



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

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 residency (companies) must visit the 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

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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 support to the just Palestinian cause is firm and unwavering, said a Kuwaiti diplomat to an international conference on Thursday.

Speaking to the 112nd 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.

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Day by Day

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 organizations.

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 defrauding several Gulf citizens.

... Yet tomorrow is another day.

Zahed Matar

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.

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 Amir.

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)

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)



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.

Photo by Rizalde Cayanan, courtesy of Dar al-Athar al-Islamiyyah



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

KUNA photo

Kuwait sizzles as weather brings sweltering humidity

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 Meteorological 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 extension of the Indian monsoon, bringing a hot and

humid air mass along with northwesterly winds that will shift to light to moderate southeasterly winds.

Al-Qarawi added that Thursday's weather will 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

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 between 28 and 31 degrees Celsius, and the sea

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

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

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

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

By Marwa Al-Bahravi

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' clinics 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

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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.

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

KUWAIT CITY, June 6: The Scientific Center Kuwait (TSCCK), 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 everyday 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 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 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 Taufiq
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.

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 citizens.

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 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.

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.

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 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.

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.

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 daily.

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.

albander
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JUNE

Room Promotion

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

Promo period from 1st June to 11th June 2024

Terms & conditions apply*

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 to the market.

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 demand for crude.

Bursa delists PetroGulf shares

The Bursa 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 31, 2024.

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

	Change	Closing pts		Change	Closing pts
SAUDI - TASI	+7.23	11,560.39	DUBAI - DFMGI	-1.57	3,978.75
JAPAN - Nikkei 225	+213.34	38,703.51	EGYPT - EGX 30	-205.65	26,428.65
PHILIPPINES - PSEI	+68.54	6,509.86	PAKISTAN - 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.

His remarks by the Head of PR and Media at the Ministry of Oil Sheikhha 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 Defense.

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, Sheikhha 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,



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

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 ef-

fects on the civil and military level, and shared knowledge on evaluating 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 performance, 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-

cess and enhancing understanding of its critical role in organizational governance, 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 the end of May.

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 airline 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 place.

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 daily.

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-Sabah, Assistant Economic 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 climate-related 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 ones.

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 tourism for this year.

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 Islamic 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 significantly 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 positions as 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.

Prominent awards KFH's recognition stems from the evaluation of EMEA finance's economy and financial analysts, bankers, and consultants. These experts consider a vari-

ety of significant factors, including financial performance, market share, growth, profitability, the quality of KFH's business strategy, its contributions to the issuance markets, and

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 institutions across the region.

Banknotes bearing portrait of King Charles being rolled out

LONDON, June 6, (AP): People have 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 cash.

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 to minimise the environmental and

financial impact of the change.

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

"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.

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 change emissions, pledging to raise EVs to 25% of all auto sales by 2025 and 90% by 2030.

UN chief calls for a 'tax' on the profits of fossil fuel companies

Guterres calls them 'godfathers of climate chaos'

GENEVA, June 6, (AP): U.N. 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 "godfathers 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 activity.

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 Geneva.

"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 added.

"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 an email.

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 scarcity.

"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 Boulder.

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 be kept alive.

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 them.

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 financial 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 local banks.

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 Industry.

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 previously.

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 Kuwait.



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.

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, capstone 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 project". 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.



Photos during the event.

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-KC. Dr. 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 professional careers.

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 included:

- 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. Jaseela Noufal - 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 Life".

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 subjects.

Next Top 70 Rankers received Certificates of Appreciation



Photo of the organizers

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 category.

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 support.

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 break.



Group photo from the event.

NBC puts pop culture spin on Paris Olympics with star power

Television

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 ultra-smooth 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 conversation.

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 coverage.

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, several 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

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 Hayes).

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 Clemmons) 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,

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

Also:

BEIJING: Japanese director **Ryo 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)

Features

ARABIC TIMES

FRIDAY-SATURDAY, JUNE 7-8, 2024

"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



Stause



Asghari

Florida resort and opens the door to a fifth major theme park at Walt Disney World.

The five DeSantis-appointed supervisors who oversee the Disney World district voted Wednesday 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 Quichotte."

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 controversy.

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

"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 vision," Dupuis said. "He will take what you do and get inspired by it and then help you bring it to the next level."

Michieletto gained attention with Jaromír Weinberger'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 in Treviso.

"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 Maschera" 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 point."

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 Story."

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.



Michieletto



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 Tuesday.

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 End."

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. (AP)

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 in 2025.

"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-

tions, emphasizing its role as a vital conduit for fostering mutual understanding and showcasing Italy's rich cultural heritage.

He lauded Kuwaiti interest in Italian culture, noting the strong resonance between music, art, and Italian way of life.

In his remarks, Ambassador Morini expressed Italy's commitment to attracting Kuwaiti students to study in Italy, addressing concerns about language barriers by highlighting universities offering English-language instruction.

He revealed plans to facilitate Italian language courses for those eager to learn, aiming to bring specialized Italian instructors to Kuwait following a survey to gauge interest.

Ambassador Morini's dedication to promoting educational and cultural exchanges reflects Italy's aspiration to deepen bilateral relations with Kuwait and cultivate enduring bonds between their peoples.

With the success of the inaugural opera concert, the stage is set for further collaboration and cultural exchange between Italy and Kuwait.

said in a video he shared to Instagram on Tuesday.

In the announcement video, the couple joked about Hilaria announcing another pregnancy, but she said they are done having kids before the clip cut to a chaotic shot of their children screaming and the parents struggling to wrangle the bunch for a group

photo.

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

The announcement comes as Baldwin prepares for trial for his involuntary

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 in prison.

While filming the Western movie, which Baldwin 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. (AP)

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

whose legal name is 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 Grammy 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.

Mangro, 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, Mangro 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 Network showed.

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)



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)

