will move to a castle in the Scottish Highlands to play a highstakes murder mystery game and complete challenges to build up a grand prize pot of up to \$250,000. While there are 21 contestants on the upcoming third season, some of them will be undercover "traitors," trying to sabotage the group and keep their treacherous identity hidden so they can claim the prize

agent and actor known for her appearances on "Selling Sunset," leads the crew of newcomers from reality series. The casting of Tom Sandoval, famous for his villainous role on the 10th season of "Vanderpump Rules," has also garnered attention given his antagonistic personality on the Bravo show

ex-husband of Britney Spears, is also joining the cast. Asghari and Spears' divorce was finalized in early May, nearly two years after

Four stars of the Bravo "Real Housewives" franchises will come together on the show. including Dorinda Medley ("The Real Housewives of New York City"), Chanel Ayan ("The Real Housewives of Dubai"), Dolores Catania ("The Real Housewives of New Jersey") and Robyn **Dixon** ("The Real Housewives of Potomac"). Gabby Windey and Wells Adams are slated to join the crew from "The Bachelor"

the "Big Brother" and "Survivor" alums. Britney Havnes and Danielle Reyes are "Big Brother" Jeremy Collins, Rob Mariano

the upcoming third season of the Peacock hit.

Chrishell Stause, a real estate

Actor and model Sam Asghari. they were married.

The show's mix of mind games and missions could give an edge to fan favorites and Carolyn Wiger, and Tony Vlachos hail from

Johnson brings her winning authenticity

'Am I Ok?' adds soul to buddy comedy

By Jocelyn Noveck

We start - why not? - with a veggie burger. Lucy (Dakota Johnson) and Jane (Sonoya Mizuno), besties in their 30s, have been so close for so long that when they meet at the diner, Jane can just recite Lucy's regular order: Veggie burger and sweet

potato fries. And so when, late into "Am I Ok?", Lucy goes rogue and orders a tomato and spinach omelet, there's a look of subtle hurt that flits across Jane's face. It seems silly - it was just a veggie burger - but to Jane it signifies something familiar and comforting that's now gone.

There are similarly sweet, subtle touches peppered through this debut directorial effort by Tig Notaro and Stephanie Allynne - touches that land much better than the occasional attempts at broad humor that feel forced, or at least like a different movie (for example, the dialogue given to Jane's boss, played by Sean Haves).

And of course, there's Johnson herself, the obvious focus of the lingering camera throughout, and for good reason: her always-winning authenticity, shining through in film after film even at times when the material around her feels thin.

The story here is simple and heartfelt. It's a coming-out tale, but with the twist that the person coming out is 32, a decade (or even two) later than in most stories we see.

This particular story belongs to the film's writer, Lauren Pomerantz, who came out when she was 34. Her closeness to the proceedings is evident in a few startlingly poignant moments - for example, the pain that Lucy feels when a straight woman toys with her emotions (and more). It's one of the most moving passages in the film.

After an opening montage that establishes the female friendship at the core of the movie, we begin at the aforementioned diner, with Jane telling Lucy (over the aforementioned veggie burger) that she really needs to get together with a certain cute male friend who obviously likes her: "Just do it," she says.

Lucy can't explain why she doesn't want to. Meanwhile, Jane, the more professionally advanced of the two, has a major life change coming. Her boss offers her the chance to leave Los Angeles and set up a London office. Plus, her very nice boyfriend (Jermaine Fowler, not given enough to work with for too much of the film) is coming along. But for Lucy, this news is devastating - and you can tell by the unconvincing way she keeps saying "Awesome!" when Jane tells her one evening over drinks.

After lots of tequila, the two friends end up crying together, as close friends do (at least in the movies) in the bathroom while peeing, and then later, on a sleepover. There, Lucy finally tells Jane that she likes girls.

Courage

But there's this sensuous masseuse (Kiersey Clemons) at the spa where Lucy's a receptionist. Brittany is flirting like crazy with Lucy, who finally gets up the courage to respond. She brings Lucy out of her shell, but with ultimately disheartening results. And Lucy's on the outs now with Jane, normally the first person she'd call with any heartache.

This movie may be about a pair of friends, but witnessing the supremely watchable Johnson navigate uncertainty and sadness, it's Lucy's life you'll find yourself caring about most. A last-minute obstacle to Jane's well-laid plans for her trip to London rings a bit false - or maybe it just seems wedged in as if to say, well, both women have issues.

In any case, It's been a good month for female buddy comedies. While Pamela Adlon's comedy "Babes," went all in for the raunch inherent in childbirth, "Am I OK?" goes for a sweeter, soulful vibe. It feels good that we end up where we began - back at that table in the diner, hashing stuff out. The ultimate message here may be simple, but it's comforting: friendships may change but can still adapt, withstand and survive.

Even when a veggie burger yields to an omelet. 'Am I OK?', a Warner Bros release, has been rated

R by the Motion Picture Association "for language,

Florida resort and opens the door

to a fifth major theme park at Walt

The five DeSantis-appointed

World district voted Wednesday

supervisors who oversee the Disney

Disney World.

sexual references and some drug use." Running time: 86 minutes. Two and a half stars out of four.

BEIJING: Japanese director **Rvo Takeuchi** shared his deep fascination with the Yangtze River at a media event on Wednesday, reflecting on the journey behind his documentary film on the river currently showing at Chinese cinemas.

For Takeuchi, his interest in the Yangtze River began in childhood. As a young boy, he was captivated by manga tales of ancient China's Three Kingdoms period (220-280 A.D.), especially the famous Battle

of Red Cliffs along the mighty Yangtze.
"I was completely drawn to it," Takeuchi said at a Beijing event promoting the film's theatrical release, recalling his awe many years ago when he first laid eyes on the immense, spectacular Yangtze. "Coming from Japan where we don't have rivers that large, it

was hard for me to imagine a river of such vast size.' Takeuchi's documentary film "The Yangtze River" hit Chinese mainland theaters on May 24.

Takeuchi, who is married to a Chinese woman and says he's deeply attached to the country's culture, previously made an NHK documentary series about the Yangtze over a decade ago. However, he regretted not capturing its headwaters then, so he retraced all 6,300 km in 2021 for what became this new film.

Beyond the stunning natural scenery, Takeuchi's new documentary captures the smiles and heartwarming stories of ordinary people, painting a vivid picture of local customs and everyday life along the river, while highlighting monumental changes in China over the past decade.

"The environment has improved, and people's lives have become much more convenient," he said. "Life has changed dramatically.

More importantly, Takeuchi observed shifts in people's mindsets, particularly among those living along the western stretches of the Yangtze. "There have been significant changes in social attitudes, such as views on marriage," he remarked. (Agencies)

"Survivor." (AP)

ORLANDO, Fla.: 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 up to \$17 billion into its





to give initial approval to a new development agreement that both sides had agreed to negotiate after a March settlement ended their state

court lawsuits against each other. A second vote was required for final approval, and that was set for

next week. "We are heading towards a brand new day, and I'm excited about where this is going," said Charbel Barakat, vice chair of the district's board. "I only wish we could have gotten here sooner."

Woody Rodriguez, director of external affairs for the Disney parks, told board members that the agreement will allow the company to make substantial investments in

Disney World. The agreement between Disney and the Central Florida Tourism and Oversight District would last for the next 15 years. (AP)

People & Places

Opera

Opera revolution

Michieletto elevates bold 'Don Quichotte'

PARIS, June 6, (AP): Damiano Michieletto sat in the last row of the Opéra Bastille's front section alongside his production colleagues, watching opening night of Massenet's rarely performed "Don Qui-

They bolted at the final note to get backstage for curtain calls and were met with cheers - not a given with European audiences alternately amazed, addled and appalled by reinvented works known as regietheater.

"When I walk onstage there's a strange sadness in me because everything is finished," Michieletto said. "I'm always relaxed about the audience reaction because if you did your best there's nothing else

you can do after that, so just accept what the people think. It's natural and democratic."

The 48-year-old Italian has been prominent on European stages for two decades, known for contemporary conceptions that on occasion cause contro-

Michieletto's version of the 114-year-old "Quichotte" portrayed the title character, based on Miguel de Cervantes' Don Quijote, as stricken with mem-

ory lapses, traipsing a 1960s pastel green room while popping pills and swigging amber-colored liquor.

"Don Quichotte is a middle-aged man who's dealing with some - it's sort of undefined. Is it substance abuse? Is it PTSD? Is it the early stages of dementia? Is it a trauma that keeps sort of digging up inside of him?" said bass-baritone Christian Van Horn, who sang the title character in the staging's May 10 premiere.

A series of gorgeous surreal hallucinations include projected video flashbacks, descending carousel horses and black flamenco dancers emerging from shadows and furniture as Quichotte recalled Dulcinea, a nightclub chanteuse with a retro microphone. The production runs through June 11.

Composition

"It's a man who is obsessed with the composition of a book," Michieletto said. "He's a writer, and it's a mix of reality with his dreams, with his fantasy and in the memory there are traumatic episodes.

Singers learned the concept a few weeks before

"He's always open for discussion. I think Damiano is fine with best idea wins," Van Horn said. "Some directors don't really care for your opinion, He does. He listens and he takes it.

Baritone Étienne Dupuis, who sang Sancho Pança, suggested his character be added on stage to witness moments not contemplated in the original text. Michieletto agreed. "He's a very serious man, very driven by his vi-

sion," Dupuis said. "He will take what you do and get inspired by it and then help you bring it to the Michieletto gained attention with Jaromír Wein-

berger's "Svanda the Bagpiper" at the 2003 Wexford Festival in Ireland and "La Gazza Ladra" at the 2007 Rossini Festival in Pesaro, Italy He has worked since 2007 with set designer Paolo

Fantin, his former student at Venice's Accademia di Belle Arti. They live in adjacent apartment buildings

"Sometimes we start from one concept about the character, sometimes, one concept about the space. Every time is different," Fantin said.

Their partnership created Mozart's "Così fan tutte" set in a hotel inspired by Sofia Coppola's film "Lost in Translation," Puccini's "La Bohème" with a roadside food truck, Verdi's "Un Ballo in Machera" as a modern political rally and Saint-Saëns' "Samson et Dalila" in which the cast began in contemporary costumes and changed for the bacchanale into attire inspired by Luchino Visconti's movie "La caduta degli dei (The Damned)."

Verdi's "Aida" at Munich's Bavarian State Opera last year included an antiwar movie during the Triumphal March, paraplegics as supernumeraries and Radamès' head shaved on stage - inspired by Vincent D'Onofrio's character in Stanley Kubrick's "Full Metal Jacket."

"The idea was to portray the story from the point of view of a soldier who actually is the winner and they celebrate the victory, but at the same time I wanted to show the other side of the victory," Michieletto said. "Being a hero could also mean that you have paid a very high price, I wanted to show the nightmares that conflict and war brings the characters.

Audience

Michieletto's debut at London's Royal Opera, Rossini's "Guillaume Tell" in 2015, was booed by an audience angered by his addition of a female actor stripped naked and raped. Michieletto was highlighting the abuse of women during wars.

"Opera, theater, art is point of view, and it is normal that maybe sometimes we have not the same point of view," Fantin said. "In London it was a scandal, in Italy (Palermo's Teatro Massimo) it was a success. It is not in every theater the same.

Michieletto's "Samson et Dalila" staging was scheduled for New York in 2018 but was scrapped when Met general manager Peter Gelb concluded it was "somewhat unrelieved in its bleakness.

"I have been following his work with interest for more than 10 years, Gelb said. "I think he's very talented and hopefully the right combination of opera and talent will come together for the Met at some

Michieletto envisions Wagner, Monteverdi and Berg in his future. He will curate the 2025 summer festival at Rome's Baths of Caracalla, including his own production of Leonard Bernstein's "West Side

New productions next season include Handel's "Messiah" with Berlin's Komische Oper at Hangar 4 of Tempelhof Airport (opening Sept. 21), Donizetti's "La Fille du Régiment (The Daughter of the Regiment)" at the Bavarian State Opera (Dec. 22) and Prokofiev's "Betrothal in a Monastery" at Austria's Theater an der Wien (March 26) followed by the world premiere of Francesco Filidei's "Il Nome della Rosa" at La Scala (April 27).

"I feel it's very important to dedicate energies, working with leading composers and writers to create the stories of today told with the music of today,' Michieletto said.





Photos from the event.



Italian Ambassador Lorenzo Morini addresses the audience.



Baldwin



Halsey

Variety

NEW YORK: Halsey has been privately battling illness, the singer revealed Tues day.

She shared the news on Instagram in a

series of videos that appear to document the singer receiving infusions. "Long story short, I'm lucky to be alive," she wrote in the caption. "Short

story long, I wrote an album." A diagnosis was not immediately clear. Representatives for Halsey did not immediately respond to The Associated Press

request for comment. 'I feel like an old lady," Halsey says aloud in the first video, while rubbing her legs in apparent pain. "I told myself I'm giving myself two more years to be sick. At 30, I'm having a rebirth and I'm not gonna be sick and I'm gonna look super hot and have lots of energy and I'm just gonna get

to re-do my 20s in my 30s. The singer also released a new song on Tuesday, an acoustic guitar ballad titled

The new album on the horizon is a follow-up to her fourth studio album, 2021's ambitious "If I Can't Have Love, I Want Power," produced by Nine Inch Nails' **Trent Reznor** and **Atticus Ross**.

LOS ANGELES: Alec Baldwin and his wife **Hilaria** are the next family set to star in their own reality series.

The actor and producer, who has seven kids under age 10 with his wife, announced the TLC reality show about their life as a party of nine. "The Baldwins," the show's working title, is set to release

"We're inviting you into our home to experience the ups and downs, the good, the bad, the wild and the crazy," Baldwin

Music

A musical splendor

Italian opera thrills Kuwait

By Paul Francis X. Fernandes Arab Times/Al-Seyassah Staff

KUWAIT CITY. June 6: In a captivating display of artistic prowess, the Italian Embassy in Kuwait orchestrated the country's inaugural Italian opera concert, drawing Kuwaiti, Arab, and diplomatic audiences into a realm of enchanting melodies and theatrical splendor.

Held at the American University of Kuwait Theater, the event transcended cultural stereotypes, fostering an atmosphere of cross-cultural interaction and appreciation.

The concert featured exceptional performances by acclaimed Italian artists, including Francesca Manzo (soprano), Andrea Tanzilo (tenor), and Jacopo Salvatore (pianist), whose talents elicited an enthusiastic response from the audience.

For 60 minutes, attendees were transported by the emotive power of music and the theatrical brilliance of the performers.

Italian Ambassador Lorenzo Morini underscored the significance of bolstering cultural ties between na-

said in a video he shared to Instagram on

joked about Hilaria announcing another

In the announcement video, the couple

pregnancy, but she said they are done hav-

ing kids before the clip cut to a chaotic shot

of their children screaming and the parents

Tuesday.

The couple married in July 2012 and welcomed their first child in August 2013. Baldwin was previously married to actor Kim Basinger, who had his eldest daughter, Ireland.

tions, emphasizing its role as a vital

conduit for fostering mutual under-

standing and showcasing Italy's rich

He lauded Kuwaiti interest in Ital-

In his remarks, Ambassador

ian culture, noting the strong reso-

nance between music, art, and Italian

Morini expressed Italy's commit-

ment to attracting Kuwaiti students

to study in Italy, addressing concerns

about language barriers by highlight-

ing universities offering English-lan-

ian language courses for those eager

to learn, aiming to bring specialized

Italian instructors to Kuwait follow-

to promoting educational and cultural

exchanges reflects Italy's aspiration

to deepen bilateral relations with

Kuwait and cultivate enduring bonds

opera concert, the stage is set for

further collaboration and cultural ex-

change between Italy and Kuwait.

With the success of the inaugural

Ambassador Morini's dedication

ing a survey to gauge interest.

between their peoples.

He revealed plans to facilitate Ital-

cultural heritage.

guage instruction.

The announcement comes as Baldwin prepares for trial for his involuntary



Cirque Du Soleil artists perform during the 'Songblazers - A Journey Into Country Music' Cirque Du Soleil preview Wednesday, June 5, at Belmont University in Nashville, Tenn. (AP)

manslaughter charge in the fatal shooting on the set of the film "Rust" in 2021. The trial is scheduled for July in Santa Fe and Baldwin has pleaded not guilty. The charge carries a maximum sentence of 18 months

While filming the Western movie, which Baidwin produced and starred in, a revolver he was holding fired, killing cinematographer Halyna Hutchins and injuring director Joel Souza. Baldwin has said that he did not pull the trigger.

LOS ANGELES: A former protege of The-Dream, a Grammy-winning writer and producer on some of biggest hits by Beyoncé and Rihanna, among others, filed a lawsuit Tuesday accusing him of sexual assault and other abuse.

Chanaaz Mangroe, who performed under the stage name Channii Monroe, alleges in her lawsuit that The-Dream,



Mangroe

Terius Gesteelde-Diamant, lured her into "an abusive. violent, and manipulative relationship filled with physical assaults, violent sexual encounters, and horrific psychological manipulation" after she left her native Netherlands for the US with hopes of making it

big as a singer.
Gesteelde-Diamant, an eight-time Grammv winner who was a writer and producer on huge hits including Beyoncé's "Single Ladies (Put a Ring on It)," **Justin Bieber**'s "Baby" and Rihanna's "Umbrella," has denied the allegations. Mangroe, 33, says a representative of

Gesteelde-Diamant reached out to her on social media in 2014 and asked her to send samples of her music, and that the producer flew her to Atlanta early the next year promising to help her career. According to the lawsuit, Gesteelde-

Diamant began recording with her and "told her that he would make her the next Beyoncé and Rihanna," but that she would have to share intimate and embarrassing details with him and allow him complete control over her. Though he was married, Mangroe says he told her they would become a famous couple who won 10 Grammys together. (AP)

BEIJING: Chinese comedy "The Last Frenzy" continued to top the daily box office chart on the Chinese mainland on Wednesday, official data showed.

The film generated a daily box office of 4.36 million yuan (about 613,152 U.S. dollars) on Wednesday, amounting its total box office to 764 million yuan, data from the China Movie Data Information

It was followed by the action crime thriller "Twilight of the Warriors: Walled In," which garnered box office sales of 3.43 million yuan on the day.
Sony Pictures' animated comedy film

"The Garfield Movie" came in third with a daily earning of 2.82 million yuan.

The total box office revenue on the Chinese mainland stood at 23.2 million yuan on Wednesday. (Xinhua)

UNICEF warns of dire situation for African children

27% of world's young children face severe food poverty: UN

KALTUNGO, Nigeria, June 6, (AP): The 9-month-old twins cried nonstop and tugged at their mother, seeking attention but also food. They had received little in the past 24 hours, and there were signs of deeper hunger in the heads too big for their tiny bodies.

"Not much milk comes out," said their 38-year-old mother, Dorcas Simon, who struggles to breastfeed and has three other children. She laughed, as if to conceal the pain. "What will I give them when I don't have food myself?"

Here in northern Nigeria, where conflict and climate change have long contributed to the problem, her twins are among 181 million children under 5 - or 27% of the world's youngest children - who live in severe food poverty, according to a new report Thursday by the UN's children agency.

The report, which focused on nearly 100 low- and middle-income countries, defines severe food poverty as consuming nothing in a day or, at best, two out of

eight food groups the agency recognizes.

Africa's population of more than 1.3 billion people is one of the most affected mainly due to conflict, climate crises and rising food prices. The continent accounts for one-third of the global burden and 13 of the 20 most affected countries. But it has also recorded some progress, the report said.

The percentage of children living in severe food poverty in West and Central Africa fell from 42% to 32% over the last decade, it said, noting advances including diversified crops and performance-based incentives for health workers.

In the absence of vital nutrients, children living with "extremely poor" diets are more likely to experience wasting, a life-threatening form of malnutrition, the agency known as UNICEF said.

"When wasting becomes very severe, they are 12 times more likely to die," Harriet Torlesse, one of the report's authors, told The Associated Press.

In several Nigerian communities like Kaltungo in the northeast where Simon lives, UNICEF is training thousands of women in how to boost their families' nutrient intake with cassava, sweet potato, maize, millet and vegetables grown in gardens at home, and how to rear livestock and chickens.

More than a dozen women gathered this week in Kaltungo's Poshereng village to learn dozens of recipes they can prepare with those foods which, in the absence of rain, are grown in sand-filled sacks that require little water.

Disease

Mothers in Nigeria also face the country's worst cost of living crisis. Growing food at home saves money.

Aisha Aliyu, a 36-year-old mother of five, said her latest child "used to be skinny but is growing fatter" because of what they now grow at home. Hauwa Bwami, a 50-year-old mother of five, nearly lost her grandchild to kwashiorkor, a disease with severe protein malnutrition, before the UNICEF training started a year ago. Now she grows enough food that she sells to other women.

Kaltungo is in a semi-arid agricultural region where climate change has limited rainfall in recent years. Some children have died of acute malnutrition in the past because food is scarce, said Ladi Abdullahi, who trains the women.

The training "is like answered prayers for me," Simon said in her first time with

But it can be a painful lesson. Another trainee, Florence Victor, 59, watched

helplessly as her nine-month-old grandchild succumbed to malnutrition in 2022 Malnutrition also can weaken the immune system over time, leaving children vulnerable to diseases that can kill.

In the Sahel, the semiarid region south of the Sahara Desert which is a hot spot for violent extremism, there has been an increase in acute malnutrition - worse than severe food poverty - that has reached emergency levels, said Alfred Ejem, senior food security advisor with the Mercy Corps aid group in Africa.

Because of displacement and climate change, families have resorted to "bad coping mechanisms like eating leaves and locusts just to survive," Ejem said. In conflict-hit Sudan, children are dying of severe malnutrition in large num-

In Nigeria's troubled northwest, the French medical organization Doctors Without Borders said at least 850 children died last year within 24 to 48 hours of being admitted to its health facilities.

"We are resorting to treating patients on mattresses on the floor because our facilities are full," Simba Tirima, MSF's Nigeria representative, said Tuesday.

Many malnourished children in the region never make it to a hospital because

they live in remote areas or their families cannot afford care. Inequality also plays a role in severe food poverty among children in Africa, the new report said. In South Africa, the most unequal country in the world, roughly one in every four children is affected by severe food poverty even though it is the continent's most developed nation.

Governments and partners must act urgently, author Torlesse said: "The work starts now.

Salmonella outbreak

Rare bird flu strain claims first human life in Mexico

WASHINGTON, June 6, (Agencies): A man's death in Mexico was caused by a strain of bird flu called H5N2 that has never before been found in a human, the World Health Organization said Wednesday.

The WHO said it wasn't clear how the man became infected, although H5N2 has been reported in poultry in Mexico.

There are numerous types of bird flu. H5N2 is not the same strain that has infected multiple dairy cow herds in the US. That strain is called H5N1 and three farmworkers have gotten mild infections.a

Other bird flu varieties have killed people across the world in previous years, including 18 people in China during an outbreak of H5N6 in 2021, according to a timeline of bird flu outbreaks from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Mexican health officials alerted the WHO that a 59-year-old man who died in a Mexico City hospital had the virus despite no known exposure to poultry or other animals.

According to family members, the WHO release said, the patient had been bedridden for unrelated reasons before developing a fever, shortness of breath and diarrhea on April 17. Mexico's public health department said in a statement that he had underlying ailments, including chronic kidney failure, diabetes and high blood pressure.

Hospital care was sought on April 24 and the man died the same day. Initial tests showed an unidentified

type of flu that subsequent weeks of lab testing confirmed was H5N2. The WHO said the risk to people

in Mexico is low, and that no further human cases have been discovered so far despite testing people who came in contact with the deceased at home and in the hospital.

There had been three poultry outbreaks of H5N2 in nearby parts of Mexico in March but authorities haven't been able to find a connection. Mexican officials also are monitoring birds near a shallow lake on the outskirts of Mexico City.

Whenever bird flu circulates in poultry, there is a risk that people in close contact with flocks can become infected. Health authorities are closely watching for any signs that the viruses are evolving to spread easily from person to person, and experts are concerned as more mammal species contract bird flu viruses.

NEW YORK: Cucumbers contaminated with salmonella bacteria may have

sickened and hospitalized dozens of people in at least 25 states, **U.S.** health officials said Wednesday.

Testing detected salmonella in a cucumber distributed by Fresh Start Produce, of Delray Beach, Florida, which last week recalled whole cucumbers shipped to certain states from May 17 to May 21, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Further testing is underway to see if that strain of salmonella is causing the outbreak. The produce should no longer be available in stores.

The CDC received reports of 162 people sickened with salmonella potentially tied to the cucumbers in 25 states and Washington, D.C., between March 11 and May 16. At least 54 people were hospitalized, the agency said. No deaths were reported.

Consumers should not eat recalled cucumbers. People who bought cucumbers recently should check with the store where they purchased them to see if they're part of the recall. Wash items and surfaces that may have been in contact with the produce using hot, soapy water or a dishwasher.

Salmonella can cause symptoms that begin six hours to six days after ingesting the bacteria and include diarrhea, fever and stomach cramps. Most people recover without treatment within a week, but young children, people older than 65 and those with weakened immune systems can become seriously ill.

GABORONE: Agriculture authorities have warned of a suspected outbreak of lumpy skin disease (LSD) in northwest Botswana.

According to a press release issued Tuesday by the Botswanan Ministry of Agriculture, the suspected outbreak country, including western Sandveld.

"LSD is a debilitating viral disease of cattle that can cause significant deaths and economic losses," said Kefentse Motshegwa, director of veterinary services at the ministry

Animals affected by LSD develop fever and eruptions of painful skin nodules that may cover the entire body. In extreme cases, secondary infection aggravates the condition.

LSD virus is transmitted by bloodfeeding insects such as flies, mosquitoes and ticks.

An LSD outbreak would threaten the viability of Botswana's beef industry, which heavily relies on exports to the international market, according to the ministry.

Starliner joins SpaceX in NASA's taxi service

Boeing launches astronauts to ISS for first time after years of delays

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla., June 6, (AP): Boeing launched astronauts for the first time Wednesday, belatedly joining SpaceX as a second taxi service for NASA.

A pair of NASA test pilots blasted off aboard Boeing's Starliner capsule for the International Space Station, the first to fly the new space-

The trip by Butch Wilmore and Suni Williams was expected to take 25 hours, with an arrival Thursday. They will spend just over a week at the orbiting lab before climbing back into Starliner for a remote desert touchdown in the western US on

"Let's get going!" Wilmore called out a few minutes before liftoff.

Relieved

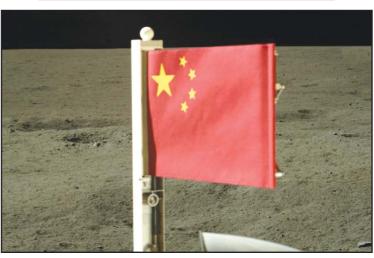
Half an hour later, he and Williams were safely in orbit and giving chase to the space station. Back at Cape Canaveral, the relieved launch controllers stood and applauded. After all the trouble leading up to Wednesday's launch, including two scrapped countdowns, everything went smoothly before and during liftoff, prompting congratulations from SpaceX's Elon Musk and

"Today it all lined up," said Boeing program manager Mark Nappi. Years late because of spacecraft flaws, Starliner's crew debut comes as the company struggles with unrelated

safety issues on its airplane side. Wilmore and Williams - retired Navy captains and former space station residents - stressed repeatedly before the launch that they had full confidence in Boeing's ability to get it right with this test flight. Crippled by bad software, Starliner's initial test flight in 2019 without a crew had to be repeated before NASA would let its astronauts strap in. The 2022 do-over went much better, but parachute problems later cropped up and flammable tape had to be removed

from the capsule.

Wednesday's launch was the third attempt with astronauts since early May, coming after a pair of rocketrelated problems, most recently last weekend. A small helium leak in the spacecraft's propulsion system also caused delays, but remained ex-



A Chinese national flag carried by the lander of Chang'e-6 probe unfurls at the moon's far side, June 4. (Xinhua)

Chang'e-6 mission

China unfurls its national flag made of 'stone' on the moon

BEIJING, June 6, (Xinhua): While collecting lunar samples on the far side of the moon, China's Chang'e-6 mission thrilled the nation with a photo of the bright red Chinese national flag unfurled on the desolate lunar surface.

Even more interestingly, one of the flag's raw materials is basalt, which piqued the curiosity of netizens and sparked lively discussions on social media.

"Unbelievable! I thought making a national flag out of stone was something you'd only see in sci-fi novels,' commented a user on China's popular social media Sina Weibo.

The China Aerospace Science and Industry Corporation (CASIC), the main developer of the national flag display system, explained that during the journey to the moon, the Chang'e-6 probe faced intense radiation and extreme temperature fluctuations, making ordinary materials unsuitable for the lunar flag.

tremely low and manageable.

"It's just a tough endeavor to get to flight and huge kudos to the entire

Basalt fiber boasts exceptional insulation and radiation resistance, making it ideal for withstanding the harsh conditions on the lunar surface. However, as an inorganic fiber, it is smooth and brittle, which makes it difficult to spin and maintain in high-durability colors, according to the CASIC.

The team of researchers from CA-SIC overcame many technical challenges to develop the national flag with superior corrosion resistance, high-temperature tolerance and lowtemperature endurance by utilizing technologies such as basalt melting and drawing.

The basalt rocks came from Yuxian County in north China's Hebei Province. The team pulverized and melted the basalt rocks, then drew them into ultra-fine fibers roughly one-third the diameter of a human hair, before spinning them into threads and weaving the threads into fabrics, said Zhou Changyi, a designer of the Chang'e-6 probe.

team for getting there," said Steve Stich, NASA's commercial crew program manager.

Boeing was hired alongside Elon Musk's SpaceX a decade ago to ferry NASA's astronauts to and from the space station. The space agency wanted two competing U.S. companies for the job in the wake of the space shuttles' retirement, paying \$4.2 billion to Boeing and just over half that to SpaceX, which refashioned the capsule it was using to deliver station supplies.

SpaceX launched astronauts into orbit in 2020, becoming the first private business to achieve what only three countries - Russia, the U.S. and China - had mastered. It has taken nine crews to the space station for NASA and three private groups for a Houston company that charters flights.

Record

The liftoff from Cape Canaveral Space Force Station was the 100th of an Atlas V for rocket maker United Launch Alliance. It was the first ride for astronauts on an Atlas rocket since John Glenn's Mercury era more than 60 years ago; the rocket usually launches satellites and other spacecraft.

Despite the Atlas V's perfect record, the human presence cranked up the tension for the scores of NASA and Boeing employees gathered at Cape Canaveral and Mission Control in Houston.

Boeing's Starliner and SpaceX's Dragon are designed to be fully autonomous and reusable. Wilmore and Williams occasionally will take manual control of Starliner on their way to the space station, to check out its systems. The only snag early in the flight involved the capsule's cooling system. More water was used than expected before the radiators took over in orbit. The tank will be refilled before the ride home.

If the mission goes well, NASA will alternate between SpaceX and Boeing for taxi flights, beginning next year. The backup pilot for this test flight, Mike Fincke, will strap in

for Starliner's next trip.
"This is exciting. We built up to this moment for years and years, and it finally happened," Fincke said from neighboring Kennedy Space Center. "I feel like the whole planet was cheering for them."







Ph: 24 734 000

Behind Maghateer Commercial Complex & Opp.Police station - Farwaniya www.shifaaljazeera.com.kw

Wilson becomes 1st player in WNBA history with at least 35 pts, 10 rebounds and 5 steals in game



India captain Rohit Sharma plays a shot for six runs against Ireland during an ICC Men's T20 World Cup cricket match at the Nassau County International Cricket Stadium in Westbury, New York. (AP)

The Conversation

Why India & Pakistan's T20 cricket showdown in NY is such a big deal

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

By Umer Hussain Wilkes University; M. Fahad Humayun, University of Evansville; Simran Kaur Sethi, University of Oklahoma, and **Steve Bien-Aime**, University of Kansas

Americans might be surprised to learn that cricket - not baseball, nor football - holds the title of the nation's first modern team sport. European immigration fueled the sport's popularity in the first half of the 19th century, and Abraham Lincoln reportedly watched

a cricket match in 1859. Cricket's popularity waned after the Civil War. Troops had taken to the new sport of baseball, which was easier to play on makeshift fields, and the sport eventually emerged as the national pastime.

Nevertheless, cricket is the secondmost-watched sport in the world after soccer. And with the U.S. and the West Indies cohosting the T20 World Cup, organizers hope the sport can gain some traction among American

The version of the game being played in the tournament, known as T20, lasts about three hours. This is shorter than the game's longer formats: One-day international matches usually last between seven and eight hours, while test matches can last up

The tournament kicked off on June 1, 2024, with a victory for the U.S. against neighboring Canada. But it's a match yet to be played that's generating the most buzz, especially among those of South Asian descent: the India-Pakistan showdown.

Matches between the two nations usually attract massive audiences. More than 400 million people around the world watched the India-Pakistan 2011 World Cup game. By comparison, about 125 million people tuned into Super Bowl LVIII in 2024.

Set to take place on June 9, 2024, on Long Island, the match is the next chapter in one of the most intense rivalries in sports, one that's deeply entangled with the two nations' complex geopolitical history.

Cricket became popular in India during the British Raj, the period of the United Kingdom's direct rule of the subcontinent that lasted from 1858

British sailors introduced the sport, with the first recorded match taking place in western India in 1721.

Scholars argue that the British promoted cricket in India as part of an Anglicization policy, which encouraged Indians to adopt English customs and values. Promoting cricket was one way for the British to instill loyalty to the British Empire among Indians, thus aiding their colonial

Following the partition of India in 1947 and the creation of Pakistan, both nations formed their own national cricket teams.

Pakistan was created as a separate nation for Muslims, who feared religious persecution and sought political and cultural autonomy. But the partition was deeply painful, marked by a violent and traumatic division based largely on religious lines, with Hindus and Sikhs migrating to India and Muslims resettling in Pakistan.

The process left a deep wound in both nations' memories. In the largest population transfer in history, about 10 million people became refugees, and up to a million were killed in border massacres and riots.

In October 1952, five years after

gaining independence, a Pakistani team traveled to India for their inaugural five-test match cricket series. A standard test cricket match spans five days, with teams playing six hours each day, broken up with breaks for lunch and tea.

The first cricket series between the nations, which India won, was a poignant reminder of the painful partition. Many of the Pakistani team officials, fans and players who made the journey from Pakistan to Amritsar, India, retraced the route they had taken just five years prior.

India and Pakistan's relationship remains tense. There have been several wars, most of which have taken place over the disputed Kashmir region, a strategically important area that each nuclear-armed nation has claimed as its own.

Despite a shared border, culture and history, India and Pakistan each maintain strict trade and travel restrictions on the other country. Yet citizens of each nation share a passion for cricket that transcends political divides.

Both countries have engaged in what scholars call "cricket diploma-

For example, in 1987, then-President Mohammed Zia-Ul-Haq of Pakistan visited India under the auspices of attending a cricket match. But he also met with Indian officials in order to ease rising tensions between the two nations. Similarly, in the early 2000s, the Indian cricket team toured Pakistan twice as then-Prime Minister Manmohan Singh of India tried to foster peace with his neighbor. And in 2005, then-President Pervez Musharraf of Pakistan visited New Delhi to watch a cricket match between the two

Following the 2008 Mumbai attacks, however, when terrorists allegedly linked to Pakistan killed over 160 people in Mumbai, the Indian government barred its cricket team from touring Pakistan, even for international tournaments. Since 2009, Pakistani players have also been excluded from participating in the hugely popular Îndian Premier League, which draws star cricketers from England, the West Indies and Australia.

Nassau County, just east of New York City on Long Island, was selected to host T20 matches for a reason.

Hundreds of thousands within the South Asian diaspora call the New York City metro area home, including more than 700,000 people of Indian

South Asian immigrants and their descendants, long mocked and stereotyped in U.S. media, increasingly hold positions of influence, whether it's Vice President Kamala Harris, Google CEO Sundar Pichai or actor Kal Penn.

Because cricket matches between India and Pakistan are few and far between, the cheapest tickets are being sold for between US\$600 and \$1,200 on the secondary market. VIP tickets are going for as much as \$40,000 apiece; with additional fees of nearly \$10,000, the total cost exceeds

Clearly, there's an appetite for cricket in the U.S. As sports broadcasters and sponsors seek new audiences. the cricket-obsessed South Asian diaspora represents an untapped market. În 2023, Major League Cricket, the sport's first American professional league, held its first season. One of its six teams is based in New York City. Another is in Dallas, a metro area that is also experiencing a surge of South Asian immigrants.

For now, cricket advocates could not have written a better script: a raucous crowd cheering on a rare matchup between cricket's biggest rivals, taking place in the biggest media market in the U.S.

Reeve gets win No. 307

ARLINGTON, Texas, June 6, (AP): A'ja Wilson had 36 points, 14 rebounds and six steals to help the Las Vegas Aces beat the Dallas Wings 95-81 on Wednesday night.

Wilson became the first player in WNBA history to have at least 35 points, 10 rebounds and five steals in a game. She scored 12 of her team's opening 20 points and Tiffany Hayes made her first basket in a Las Vegas uniform to build a 22-6 lead.

The Aces led 29-16 at the end of the first quarter after shooting 63% from the field.

Las Vegas led by as many as 20 points in the first half before Dallas rallied to get within 47-42 at the break. Wilson finished the half with 20 points and nine of Las Vegas' 18 field goals.

Jackie Young made a 3-pointer on back-to-back possessions to extend Las Vegas' lead to 63-52. Alysha Clark added another 3-pointer to open the fourth-quarter scoring for a 78-61 advantage.

Kelsey Plum scored 20 points and Young, who did not participate in the shoot around due to an illness, added 19 for Las Vegas (5-2). Hayes, who started all 40 games for the Connecticut Sun last season, scored 11 points for the Aces after joining the team on Friday.

Arike Ogunbowale, who has led the Wings in scoring in all eight games, scored 31 points for Dallas (3-5). Teaira McCowan made her first career 3-pointer in the first half and finished with 14 points and 15 rebounds. Maddy Siegrist also scored 14 points and Monique Billings added 12.

Napheesa Collier had 25 points and nine rebounds, and the Minnesota Lynx eased by the Los Angeles Sparks 86-62 for coach Cheryl Reeve's 307th regular-season victo-

Reeve moved past Bill Laimbeer (306) for second on the WNBA list, trailing just Mike Thibault with 379.

Collier scored 11 points in the first quarter to help Minnesota build a 27-12 lead. The Lynx led 45-26 at the break as Los Angeles made just

OLYMPICS

10 of 44 shots from the field (23%). Kayla McBride scored eight straight Minnesota points in the third quarter to make it 58-34 before the Lynx extended it to a 28-point advantage less than a minute later. Collier banked in a jumper just before the shot clock for a 70-56 lead with 6:01 left.

Bridget Carleton added 15 points, hitting all four of her 3-point attempts, and McBride finished with 13 points for Minnesota (7-2).

Dearica Hamby had 17 points and 11 rebounds for Los Angeles (2-7). Rookie Cameron Brink fouled out at the 2:24 mark of the fourth quarter with two points and two blocks. Brink was named to the U.S. Olympic 3x3 team earlier in the day.

Rae Burrell, the No. 9 overall selection in the 2022 draft, set season-highs with nine points and 22 minutes.

The Sparks were just 4 of 28 (14%) from 3-point range and 18 of 18 at the free-throw line.

Mackintosh swaps seats

Kiwi rower gives up corp. life to pursue Oly medal in Paris

AUCKLAND, June 6, (AP): Sitting behind a desk, noticing his body getting sore, Tom Mackintosh realized he needed to swap seats. Quickly.

After five months in the corporate world, the Olympic champion rower couldn't take it anymore. He decided it was time to get back in a boat and try to win another medal for New Zealand at the Paris Games.

"I'm not sure if you'd call it an epiphany or not, but one day my body was just very sore from sitting at the desk. I remember thinking that the Paris Olympics are only 16 months away and I'd spent as much time as I possibly could away from the sport," Mackintosh recalled. "If I wanted to come back, I needed to do it now.

OLYMPICS

Mackintosh won an Olympic gold medal with the New Zealand men's eight in Tokyo, then took time off rowing so he could work at an investment firm in Auckland. It didn't take long to realize his body wasn't built for a desk.

He'd been watching the national rowing championships on television at the office when a colleague asked how he'd compare himself with those still competing.

"I told him, 'I think I've been pretty competitive, having raced these guys my entire career," Mackintosh said. "And he responded, 'Well, Tom, to win the race, you'd have to be in the race.' And I'm thinking, 'that's a great point.' That was quite a moment for me.

The 27-year-old Mackintosh studied accounting, finance and management. He took the opportunity to intern for the investment firm where he worked together with analysts and research teams, getting a glimpse of corporate life.

At first, he didn't really want to return to competition. But as time went on he said he started to miss rowing and "realized that it was a unique opportunity.'

"It wasn't such a long timeframe for the Paris Olympics in the scheme of life, I might as well give it one more opportunity," he said of his thought process in that moment. "Not everyone in the world finds themselves with a chance to race in the Olympic Games. I looked to the future Tom and I feel like I would be annoyed with myself if I didn't come back.

Working gave him the insight to run the numbers over his rowing career as

"I was learning the value of time and investments," he said, "and I realized I've invested a lot of my body here." Mackintosh said he does miss some

of the greater freedom he had away from rowing, like being able to switch off for the weekend, reconnect with old friends and play more golf. "Rowing is a full-time job," he said.

"You have physio, recovery, stretching, meetings, all of that, so that adds up to the 40 hours a week that you might be essentially working. My body is my asset and I need to be physically fit and strong and capable to perform well in rowing," he said. "And so every decision that I make in my life has an impact on that. It's a full-time role essentially, 24-7.

After leaving the investment firm, Mackintosh went to Japan to row for a company team so he could transition back into competition. When he felt he was in form, he requested a trial for New Zealand's men's singles boat and ended up making the team. He has shown good results since

then despite the five months off. Mackintosh won the bronze at the 2023 world championships and qualified the New Zealand boat for the Olympics.

With things going well after his time out of the sport, Mackintosh hasn't ruled out doing something similar with his work-life-sport balance in the next Olympic cycle.

German table tennis icon Boll bids farewell to China

"It was very emotional. You can see I still have some tears in my eyes," the 43-year-old veteran, who has announced that he will end his international career after a seventh Olympics this summer in Paris, told reporters after his last match in Chongqing.

In the men's singles quarterfinals last Saturday, which Boll described as "his last adventure in China," he was beaten by 17-year-old French player Felix Lebrun after five rounds.

"I knew he was really eager to play me, and the same to me," said Boll. "He could be our new superstar in Europe. He could break all my records for sure. He is still so young and so good.' Table tennis fans believe that the competition between Boll and Lebrun symbolizes the passing of the torch to the next generation, following Boll's announcement of retiring from the international stage after the Paris Olympics.

Boll said Lebrun's performance reminded him of his own breakthrough in 2002. "I can imagine how he felt. I mean when I had my first big tournament in China, the World Cup 2002 in Jinan (north China's Shandong Province), I had the feeling that I could play against my idol Kong Linghui in the final, and could win my first world title here in China." Since defeating Olympic champion Kong Linghui in 2002, Boll has been one of the strongest opponents of the Chinese men's table tennis team for more than two decades. The two-time Olympic silver medalist witnessed the growth of generations of Chinese ping pong players and formed a deep friendship with them. At the World Table Tennis Champi-

onships, Boll partnered with Ma Long in the men's doubles, competing in both the 2015 and 2017 worlds. "I learned so much from the players

here, from the coaches and also from the culture," said Boll in Chongqing. Thanks a lot! China is my second home, I will come back as a tourist." "Thank you, I love you," he said to the audience in Chinese.

Rebels face a final reckoning in the playoffs WELLINGTON, June 6, (AP): The

Super Rugby Pacific

three Australian teams that have reached the last eight in Super Rugby Pacific all have challenging matches in the first round of the playoffs.

The Queensland Reds will play the Hamilton-based Chiefs on Friday while the Melbourne Rebels will play the top-ranked Hurricanes and the ACT Brumbies take on the Dunedinbased Highlanders on Saturday. Only the Brumbies will start as favorites on the basis of seedings at the end of the regular season.

The fourth quarterfinal sees the Auckland-based Blues host the Fijian Drua, also on Saturday

But no team in the last eight faces a more significant match than the Rebels - every match could be their last in their team history. The Rebels' license to play in Super Rugby will not be extended beyond this season due to financial difficulties and when the Rebels lose in the playoffs - or win the title - the club will be dissolved.

The players will be dispersed: some will be picked up by other Australian teams, others may have to continue their professional careers overseas. After 14 years in Super Rugby, it will be a hard break-up when the moment But the Rebels are resolved to do

everything in their power to delay the fateful hour. A loss to the Drua last weekend meant they finished the regular season in eighth place and have to play the top seeds, the Hurricanes in the quarterfinals.

RUGBY

They also have to do the job at the Hurricanes' home ground in Wellington where the Hurricanes are unbeaten this season. The Hurricanes beat the Rebels 54-28 in the fifth round of the regular season at their alternative home ground in Palmerston North. And the Hurricanes come into Friday's match with a 12-2 record while the Rebels are 5-9.

Still, the Rebels are determined to stare down adversity.

"We want to obviously keep our heads high and come out swinging in the quarterfinals to make all our fans and supporters proud," Rebels head coach Kevin Foote said. "Of course, (the club's closure) does add a bit of feeling. We're a very motivated group even before we had this news, a very connected group that care a lot.

"There's a lot of emotion in the group to begin with . . . but the leaders are doing a really good job of keeping that intact at the moment.'

The Reds will head to Hamilton for the first match of the quarterfinals with reasonably well-founded confidence. Queensland also faced the Chiefs in last year's quarterfinal and fully stretched the home team before losing 29-10. This year, they beat the Chiefs 25-19 in Brisbane in round three.

The Reds ended their regular season with a 27-26 win over perennial rivals the New South Wales Waratahs, building a lead in the first half, then holding on in the second. Queensland head coach Les Kiss said the match was an ideal preparation for the playoffs and for a match against the Chiefs.

"We've had one or two games, particularly against the Blues and Hurricanes, that were tight and we didn't quite get the money, so it was nice to get this one (against the Waratahs)," Kiss said. "There's some really important as-

pects of doing those things in a game that come back to pay at some stage so we've been through those experiences and a couple of times we haven't got it. But we're starting to understand what it does take to do that, and we proved that tonight.

The Brumbies (12-2) are strongly favored to beat the Highlanders (6-8). But the Highlanders have found some form in the later stages of the season with wins over the Drua, Moana Pasifika and the defending champion Cru-

"We're happy with where we are at the moment," Highlanders head coach Clarke Dermody said. "We got some things right against the Hurricanes last week and we still had enough edge out of that game to push us into this week."

CHONGQING, June 6, (Xinhua): German paddler Timo Boll has bid farewell to China, which he calls his second hometown, as the WTT Champions tournament in Chongqing wrapped up this week.

Spain, Belgium, Denmark win

France build momentum for the European Championship

METZ, France, June 6, (AP): Kylian Mbappé scored late in his first game since joining Real Madrid to help France build momentum for the European Championship with a dominant 3-0 win over Luxembourg.

Mbappé, whose Madrid move was finally confirmed Monday, was a constant threat for Luxembourg's hard-working defenders, but the France captain had to wait until the 85th minute before he could crown his performance with a goal.

Bradley Barcola made his France debut as a substitute and promptly won the ball, ran to the penalty and drew in more defenders before laying the ball off for Mbappé to tuck inside the left post.

In Copenhagen, Christian Eriksen scored late to give Denmark a 2-1 win over Sweden.

Mikel Oyarzabal scored a hat trick after the break to help Spain rout Andorra 5-0.

Belgium earned a 2-0 win over Montenegro with Kevin De Bruyne scoring on his 100th appearance for the Red Devils. But a host of halftime changes almost cost the team. Leandro Trossard only sealed the win with a penalty in stoppage time.

Slovakia, Belgium's Group E opponent at the Euros, enjoyed a 4-0 win over minnow San Marino.

Though France's star-studded team found it tough at times to break through Luxembourg's defense, coach Didier Deschamps will have been impressed with his team's relentless pressure and off-the-ball play.

play.
Only the final touch was missing at times, but Deschamps has a chance to fine-tune the side in its final tournament warmup against Canada in Bordeaux on Sunday.

Antoine Griezmann was back af-



Montenegro's Edvin Kuc (left), challenges for the ball with Belgium's Yannick Carrasco during an international friendly soccer match between Belgium and Montenegro at the King Baudouin Stadium in Brussels, Belgium. (AP)

ter missing the March internationals with an ankle injury. Randal Kolo Muani made a rare start with Ousmane Dembélé unavailable through illness.

France probed and harried but had to wait nearly the whole of the first half for the opener. Mbappé drew two defenders to the end line and crossed for Kolo Muani to head past Anthony Moris in the 43rd minute.

Marseille defender Jonathan Clauss finally made it 2-0 with a strike in off the underside of the crossbar

Les Bleus are in Group D with the Netherlands, Poland and Austria.

Christian Eriksen sealed Denmark's 2-1 win over neighbor Sweden with a long-range strike in the same stadium where he collapsed after a cardiac arrest at Euro 2020.

SOCCER

The 32-year-old Eriksen, who had been tormenting the Swedish defense throughout, took the ball past a defender and then unleashed a fierce shot inside the far post in the 86th. It was his 41st goal in his 129th appearance for Denmark.

Morten Hjulmand likely preserved the win by getting back with a timely challenge to deny Emil Holm when it seemed the Sweden substitute would score.

Pierre-Emile Höjbjerg scored in the second minute to get Denmark off to a great start, but Alexander Isak leveled seven minutes later.

Sweden missed out on Euro 2024 qualification, while Denmark is in Group C with England, Serbia and Slovenia.

The Danes' final warm-up will be against Norway on Saturday.

Erling Haaland scored a hat trick to give Norway a 3-0 win over Kosovo. Neither country has qualified for Euro 2024.

Once Real Betis forward Ayoze Pérez opened the scoring, it was only a matter of how many goals Spain would score against Andorra.

Ayoze broke the deadlock after a corner in the 24th when he set the ball up with his first touch and rifled it in from a difficult angle in the next.

Oyarzabal scored his hat trick in

a 20-minute period after the break, and Barcelona's Ferran Torres completed the rout in the 81st. Spain was without Real Madrid's

Champions League winners Dani Carvajal, Nacho and Joselu. Spain is in Group B with Croatia, Italy and Albania. The team plays

ontenegro Italy and Albania. The team plays Northern Ireland for its final warmup on Saturday.

More signings to come

PSG banking on a new direction after Mbappe's move to Madrid

MANCHESTER, England, June 6, (AP): Kylian Mbappe. Lionel Messi. Neymar.
The talent drain at Paris Saint-Ger-

main over the past 12 months was unprecedented in the world of soccer. Now the French club is looking to the future and an end to its age of ex-

cess.
"It is a new era of PSG," president
Nasser Al-Khelaifi said. "All respect
to Messi, Neymar, Kylian. We know

what they've done for the club.
"It was very important to have them
all. I wish them all the best for their
new challenges, but as a club, for sure,

I think the star is the collective."

Time will tell how PSG's post-Galactico era will work out. But the signings of Messi, Neymar and Mbappe

SOCCER

ultimately failed to achieve the Qatarbacked club's overriding ambition of conquering Europe.

For all of PSG's dominance of the French league - winning it in 10 of the last 12 seasons - it has reached just one Champions League final since being bought by Qatar Sports Investments in 2011

A procession of icons has gone through the club in that time from David Beckham to Zlatan Ibrahimovic, Angel di Maria and Sergio Ramos. Yet the Champions League has so far re-

mained out of reach.

Even Messi couldn't change PSG's fortunes, despite ending his own search for the World Cup title in 2022

in his final year in Paris.

So it is perhaps understandable that Al-Khelaifi is looking to go in a different direction, having spent a record \$262 million on Neymar and \$190 million on Mbappe in one spectacular offseason in 2017. Messi was a free agent from Barcelona, but the combined salary for all three was a reported \$152 million annually, plus bonuses.

For all of that exorbitant spending, PSG has watched on as Madrid has continued to dominate the Champions League, winning the trophy in six of the last 11 seasons. Abu Dhabi-backed Manchester City, which like PSG, has used its newfound riches to shake up the traditional order of European soccer's elite, won the Champions League for the first time last year.

PSG's so-called shift started last year following the exits of Messi to Inter Miami and Neymar to Saudi-team Al-Hilal. Mbappe's departure was also



Macron, (right), is welcomed by French soccer player Kylian Mbappe, (center), and head coach Didier Deschamps for lunch at the national soccer team training center in Clairefontaine, west of Paris, Monday, June 3, 2024 ahead of the UEFA Euro 2024. (AP)

anticipated

anticipated.

Not that it is shopping in the bargain basement, having spent around \$500 million on new players over that period.

Randal Kolo Muani was signed for 95 million euros (\$103 million); Goncalo Ramos was 65 million euros (\$70 million) and Ousmane Dembele was

50 million euros (\$54 million).

More signings will come during this

Bradley Barcola, another signing last year, and Warren Zaire-Emery are emerging French talents.

Zaire-Emery was a graduate from

the club's academy and after building a state of the art training center, PSG hopes more will follow. While the wait for European success

goes on, PSG's new-look team won the domestic league and cup double last season and was a beaten semifinalist in the Champions League.

"(It was an) amazing season we had,

"(It was an) amazing season we had, missing only two matches to win the big trophy (the Champions League). It was a great season. More than what we expected," Al-Khelaifi said. "We did a lot of changes."

That success, however, was achieved with Mbappe still at the heart of the team and scoring 40 goals in all competitions to fill the void left by Messi and Neymar a year before.



Sweden's Simon Olsson (left), and Denmark's Christian Eriksen (right), challenge for the ball during an international friendly soccer match between Denmark and Sweden in Copenhagen, Denmark. (AP)

Swiatek advances to final

Siegemund, Roger-Vasselin win French Open mixed doubles title

PARIS, June 6, (AP): Iga Swiatek is as good as it gets in tennis at the moment, especially at the French Open. Been that way for quite some time. So her unyielding success against Coco Gauff just about everywhere - and certainly at Roland Garros - should come as no surprise by now.

Swiatek continued her mastery over Gauff and extended her winning streak in Paris to 20 matches with a 6-2, 6-4 victory in the semifinals on Thursday.

"For sure, it was intense," said the No. 1-ranked Swiatek, who claimed five of the last six games after trailing 3-1 in the second set. "I'm happy that I just was consistent with my tactics and didn't overthink stuff and just went for it at the end."

Swiatek is trying to earn her fourth championship in five years at the French Open and can become the first woman with three in a row since Justine Henin from 2007-09.

Swiatek improved to 11-1 overall against No. 3 seed Gauff, the reigning U.S. Open champion. That is more victories than Swiatek has accumulated

TENNIS

against any other player - and includes head-to-head wins at the clay-court Grand Slam tournament three years in a row, including in the 2022 final and last year's quarterfinals.

"She is progressing a lot. You can see by her results. Last year's U.S. Open, for sure, showed that she's tough. At this age, it's kind of obvious that she's going to just grow. So it's nice to see her handling well everything around her, because it's not easy," said Swiatek, who turned 23 last week. "I'm sure we're going to have plenty more really intense matches on the really highest level."

As far as Gauff is concerned, perhaps a different opponent would be preferable.

Swiatek, who is 4-0 in major finals, has been at her dominant best for most of the past two weeks, following up on titles at clay events in Rome and Madrid.

Putting aside a three-set, secondround victory over four-time major champion Naomi Osaka, when she was forced to save a match point, Swiatek has ceded a total of merely 17 games in her other five matches in Paris.

Displaying her usual brand of powerful-but-clean groundstrokes, Swiatek needed only 10 winners to advance on Thursday, in part because she made only 14 unforced errors - while Gauff finished with 39.

This is what Swiatek does to whoever is across the net, particularly on clay: With defense and precision, she makes them hit so many shots that eventually the mistakes are bound to come.

It did not take long for Swiatek to assert herself on a sunny afternoon in Court Philippe Chatrier, where several spectators waved red-and-white flags of her native Poland - even drawing an admonition from chair umpire Aurélie Tourte in the second set.

When Gauff missed the mark early,

she really missed. One return went off her racket frame. Another flew 10 feet long. The opening game ended when Gauff wildly hit a swinging volley that landed way out, too, handing over a break.

Swiatek went up by a double break

at 4-1 when Gauff netted a backhand, then slapped her thigh and smacked her racket against a bag on her sideline bench. There were other examples of negative body language from Gauff: a bowed head here, slumped shoulders there.

It's not as though she did not have



Poland's Iga Swiatek plays a shot against Coco Gauff of the U.S. during their semifinal match of the French Open tennis tournament at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris.

(AP)

some chances to make more of a match of this.

In each of Swiatek's first two service games, she faced a break point. But each time, Gauff failed to convert.

In the second set, an hour into the semifinal, Gauff finally broke to lead 3-1. That came shortly after Gauff got into a disagreement with Tourte.

A serve by Swiatek was called out just as Gauff was missing her attempted return. Tourte awarded the point to Swiatek, saying the line judge's call did not affect Gauff's swing; Gauff argued that it did.

"It's a Grand Slam semifinal. Know the rules of the game," Gauff told the official.

The 20-year-old American wound up breaking there with a forehand winner down the line and she wagged her fingers to request louder support from the fans, who gave it to her.

Might the momentum be shifting? No.

Swiatek immediately responded with a four-game run, and then it was just a matter of closing things out.

That wasn't easy. But Swiatek completed the job on her fourth match point when Gauff missed a forehand, eliciting chants of "Iga! Iga!" from the stands.

Laura Siegemund and Edouard Roger-Vasselin won the French Open mixed doubles title by beating Desirae Krawczyk and Neal Skupski 6-4, 7-5 on Thursday.

This is the first tournament Siegemund and Roger-Vasselin played together. Siegemund, a 36-year-old from

Kuwait Handball Association approves training camps in Slovenia and Croatia

By Khaled El Anzi Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, June 6: The meeting of the Board of Directors of the Kuwait Handball Association, held recently at the Association's headquarters in Daiya, was led by Vice President Shabib Al-Hajri and attended by all members. Several key decisions were made, including the approval to establish an external training camp for the senior team in Slovenia and Croatia from August 15 to early September. This camp aims to prepare the team for the 2025 World Cup finals, scheduled to be held in Croatia, Denmark, and Norway next January.

The Training and National Teams Authority, headed by Secretary Qayed Al-Adwani, developed a roadmap approved by the Board to prepare national teams at all levels. This includes a camp in Slovenia and Croatia for players born in 2008, running from August 10 to early September, in preparation for

the Arab Junior Championship in Tunisia.

Additionally, an external train-

Additionally, an external training camp will be held in Sharjah for players born in 2010, in preparation for the first Arab Handball Festival in Egypt from August 15 to September 1.

Handball referees will also

Handball referees will also

HANDBALL

participate in an external training camp and studies in Slovenia and Croatia from August 17 to September 2, coinciding with the national team's camp, based on the referees' committee's recommendation.

The Board of Directors also approved the Arabi Club's request to host the 39th Arab Club Championship, League and Cup Champions.

In the Premier Handball League, the Kazma team suffered its first loss to Kuwait Club, 31-26 in the eighth round. The round also saw Al-Arabi triumph over Burgan 37-27 and Al-Qadisiya defeat Salmiya 36-33.

Germany, previously won the U.S. Open mixed doubles with a different partner in 2016 and women's doubles in 2020.

For the 40-year-old Roger-Vasselin of France, this is his first mixed doubles trophy. His only other major title came in the French Open men's doubles in 2014.

Krawczyk, an American, and Skupski of Britain won two Wimbledon titles together in 2021 and 2022.

The men's doubles final is set for Saturday and the women's doubles final is scheduled for Sunday.

Jannik Sinner is just 22, and Carlos Alcaraz just 21, yet they've already built quite a rivalry heading into their French Open semifinal on Friday. Spain's Alcaraz owns two Grand

Spain's Alcaraz owns two Grand Slam titles and spent time at No. 1 in the rankings. Italy's Sinner won the Australian Open in January and will ascend to No. 1 next week. This will be their ninth meeting; the series is tied at 4-all.

"No one has ever played like Alcaraz. No chance. And Sinner? The same thing," said Mats Wilander, who was ranked No. 1 and won three of his seven Grand Slam titles at Roland Garros in the 1980s. "They're like, 'Whoa! What and where did they come from?"

The other men's semifinal Friday is Norway's Casper Ruud, twice the runner-up in Paris - to Rafael Nadal in 2022 and to Novak Djokovic in 2023 - against Germany's Alexander Zverev, a finalist at the 2020 U.S. Open, an Olympic gold medalist and into the final four at Roland Garros for the fourth consecutive year. Zverev is involved in an ongoing court case in Berlin connected to his former partner's accusa-

tion he caused her bodily harm.



Germany's Laura Siegemund and France's Edouard Roger-Vasselin celebrate winning the mixed doubles final match of the French Open tennis tournament against Desirae Krawczyk of the U.S. and Britain's Neal Skupski at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris. (AP)



Australia's Nestory Irankunda, (left), fights for the ball with Bangladesh's Isa Faysal during a qualifying soccer match for the FIFA World Cup 2026 at Bashundhara Kings Arena in Dhaka, Bangladesh. (AP)

Sports

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Kuwait, India play out goalless draw

South Korea advance in WC qualifying

KOLKATA, June 6, (Agencies): Kuwait and India played a scoreless match in the FIFA World Cup 2026 qualifiers at Salt Lake Stadium in Kolkata, West Bengal.

The encounter, which ended 0-0, was part of the fifth round of Group A, in what was Sunil Chhetri's final game in international colours ,not the fitting finale India would have wanted for Chhetri.

This also means India's hopes of advancing to the third round of the FIFA World Cup Qualifiers look slim as The Blue Tigers face a tough test against Qatar in their final match of the second round of the World Cup Qualifiers on June 11 and Kuwait play Afghanistan.

To ensure qualification, Kuwait needs to beat Afghanistan. Additionally, a win or draw by Qatar against India would also favor Kuwait's chances.

Son Heung-min scored twice as South Korea thrashed Singapore 7-0 Thursday to advance to the final round of Asian qualifying for the 2026 World Cup, while China still has work to do after a 1-1 draw with Thailand.

South Korea stayed top of Group C with 13 points from five games, with China second on eight points. Thailand is three points behind in third with one round to go, with the top two teams from each of the nine groups progressing to the final round of qualifying.

China has to play South Korea in its last game while Thailand hosts Singapore in Bangkok and could still clinch second place with a win if China loses.

It took just nine minutes for Lee Kang-in to open the scoring at a soldout Singapore National Stadium, the Paris Saint-Germain midfielder firing home from inside the area. Joo Mingyu added a second soon after.

Son then netted twice in the second half, Lee added his second and there were late goals from Bae Joon-ho and Hwang Hee-chan.

SOCCER

China fell behind after 20 minutes in Shenyang to a goal from Supachok Sarachat, China's Ferdandinho missed a penalty early in the second half but Baihelamu Abuduwaili leveled for the home team with 11 minutes remaining.

Australia, Japan and Iraq had already qualified and all three maintained their perfect records.

Australia won 2-0 at Bangladesh with goals from Ajdin Hrustic and Kusini Yengi in Dhaka.

Japan thrashed Myanmar 5-0 in Yangon with Keito Nakamura and Koki Ogawa scoring twice each. Iraq defeated Indonesia 2-0.

Mehdi Taremi, who is leaving Porto in July to join Inter Milan, scored a hat trick as the already-qualified Iran won 4-2 in Hong Kong.



Kuwaiti delegation gearing up for the Salmanov International Championship.

Uganda get 1st win at cricket's T20 World Cup

India, Australia open with dominant victories

WESTBURY, New York, June 6, (AP): Jasprit Bumrah and India's pace attack did most of the damage before Rohit Sharma scored a 37-ball halfcentury to steer the team to an eightwicket win over Ireland on Wednesday at the Twenty20 World Cup.

Sharma plundered four boundaries and three sixes before retiring hurt for 52. Rishabh Pant added 36 not out off 26 balls as India reached 97 for 2 in 12.2 overs after routing Ireland for 96.

Allrounder Hardik Pandya took 3-27 for India while Bumrah (2-6) and left-armer Arshdeep Singh (2-35) chimed in to ensure pace accounted for eight of the 10 Irish wickets.

India next plays herce cricket rival Pakistan in the marquee match of the

league stage on Sunday. "Early wickets set the tone for us," Sharma said. "It was good to spend time on this wicket, although it didn't change too much in the second innings. We will prepare for the Pakistan game as if the conditions will be similar."

CRICKET

In Wednesday's later games, Uganda secured its first victory in a T20 World Cup match in a low-scoring thriller against Papua New Guinea at Guyana, and Marcus Stoinis posted a half century and took three wickets as 2021 champion Australia opened with a 39-run win against Oman.

India took four fast bowlers into its tournament-opening game in New York, noting the inconsistent bounce in the pitch at the venue where South Africa routed Sri Lanka two days ear-

It paid off immediately, with Arshdeep causing havoc under overcast conditions to remove both openers and have Ireland reeling at 9-2.

Pandya went in as first change and struck immediately, bowling Loran Tucker (10) and having Curtis Campher (12) caught behind.

Gareth Delany provided some resistance and top-scored with 26, the only Irish batter to cross the 20-run mark, and put on 27 runs with Joshua

In a top-order reshuffle, former skipper Virat Kohli opened for India with Sharma but the move backfired when he was caught at third man attacking Mark Adair (1-27).

India's second-wicket pair added 54 off 44 balls before Sharma retired hurt after being struck on the right arm.

Returning to international action after nearly 18 months out since a car accident in late 2022, Pant finished off the match with a reverse-hit six.

Uganda dismissed Papua New Guinea for 77 but had to work extra hard for victory, losing its first three wickets by the start of the third over in reply and then slipping to 26-5 before rallying to reach 78-7 with 10 balls remaining.

Riazat Ali Shah's 33 was more than double the highest score by any other batter in the match in difficult, uneven conditions, but he was out with Uganda three runs away from victory.

EPL clubs vote to continue using VAR next season

MANCHESTER, England, June 6, (AP): Premier League clubs voted on Thursday to continue using VAR next season after being asked to consider scrap-

ping the technology. At the league's annual general meeting, the 20 teams decided against ending the use of video assistant referees for key onfield decisions, despite a series of controversies last season.

Clubs, however, voted to make improvements "for

the benefit of the game and supporters. The league said it wants to reduce delays to games while decisions are being made, with the introduction of semi-automated offside technology key to that

"The technology will provide quicker and consistent placement of the virtual offside line, based on optical player tracking," it said in a statement.

The league also said it wanted to maintain a high threshold for VAR intervention and "more robust VAR training to improve consistency, including an emphasis on speed of process while preserving ac-

In-stadium announcements will be introduced to improve fan experience, as well as big screen replays, where possible.

Wolverhampton Wanderers submitted a resolution to trigger a vote on the use of VAR last month.

It said VAR "led to numerous unintended negative

consequences that are damaging the relationship between fans and football, and undermining the value of the Premier League brand."

VAR has been used in the Premier League since the 2019-20 season. According to the league, the number of correct decisions made in games has risen from 82% prior to its introduction to 96% last season. But there have been high profile errors.

SOCCER

The most notable of those last season came in a game between Tottenham and Liverpool in September when a miscommunication meant Luis Diaz's goal was ruled out despite replays clearly showing the forward was onside.

Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp later called for the game to be replayed after his team's 2-1 loss.

The league said in April that semi-automated offside technology would be introduced in the autumn of 2024.

The league said it would continue to lobby the International Football Association Board, which oversees the laws of soccer, for greater flexibility to "allow live video and audio broadcast during VAR

He had two big reprieves - chopping an inside edge just over his stumps before he'd scored with Uganda on 8-3 and again when the total was 35-5 when Charles Amini dropped a regulation catch in the ninth over.

Uganda rallied to set up victory with a 35-run sixth-wicket partnership between Riazat and Juma Miyagi (13) before a runout added an extra element of tension at the end.

"First win of a World Cup is a special win for us," Riazat said. "It was not easy to bat on this wicket ... our plan was just to stay in and take our

Australia posted 164-5 and then restricted Oman to 125-9 at Barbados in its tournament opener but it wasn't a straightforward win.

The Australians were in spot of bother when Mehran Khan dismissed skipper Mitchell Marsh for 14 and Glenn Maxwell for a golden duck on consecutive balls to make the total 50-3 in the ninth over.

Stoinis took a single off the hat-trick ball and then set about accelerating Australia's run rate in a 102-run stand with opener David Warner.

Stoinis had a reprieve in the 15th over when a fielder caught him in the deep but fell back over the boundary, giving the batter six runs. It was the first of four sixes in that over that cost Mehran 26 runs.

Warner became Australia's highest scorer in T20 internationals before he was out for 56 off 51 balls. Stoinis finished unbeaten on 67 off 36.

"Maybe a few cobwebs for us, but we're better for the run," Stoinis said.

Kuwaiti gymnasts ready for Salmanov International Champ'ship in Maribor

MARIBOR, June 6: The Kuwait artistic gymnastics team is set to participate in the Salmanov International Championship, taking place in Maribor, Slovenia, from June 5 to 9.

Representing the youth team are Abdullah Miqdad, Musa Al-Sahhaf, Hussein Dashti, Saud Al-Rudaini, and Saud Al-Sanawi, while Fatima Al-Nama will represent the girls'

The gymnastics delegation departed for Slovenia yesterday, led by Muhammad Al-Daihani, a member of the federation's Board of Directors. The delegation also includes administrator Khaled Al-Mithen, Ukrainian coaches Vitaly Arseniev and Mustafa Al-Shafi'i, and referees Badr Hassan, Salah Askar, and Rabab Al-Haris.

GYMNASTICS

The Salmanov Championship is renowned for its high level of competition in artistic gymnastics and is recognized by the International Federation of Gymnastics. The event features elite male and female gymnasts from across Europe.

Pasic summons 33 players

Kuwait youth team 'gears' up for West Asian Championship

KUWAIT CITY, June 6: Kuwait youth Coach Dario Pasic has summoned 33 in preparation for upcoming matches.

Training is set to begin on the subfield of Jaber Al-Ahmad International Stadium on June 10 and will continue until June 16. The team will then travel to Cairo on June 17 for a friendly match against the Egyptian team. Following this, it will depart

SOCCER

for Taif, Saudi Arabia, on June 22 to participate in the West Asian Championship, which will be held from June 25 to July 5.

After competing in the West Asian Championship, the team will return to Kuwait to resume training before heading to Serbia on July 17 for an external camp that will last until August 6, in preparation for the Asian Cup qualifiers.

Wahab Jassim, Youssef Majed, Hus-

sein Al-Kankouni, Talal Al-Matrud,

Ahmed Al-Rashidi, Abdul-Wahab

Squad: Youssef Sabah, Ahmed Khorshid, Jassim Shamouh, Abdullah Al-Ayoub, Abdullah Fares, Khaled Al-Kandari, Miqdad Safar, Abdul-



Kuwait youth Coach Dario Pasic

Al-Shallal, Jassim Matar, Abdulaziz Abdeen, Fadel Al-Sarraf, Nasser Al-Abbasi, Ahmed Boodai, Muhammad Al-Omran, Turki Al-Youssef, Abdul Rahman Salem Kamel, Omar Al-Azmi, Montaser Suleiman, Abdul-Wahab Al-Duaij, Bandar Qannas, Eid Talal, Thamer Al-Sulaili, Khaled Al-Kharqawi, Abdullah Al-Sarraf, Muhammad Arhama, Muhammad Al-Surai, Saud Al-Kandari, and Jassim Al-Anazi.

Best of the Rest

Uruguay rout of Mexico: Liverpool forward Darwin Nunez scored a hattrick as Uruguay fine-tuned their Copa America preparations on Wednesday with a 4-0 friendly win over Mexico in

Denver on Wednesday.

Nunez opened the scoring at the Empower stadium by firing home from close range before Mexico equalized through Facundo Pellistri, who finished smartly after Brian Rodriguez's cross.

The Celeste extended their lead just

before halftime courtesy of another Nunez effort on the counterattack. The 24-year-old was irrepressible

and he struck his third goal just after the restart as he combined with Facundo Pellistri and tapped in from inside the six-yard box.

Uruguay will begin their Copa America campaign against Panama in Miami on June 23 while Mexico will kick off their tournament against Jamaica in Houston a day earlier.

ARAB® TIMES

LANGUAGE DAILY IN FREE KUWAIT

Australia's Marcus Stoinis hits a six during the men's T20 World Cup cricket match between Australia and Oman

at Kensington Oval in Bridgetown, Barbados. (AP)

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