



Opinion

Loyal Crown Prince, the ruling house is a symbol...take care of it

By Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

THE caliber of a person is determined by how he endures and overcomes hardships; hence, such a person is the right choice for handling major tasks. He is capable of facing challenges.

Based on this, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah chose His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah as the Crown Prince, because the man has proven throughout his work in public affairs that he is worthy of such an arduous and difficult task.

Without a doubt, the people want to be reassured about this position, which should be occupied by someone who could support His Highness in shouldering the responsibility. He completes the pillars of the political leadership that has many tasks and files to consider.

This comes after the measures taken by His Highness the Amir to calm the situation, which undoubtedly brings stability to society and prompts it to pay attention to useful affairs that serve the future of the country.

Indeed, these measures warmed the hearts of the people and gave them hope. This is the reason why joy spread to everyone; because they were not accustomed to this throughout the years of ordeals due to parliamentary encroachment on the powers of the executive authority, attempt to hijack the decision of the State as a whole and exploit it for illegal personal gains.

We reiterate our statement: For many years, we have not seen an empowering decision like this that changed the political and economic features of the country, and put it on the right path.

Therefore, hope was pinned on a crown prince who holds a certain degree of national responsibility, has clean hands and sobriety. The choice of His Highness the Amir was the acclaimed Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled.

According to information, the ruling family will meet with His Highness the Crown Prince today. His Highness must realize that custom prevents family members from competing with people in commercial businesses.

This is because they are from the ruling house and its symbol. Their coming together on common ground is an urgent necessity. It is important that they live a decent life, not needing anyone, especially since some of them live in hardship; while it is known that monarchy countries train the royal family members to be ready to rule until the seventh king or Amir.

The country is fine. It has enough wealth to help prevent members of the ruling family from interfering in the work of others. Money has also been found to create people by spending on good education and continuous training to assume responsibilities.

Just as this applies to the general

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'Adhere to Saudi laws'

Kuwait pilgrims set for Hajj: Al-Mutairi

KUWAIT CITY, June 9, (KUNA): The head of the Kuwaiti pilgrimage expedition Dr. Badr Al-Mutairi on Saturday affirmed that all preparations had been fully taken to host and serve the State of Kuwait pilgrims.

Dr. Al-Mutairi, also the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Al-Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, lauded efforts of the congregation members for facilitating travel and the planned services rites of the adherents at the sacred sites.

He was talking to KUNA during a visit to the expedition headquarters in Holy Makkah, with the attendance of the deputy chair of the expedition and the assistant undersecretary for information and external relations, of the Ministry of Al-Awqaf, Mohammad Al-Mutairi, along with heads of the tasked commissions.

He also praised their devotion, punctual tasks and adherence to the timetables, stressing on the necessity to pursue the mission with a team work's spirit.

Earlier in Kuwait, the Ministry of Health declared that the whole team of medical services for the Kuwaiti Hajj expedition had arrived in holy Makkah.

Dr. Abdullah Al-Sanad, the MoH official spokesman said in a statement to KUNA that all of expedition's medical equipment had

been set up. The MoH clinics will open on Sunday with start of the Kuwaiti pilgrims' arrival, he said, affirming that the ministry will secure all medical needs for the devotees namely the elderly and those suffering from chronic diseases.

The ministry had declared that 41 health prevention centers had been set up to immunize the pilgrims.

Chief of Kuwaiti pilgrimage mission Dr. Bader Al-Mutairi on Sunday stressed the need to adhere to the special systems and laws in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

This came in a statement to KUNA by Dr. Al-Mutairi, also the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Al-Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, following a meeting between the head of the mission and his deputy and assistant undersecretary for information and external relations of the Ministry of Al-Awqaf Mohammad Al-Mutairi, along with heads of the tasked commissions.

Dr. Al-Mutairi expressed his thanks to the Ambassador of Saudi Arabia to Kuwait Prince Sultan bin Saad Al-Saud and to the staff of the Saudi Embassy in Kuwait for their cooperation and coordination with the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs.

He also expressed his thanks to all the parties participating in the mission for their dedication and work.

For his part, Consul General of Kuwait in Jeddah and its Permanent Representative to the Organization of Islamic Cooperation Mohammad Al-Mutairi confirmed in a similar

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Kuwait Amir receives Crown Prince, PM at Seif Palace



Amiri Diwan photos
His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received, Sunday, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah (left) at Seif Palace. His Highness the Amir also received His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah (right), Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense and Acting Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yusuf Saud Al-Sabah, and Deputy Chief of the National Guard Sheikh Faisal Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

Update civil ID address or risk KD100 fine: PACI

397 deleted

By Mohammad Ghanem
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, June 9: The Public Authority for Civil Information (PACI) has warned that failure to amend the address in the civil identification card could lead to a fine not exceeding KD100 as per Law No. 32/1982.

PACI recently published an announcement on the Official Gazette 'Kuwait Al-Youm' about the deletion of the addresses of 397 people based on the house owner's acknowledgment or due to the demolition of the building.

It urged all those whose residential addresses were deleted and whose names were published in the gazette must register the new address and submit the supporting documents within 30 days from the date of publication. It stressed that failure to register the new address warrants a fine not exceeding KD100 as per Law No. 32/1982.

In this context, PACI recently announced the launching of a new service through the unified government application, 'Sahel'. It disclosed that the

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News watch

KUWAIT CITY: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah Sunday sent a cable to Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, expressing sincere congratulations on his Bharatiya Janata Party's win of legislative elections and on taking the oath as Prime Minister for a new term.

His Highness the Amir praised the good historical relations between the two friendly countries, wishing the Indian Prime Minister good health, wellness, continued success and prosperity, and for India further progress and prosperity. (KUNA)

DOHA: Kuwait's Foreign Minister Abdullah Al-Yahya headed on Sunday the Kuwaiti delegation participating in the 160th GCC Foreign Ministerial Council meeting held in Doha.

The Foreign Ministry said in a statement that the meeting discussed the items on the agenda and the decisions that support and enhance the process of joint Gulf action in various fields. Views were also exchanged on regional and international issues, especially the war on Gaza and the Palestinian issue. (KUNA)

274 Palestinians killed in Israeli raid

Kuwait condemns Israeli assault on Gaza camp

KUWAIT CITY, June 9, (Agencies): The State of Kuwait has strongly condemned and denounced the recent Israeli occupation assault on Al-Nuseirat camp, the Gaza Strip, which led to the slaughter of over 200 innocent civilians.

According to a statement by the Foreign Ministry, Kuwait deemed this act, which also led to the injury of hundreds, as a violation of international and humanitarian laws.

Kuwait reiterated its condemnation of this heinous criminal act and called on the international community and the UNSC to halt the barbaric aggression on the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip that killed, so far, over 36,000 unarmed civilians.

Kuwait also called for enabling the delivery of much-needed humanitarian aid to the Palestinian people.

The Secretary General of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC), Jassem Al-Budaiwi condemned on Sunday the Israeli occupation's brutal attack on the Nuseirat Camp in Gaza, which killed and

injured hundreds of Palestinians. Al-Budaiwi stated that this attack was terrorism that targeted innocent and defenseless people with unprecedented brutality, he added that this barbaric attack demonstrated the Israeli occupation's terrorism and their complete disregard for all international conventions and humanitarian values.

He called on the international community to assume its historical and moral responsibilities and take immediate actions to stop these horrific crimes against the Palestinian people.

He stressed that the GCC countries stand in solidarity with the Palestinian people in their struggle for freedom and to live in peace and he further reiterated the firm positions of the GCC regarding the Palestinian cause, and their support for the establishment of an independent Palestinian state on the 1967 borders, with its capital in East Jerusalem, in accordance with the Arab Peace Initiative and international legitimacy resolutions.

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Arab League holds consultative meet

CAIRO, June 9, (KUNA): The Arab League held a consultative meeting with member states permanent delegates on Sunday, headed by Mauritania, to evaluate Arab cooperation forums with countries and regional groups.

Assistant Secretary-General and Head of the International Political Affairs Sector Dr. Khaled Manzalawi said in a press release that the meeting discussed member states views and proposals regarding Arab cooperation forums in order to coordinate collective efforts to serve issues of common interest.

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Overhaul eyed

Kuwait evaluates health fee policy

KUWAIT CITY, June 9, (Agencies): The Ministry of Health is currently studying the policies concerning fees and exemptions for patients in hospitals and health centers to pave the way for updating them in the coming period, reports Al-Anba daily.

The ministry recently issued a circular to exempt the holders of valid cards issued by the Central Agency for Remedying Illegal Residents Status (CARIRS) from all kinds of health fees as per Ministerial Decision No. 68/2011.

In other news, Minister of Health Dr. Ahmed Al-Awadhi recently issued a ministerial decision to transfer the technical subordination of the public relations departments, units and divisions in the health districts and central departments to the director of the Public Relations and Health Media Department in the ministry, reports Al-Seyassah daily.



KUNA photo
Participants are seen at the conclusion of Dakhla International Film Festival in Morocco on Saturday, where the Kuwaiti film 'Amakor' was showcased. - See Page 12

Prayer Timings

Fajr 03:13 Asr 15:21
 Sunrise .. 04:48 Maghrib .. 18:46
 Zohr 11:47 Isha 20:18

Local

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

Weather

Expected weather for next 24 hrs:

By Day: Very hot, partly cloudy and humid especially over coastal areas with light to moderate freshening at times southerly wind to southeasterly wind, with speeds of 12-42 km/h.

By Night: Hot to rather hot and humid especially over coastal areas with light to moderate southeasterly wind to light variable wind, with speeds of 10-35 km/h and some scattered clouds will appear.

Station	Max Exp	Min Rec
Kuwait City	47	34
Kuwait Airport	47	28
Abdaly	46	26
Jahra	48	32
Salmiyah	40	30
Nuwaib	46	27
Wafra	47	27



HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled receives the First Deputy PM, Minister of Defense and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yusuf Saud Al-Sabah and the governors.



HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled receives First Deputy PM, Minister of Defense and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yusuf Saud Al-Sabah, Chief of the General Staff of the Army, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Interior.



HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled receives HH the PM Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

KUNA photos

Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled being congratulated on his appointment

His Highness the Crown Prince receives top officials

KUWAIT CITY, June 9. (KUNA): His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah received Sunday at Seif Palace His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

His Highness the Crown Prince also received Deputy head of Kuwait National Guard (KNG) Sheikh Faisal Nawaf Al-Sabah.

He also received Kuwait First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yusuf Saud Al-Sabah,

Governor of Hawally Ali Salem Al-Asfar, Governor of Farwaniya Sheikh Athbi Nasser Al-Athbi Al-Sabah, Governor of Assima Sheikh Abdullah Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah, Governor of Mubarak Al-Kabeer and Acting Governor of Al-Ahmadi Sheikh Sabah Bader Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah and Governor of Al-Jahraa Hamad Jassem Al-Mheisen Al-Habshi.

He also received Chief of Staff of Kuwait's Armed Forces Air Marshal Bandar Al-Muzayyen, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Interior Lieutenant General Sheikh Salem Nawaf Al-

Ahmad Al-Sabah, KNG Undersecretary Lieutenant General Hashem Al-Rifai, Acting General Director of Kuwait Fire Forces Lieutenant General Khaled Fahad and Director for Human Resources and Information Technology at the Interior Ministry Sheikh Mubarak Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah.

During the meeting, they congratulated His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled on being appointed as Crown Prince by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

Other Voices

Abu Suleiman and 50K donations

By Ahmed alsarraf

Along with others, played a pivotal role in founding the Association for the Defense of Public Money nearly three decades ago. Upon my successful election to the Board of Directors, I took on the responsibility of serving as its inaugural treasurer. In a gesture of support, I contributed two thousand dinars to cover the association's initial expenses, echoing the generosity shown to us by esteemed supporters at the time.

This contribution proved sufficient to sustain the association's operations for several months, reflecting my dedication to our noble cause.

However, a troubling incident compelled me to reassess my position on the board. One day, the association's president and another board member, the latter having served as a representative in the recently dissolved National Assembly, approached me with a check issued in my name for 50 thousand dinars.

They informed me that they had solicited this donation from a prominent individual to support the association's financial needs.

I found their actions and approach disconcerting. I refused to accept the check, tendered my resignation, and conveyed my concerns.

I emphasized that accepting such a sizable donation, particularly from a member of the state institution, could compromise the association's integrity. It risked creating a conflict of interest whereby the association might feel hesitant to scrutinize the benefactor's actions regarding public funds, should the need arise in the future.

I firmly believe that maintaining the independence and impartiality of our organization is paramount. We must uphold our principles and remain steadfast in our commitment to safeguarding public funds without any external influence or compromise.

Following my resignation, the Association for the Defense of Public Money continued its operations under new leadership.

While it successfully achieved formal recognition and made some strides in its efforts, it fell short of the ambitious goals set forth by its founders and outlined in its statutes. Regrettably, to my knowledge, the association has not been as effective as hoped in uncovering instances of misuse of public funds over the past

two decades.

Furthermore, it appears that the association has not developed a comprehensive program for the preservation of public funds, complete with a well-defined action plan and timeline.

There has also been a lack of initiatives aimed at disseminating the culture of safeguarding public funds through specialized training or awareness campaigns conducted by the association.

However, there remains hope that the association will evolve and improve in the future. It is imperative that it redoubles its efforts to fulfill its mission and enhance its effectiveness in protecting public funds.

With concerted action and a renewed commitment to its founding principles, the association can play a pivotal role in promoting transparency, accountability, and responsible stewardship of public resources.

As the number of individuals seeking assistance with financial and health challenges grew, many voiced frustrations about discriminatory practices by certain charitable organizations based on religion and sect.

Feeling disheartened by the lack of change, I took action in early 2018 by publishing an article offering to donate fifty thousand dinars to establish a non-profit, non-affiliated charitable organization dedicated to assisting those overlooked by other associations.

Shortly after the article's publication, I received a call from Yahya Al-Bassam, a respected figure in the community, expressing interest in discussing the matter further. Recognizing his seniority, I agreed to meet with him.

During our meeting, Mr. Al-Bassam, accompanied by his son Sulaiman Al-Bassam, the international director, presented a donation of fifty thousand dinars. Grateful for his trust and generosity, I initially declined the donation, as the association had yet to be established. However, I gladly accepted the donation once the organization was officially formed.

With time, Mr. Al-Bassam, affectionately known as "Abu Suleiman," became one of the association's most significant benefactors. His initial phone call and generous contribution marked a pivotal moment, not only in my life but also in the lives of the countless individuals who received impartial assistance from the association, devoid of personal or material gain. His support helped transform the organization into a beacon of hope for those in need.

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KUWAIT CITY, June 9: Minister of Health Dr. Ahmed Al-Awadhi recently issued Ministerial Decision No.160/2024, specifying the requirements for obtaining a license to practice pharmacist and assistant professions in the public and private sectors, reports Al-Anba daily.

Article One of the decision stipulates the cancellation of Decision No. 88/2024 on amending Article Three of Ministerial Decision No. 395/1997 about the executive regulations of Law No. 28/1996 to be as follows:

The requirements for obtaining a license to practice the pharmacist profession are:

1. The applicant for a license to practice pharmacist profession must hold a valid and accredited Pharmacology certificate.

2. The applicant for assistant jobs must hold a valid and accredited certificate in his field of specialization.

3. The applicant must submit the experience certificate which must be authorized by the relevant institutions.

4. The applicant must be committed to good behavior and must not have been subjected to penalties for crimes against honor unless he is rehabilitated.

5. The applicant must pass the medical test according to the measures defined by Higher Health Council in the Ministry of Health.

6. The Kuwaiti applicant for pharmacist license must present a valid Kuwait Pharmacology Society membership card.

7. The license to practice pharmacist profession and assistant jobs is nullified in the following cases:

■ Death of the license holder,
 ■ If the holder is found guilty of committing a crime against honor unless he is rehabilitated,

■ If he is reported by the relevant department in the Ministry of Health that he unable to do his work due to health problems,

■ If he committed immoral acts that negatively affected his job and reputation.

The pharmacists and those occupying assistant jobs in public institutions are allowed to obtain a temporary license for one year until they submit their accredited academic certificates.

Meanwhile, those who wish to obtain a license to work in the private sector must fulfill all of the abovementioned requirements and pay the fees stipulated in Decision No. 278/2019.

The license is cancelled upon termination of the contract with

Abdullah Al-Mahri leads remarkable consensus

MC reconstitutes panels in unprecedented session

By Inaas Awadh

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, June 9: In continuation of the pace of cooperation demonstrated by the current Municipal Council since its formation in 2022; the council, headed by Abdullah Al-Mahri, recently held its first extraordinary session for the third session of the 13th legislative term; during which it reconstituted its sub and main committees by acclamation amidst remarkable consensus and unprecedented flexibility among the members.

The council completed the formation of its main committees by acclamation in accordance with Article 27 of Kuwait Municipality Law No. 33/2016, which stipulates that the council shall form the following committees from among its members for a period of two years:

Eng Muneera Al-Amir as Technical Committee chairperson, Abdullah Al-Enezi as rapporteur with Dr. Hassan Kamal, Fahad Al-Khaneen, Eng. Alia Al-Farsi, Eng. Abdullatif Al-Daei and Khaled Mufleh Al-Mutairi as members.

Fahad Al-Abd Al-Jader as Legal and Financial Committee chairperson, Walid Al-Dagher as rapporteur with Sharifa Al-Shalfan, Ismail Behbehani and Khaled Mufleh Al-Mutairi as members.

Eng. Alia Al-Farsi as chairperson of the Environmental Affairs Committee, Sharifa Al-Shalfan as rapporteur with Walid Al-Dagher, Abdullah Al-Enezi, Fahad Al-Khanin as members.

Saud Al-Kandari as chairperson of the Objections and Complaints Committee, Fahd Al-Abduljader as rapporteur with Ismail Behbehani, Abdullah Al-Enezi, Nassar Al-Azmi as members.

Farah Al-Roumi as Engineering Professions Committee chairperson, Eng. Abdullatif Al-Daei as rapporteur with Munira Al-Amir, Ismail Behbehani and Dr. Hassan Kamal as members.

Abdullatif Al-Daei as Reform and Development Committee chairperson, Ismail Behbehani as rapporteur with Sharifa Al-Shalfan, Farah Al-Roumi, and Eng. Alia Al-Farsi as members.

The acclamation of governorate committees is in accordance with Article 26 of Kuwait Municipality Law No. 33/2016, which stipulates that the council shall form a sub-committee for each governorate of five members for a period of two years. In all cases, a member may not participate in more than two committees.

The internal regulations determine the employer, death of the holder, if the holder is proven incapable of doing his job according to a medi-



Photo by Ihab Qurtal
 Municipal Council members during the session.

cal report, if the holder is proven to have committed a crime against honor, and if the holder does not

practice the profession for 30 consecutive days after obtaining the license without a valid excuse.

mine the powers of these committees and the controls for holding their meetings and issuing their decisions.

Dr. Hassan Kamal was acclaimed as Capital Governorate Committee chairperson, Eng. Alia Al-Farsi as rapporteur with Ismail Behbehani, Sharifa Al-Shalfan, Fahad Al-Abd Al-Jader as members.

Nassar Al-Jadaan as Hawally Governorate Committee chairperson, Saud Al-Kandari as rapporteur with Dr. Hassan Kamal, Farah Al-Roumi and Walid Al-Dagher as members.

Nassar Al-Azmi as Ahmadi Governorate Committee chairperson, Saud Al-Kandari as rapporteur with Nassar Al-Jadaan, Fahad Al-Khanain, and Fahad Al-Abduljader as members.

Khaled Mufleh Al-Mutairi as Farwaniya Governorate Committee chairperson, Walid Al-Dagher as rapporteur with Abdullah Al-Enezi, Munira Al-Amir and Alia Al-Farsi as members.

Abdullah Al-Enezi as Jahra Governorate Committee chairperson, Munira Al-Amir as rapporteur with Ismail Behbehani, Khaled Mufleh Al-Mutairi and Abdullatif Al-Daei as members.

Fahad Al-Khanain as Mubarak Al-Kabeer Governorate Committee chairperson, Nassar Al-Azmi as rapporteur with Farah Al-Roumi, Sharifa Al-Shalfan and Abdullatif Al-Daei as members.

In this regard, Municipal Council President Abdullatif Al-Mahri said after the special session that acclaiming the positions of the main and subcommittees indicates the extent of the great consensus among the members, and this in itself is an achievement.

He pointed out that the members, during the past two years of the council's life, worked in the spirit of one team, each of them putting his practical and scientific experiences for everyone to benefit from, as this cooperation resulted in issu-

ing approximately 500 decisions in the period.

Al-Mahri called on the council members to complete the process of achievements they started. He stated that the number of remaining transactions and proposals referred to the committees is very small, especially since the members were keen to complete them as soon as possible in accordance with the required technical and engineering standards.

He concluded by emphasizing that the council as a whole is working at a rapid pace and urged the members to continue to exert more effort, whether in committees or main sessions.

Municipal Council member Fahad Al-Abduljader praised the positive atmosphere that prevailed in the extraordinary session. He stressed that the spirit of cooperation prevailed in the work of the council over the past two years.

"From the first day, we were keen to work in the spirit of one team. We applied democracy and succeeded in completing exceptional achievements. Perhaps, the decisions of the council and its committees that were taken during the session are the best evidence of this. The council issued 266 decisions in the first round and more than 200 decisions in the second round. The Legal and Financial Committee, which I chaired throughout the previous period, held 16 meetings in the first round and 14 meetings in the second round, and completed all the topics in its agenda," he added.

He went on to say that "the Capital Governorate Committee also held 19 meetings in the first and second rounds. We accomplished everything in its agenda. This is due to the insistence and determination of the council members to complete the journey toward achievements. We will arrange the papers during the summer vacation and there will be meetings in preparation for the third session."

practice the profession for 30 consecutive days after obtaining the license without a valid excuse.

Kuwaiti interest peaks as Thai hospitals showcase healthcare expertise

Thailand promotes advanced, affordable medical tourism

By Fares Abadan

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, June 9: The Thai Ambassador to Kuwait HE Ekapol Polpipat has emphasized Thailand's commitment to maintaining its status as a premier global destination for medical tourism, citing the country's modern hospitals, excellent facilities, highly experienced doctors, and advanced technology -- all offered at reasonable and affordable costs. He highlighted the short wait times as another key benefit.

He made this statement during the 'Communication Forum in the Field of Medical Services, Health Care, and Wellness in Thailand 2024,' which was organized by the Thai embassy in conjunction with the 13th 'Medica Kuwait' exhibition and conference held from June 6 to 7.

Ambassador Polpipat noted that the event serves as a platform for representatives from five Thai hospitals -- Bangkok Hospital, Bangkok Hospital Phuket, BPK9 International, Sukhumvit Hospital, and Piavit Hospital -- to showcase their expertise and services.

He also mentioned that Kuwaiti partners are eager to rediscover Thailand's medical services, wellness offerings, and tourism opportunities, aiming to strengthen collaborative relationships. Thailand's unique cultural heritage, delicious cuisine, and stunning landscapes make it an appealing destination for Kuwaitis.

Polpipat stressed the rapid growth of tourism in Thailand, with many patients expressing their appreciation for the country's excellent medical



Photo by Samer Shaqair

Thai Ambassador poses for a group photo during the 13th 'Medica Kuwait' exhibition and conference.

services. Thailand is recognized as one of the top destinations globally for medical treatment and procedures, attracting tourists seeking to invest in their health and well-being.

"For patients requiring ongoing treatment, there is now a long-term medical visa," Polpipat stated, highlighting that private hospitals in Thailand excel in providing well-trained, experienced doctors and practitioners, equipped with the latest advanced technologies.

The medical staff's ability to communicate effectively, often with the help of interpreters, further enhances the patient experience.

Municipality requires officials to address citizen concerns weekly

KUWAIT CITY, June 9: The Director General of Kuwait Municipality, Saud Al-Dabbous, has issued an administrative circular requiring all officials to receive citizens every Sunday to listen to their suggestions and address their

problems, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Nonetheless, the citizens must book an appointment through the "Sahel" application. A periodic report on the outcomes of these meetings will be submitted to Al-Dabbous for review.

Room Promotion

From June 12th - 22nd of June 2024

Book for One-night (Inclusive of breakfast)	Queen Cabana (2 persons) 2 Bedroom Chalet (4 persons)	BHD 76.230 BHD 170.247
Book for Two nights and get 10% discount (Inclusive of breakfast) (Non-refundable/Non-Cancellable)	Queen Cabana (2 persons) per night. 2 Bedroom Chalet (4 persons) per night	BHD 69.000 net BHD 153.222
Book for Three nights and get 20% discount (Inclusive of breakfast) (Non-refundable/Non-Cancellable)	Queen Cabana (2 persons) per night. 2 Bedroom Chalet (4 persons) per night	BHD 61.000 net BHD 136.198

Food & Beverage Promotion

- First three days of Eid, at the **Fish Market Restaurant** warmly welcomes everyone to enjoy a **15% discount**.
- 15% discount on Room Service
- First three days of Eid, lunch Buffet will be served at **Café Marisol Restaurant** with price of **BD6.500 per person**. Starts from 12:30 PM to 16:00 PM.

Terms and conditions apply

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Kuwait University summer semester 2023/24 kicks off

KUWAIT CITY, June 9: Kuwait University is gearing up to kick off its summer semester for the academic year 2023-2024 tomorrow today with classes scheduled to run until July 25, reports Al-Qabas daily.

Early registration for courses had already commenced, and the Deanship of Admission and Registration has been actively offering new sections to accommodate student demand. The university has allocated the first three days of the summer semester for course withdrawals and additions, allowing students to fine-tune their study schedules.

Students have expressed their desire for more course offerings and increased seat availability, particularly in

the literary colleges where courses tend to fill up quickly due to high demand.

In response to student needs, the university administration is in close communication with scientific departments to explore the possibility of opening additional study classes, especially in faculties such as arts and education.

This proactive approach aims to ensure the smooth progression of the educational process and prevent delays in students' graduation.

While there are university regulations governing the preparation of the summer academic schedule and the assignment of courses to professors, efforts are being made to stay within budget constraints while meeting the needs of students.

Kuwait, China strengthen bilateral cooperation for mutual prosperity

Bilateral relations expand in AI and renewable energy

KUWAIT CITY, June 9: During the tenth session of the ministerial meeting of the China-Arab Cooperation Forum in Beijing, Kuwait's Foreign Minister Abdullah Al-Yahya emphasized the constructive cooperation between Kuwait and China across various domains, reports Al-Jarida daily.

Notably, the focus areas include sustainable development, artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, climate change mitigation, regional security, combating terrorism and extremism, and ensuring freedom of navigation, among others.

Chinese Ambassador to Kuwait, Zhang Jianwei, highlighted the significance of Kuwait as an important partner for China in the Gulf

Cooperation Council region. Over the past five decades, bilateral relations between China and Kuwait have witnessed substantial development, characterized by mutual support on core issues and strategic partnership establishment in 2018.

Jianwei noted that Kuwait was the first country in the region to sign cooperation agreements within the Belt and Road Initiative framework. These agreements have yielded significant outcomes in energy, trade, infrastructure, culture, and other sectors. Noteworthy projects completed through this cooperation include the new headquarters building for the Central Bank of Kuwait, university city, oil refinery, residential area, and the Seventh Ring Road.

109 cases unveiled
PADA in relentless efforts to safeguard public funds

KUWAIT CITY, June 9: Mubarak Al-Badah, Deputy Director of the Public Authority for Disabled Affairs, highlighted the authority's relentless efforts in safeguarding public funds and ensuring accountability, reports Al-Jarida daily.

Al-Badah revealed that since 2017, 109 files have been referred to the Public Prosecution regarding suspected incidents of facilitating the misappropriation of public money and forgery.

Additionally, the authority has filed 337 lawsuits to recover unlawfully spent sums of money, amounting to hundreds of thousands of dinars. Al-Badah emphasized the authority's success in recovering significant amounts of money that were spent in violation of the law, underscoring the inviolable nature of public funds.

Al-Badah further detailed the legal proceedings undertaken by the authority, highlighting that the Legal Affairs Department plays a pivotal role in representing the authority before the judiciary. Notably, out of 10,337 cases filed by or against the authority, a remarkable 71% have been won by the authority, demonstrating the validity of its legal procedures.

Regarding cases filed against the authority, Al-Badah mentioned the challenge of administrative decisions rejecting medical committee rulings on disability status. He emphasized the authority's adherence to legal protocols and cited a Court of Cassation ruling affirming the authority's jurisdiction in determining disability status.

Al-Badah attributed the authority's success in legal matters to the introduction of an efficient case follow-up system and the meticulous organization of case files. These measures have expedited legal processes and bolstered the authority's ability to protect public funds and uphold the rights of disabled individuals.

Bidding window will span 30 days

CAPT to float tenders for 18 road projects

KUWAIT CITY, June 9: The Central Agency for Public Tenders will float 18 projects today focusing on extensive road maintenance across all governorates and highways, reports Al-Rai daily quoting reliable CAPT sources.

The sources disclosed, "The bidding window will span 30 days from the commencement of the announcement for companies to submit their proposals."

Upon the completion of the bidding phase and subsequent approval processes, including scrutiny by the Audit Bureau, the awarded companies will commence road maintenance operations.

The projects encompass maintenance initiatives for 12 roads in various governorates and six highway segments.

Outlined below are the sanctioned project drafts:

- Comprehensive road maintenance in Jahra Governorate (Zone 1) for duration of 1,095 days.
- Comprehensive road maintenance in Farwaniya Governorate (Zone 1) for duration of 1,095 days.
- Comprehensive road maintenance in the Capital Governorate (Zone 1) for duration of 1,095 days.
- Comprehensive road maintenance in Hawalli Governorate (Zone 1) for duration of 1,095 days.
- Comprehensive road maintenance in Al-Ahmadi Governorate (Zone 1) for duration of 1,095 days.

■ Comprehensive road maintenance in Al-Ahmadi Governorate (Zone 2) for duration of 1,095 days.

■ Comprehensive road maintenance in the Capital Governorate (Zone 2) for duration of 1,095 days.

■ Comprehensive road maintenance in Hawalli Governorate (Zone 2) for duration of 1,095 days.

■ Comprehensive road maintenance in Farwaniya Governorate (Zone 2) for duration of 1,095 days.

■ Comprehensive road maintenance in Mubarak Al-Kabeer Governorate (Zone 1) for duration of 1,095 days.

■ Comprehensive road maintenance in Mubarak Al-Kabeer Governorate (Zone 2) for duration of 1,095 days.

■ Comprehensive road maintenance in Jahra Governorate (Zone 2) for duration of 1,095 days.

■ General maintenance of the First Ring Road, including the third, fourth, and fifth intersections, and King Fahd Road.

■ General maintenance of the Sixth and Seventh Ring Roads.

■ General maintenance of King Fahd Road and Fahheel Road.

■ General maintenance of Subbiya Road.

■ General maintenance of Abdali Road and Jahra Road.

■ General maintenance of Salmi Road.

World News Roundup

Europe

Bulgarians cast ballots

Mlns 'vote' on final day of EU elections

BRUSSELS, June 9, (AP) — Tens of millions across the European Union voted Sunday in EU parliamentary elections in a massive exercise of democracy that is expected to shift the bloc to the right and redirect its future.

The war in Ukraine, migration, and the impact of climate policy on farmers are some of the issues weighing on voters' minds as they cast ballots to elect 720 members of the European Parliament.

Surveys suggest that mainstream and pro-European parties will retain their majority in parliament, but they will lose seats to hard right parties like those led by Italian Premier **Giorgia Meloni**, Hungarian leader Viktor Orban, Geert Wilders in the Netherlands and Marine Le Pen in France.

That would make it harder for Europe to pass legislation and could at times paralyze decision-making in the world's biggest trading bloc. "I do hope that we will manage to avoid a shift to the right and that Europe will somehow remain united," voter Laura Simon said in Berlin.

EU lawmakers have a say in issues from financial rules to climate and agriculture policy. They approve the EU budget, which bankrolls priorities including infrastructure projects, farm subsidies and aid delivered to Ukraine. And they hold a veto over the appointment of the powerful EU commission.

This elections come at a testing time for voter confidence in a bloc of some 450 million people. Over the last five years, the EU has been shaken by the coronavirus pandemic, an economic slump and an energy crisis fueled by the biggest land conflict in Europe since the Second World War. But political campaigning often focuses on issues of concern in individual countries rather than on broader European interests.

Cycle

Sunday's voting marathon winds up a four-day election cycle that began in the Netherlands on Thursday.

An unofficial exit poll there suggested that Wilders' anti-migrant hard right party would make important gains in the Netherlands, even though a coalition of pro-European parties has probably pushed it into second place.

Casting his vote in the Flanders region, Belgian Prime Minister Alexander De Croo, whose country holds the EU's rotating presidency until the end of the month, warned that Europe is "at a crossroads" and "more under pressure than ever."

Since the last EU election in 2019, populist or far-right parties now lead governments in three nations - Hungary, Slovakia and Italy - and are part of ruling coalitions in others including Sweden, Finland and, soon, the Netherlands. Polls give the populists an advantage in France, Belgium, Austria and Italy.

"Right is good," Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban, who leads a stridently nationalist and anti-migrant government, told reporters after casting his ballot. "To go right is always good. Go right!"

After the election comes a period of horse-trading, as political parties reconsider in their places in the continent-wide political alliances that run the European legislature.

The biggest political group - the center-right European People's Party (EPP) - has moved right during the present elections on issues like security, climate and migration.

Among the most watched questions is whether the Brothers of Italy - the governing party of populist Meloni, which has neo-fascist roots - stays in the more hard-line European Conservatives and Reformists group or becomes part of a new hard right group that could form the wake of the elections.

Also:

SOFIA, Bulgaria: Bulgarians are choosing a new parliament Sunday while also participating in European Union elections that have been overshadowed by domestic political instability and economic inequality as well as growing concern over the war in nearby Ukraine.

It was Bulgaria's sixth parliamentary election in three years. There were worries that voter fatigue and wide disillusionment with politicians who do not fulfill promises to fight corruption and introduce reforms could result in a low turnout and another fragmented parliament.

Preliminary results are expected Monday in the voting for the 240 seats in the National Assembly and for 17 members in the European Parliament.

The front-runners in the National Assembly elections were seen as the GERB center-right party led by three-time Prime Minister **Boyko Borissov** and the reformist coalition We Continue the Change-Democratic Bulgaria.

After running neck and neck in last July's election, the two rival groups sought to break the political stalemate by forming an uneasy governing coalition, but it survived only nine months.

In heated campaigning for the latest election, both parties leveled charges of corruption against the other, and analysts saw little chance of the two trying to work together again.

KYIV, Ukraine: Ukraine on Sunday said its forces hit an ultra-modern Russian warplane stationed on an air base nearly 600 kilometers (370 miles) from the front lines, after its Western allies allowed Kyiv to use their weapons for limited strikes inside Russia.

Kyiv's main military intelligence service shared satellite photos it said showed the aftermath of the attack. If confirmed, it would mark Ukraine's first known successful strike on a Su-57 fighter plane, a twin-engine stealth fighter lauded as Moscow's most advanced military aircraft.

In one photo, black soot marks and small craters can be seen dotting a concrete strip around the parked aircraft. According to the Main Intelligence Directorate of Ukraine's Ministry of Defense, the strike took place on Saturday at the Akhtubinsk base in southern Russia, some 589 kilometers (366 miles) from the front line.

It wasn't immediately clear what weapons were used, but the airfield's distance from Ukraine suggests that it was likely hit by drones.

The strike comes after the United States and Germany recently authorized Ukraine to hit some targets on Russian soil with the long-range weapons they are supplying to Kyiv. Ukraine has already used US weapons to strike inside Russia under newly approved guidance from President **Joe Biden** that allows American arms to be used for the limited purpose of defending Kharkiv, Ukraine's second-largest city.



US President Joe Biden and First Lady Jill Biden, (left), French President Emmanuel Macron and his wife Brigitte Macron pose before a state dinner on June 8 at the Elysee Palace in Paris. Biden said France was America's 'first friend' at its founding and is one of its closest allies more than two centuries later as he was honored with a state visit Saturday by Macron aimed at showing off their partnership on global security issues and easing past trade tensions. (AP)



Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban, left, leader of the ruling Fidesz party and his wife, Aniko Levai cast their votes at a polling station during the European Parliament and the local elections in Budapest, Hungary, June 9, 2024. (AP)



Chapman



Uribe

America

SDakota shooting kills 3: A shooting in a Sioux Falls neighborhood left three people dead and two others injured early Saturday, police said.

Police said they have a suspect in custody. They said there does not appear to be any further danger to the community. The investigation is ongoing.

Police said in a news release that they found the victims around 2:45 a.m. while responding to a call about a disturbance, the Argus Leader reported. The injured were taken to a hospital to be treated. Their wounds were not believed to be life-threatening.

Authorities did not release any additional details. Sioux Falls police did not respond to three phone messages left with dispatchers or to a social media message from The Associated Press. (AP)

Shooting suspect dies in jail: A suspect who was being held in a California jail on charges connected to a 2022 mass shooting in the state capital died in his cell Saturday, according to police and his attorney.

The 29-year-old male inmate died while in custody at the Sacramento County Main Jail around 2:15 a.m., the Sacramento County Sheriff's Office said in a statement posted on social media.

The San Francisco Chronicle reported public defender Norman Dawson identified the man as Smiley Martin, his client who was awaiting trial on three felony charges stemming from an April 3, 2022, shooting in Sacramento that killed six people and wounded 12 others, including two of the alleged shooters.

Jail deputies were conducting a cell check and found an unresponsive inmate. The deputies and then fire department personnel attempted life-saving procedures but he was pronounced dead, the sheriff's office said. The Sacramento County Coroner's Office will determine the cause of death and release the man's name after notification of his next of kin, according to the sheriff's office, which said it will investigate.

Martin was "fighting to defend his innocence in the preliminary hearing process" at the time of his death, Dawson said in a written statement. (AP)

NJ businessman testifies: A New Jersey businessman took his star turn on the witness stand in the bribery case against Sen Bob Menendez on Friday, telling a jury he believed he had a \$200,000-to-\$250,000

Politics

Deportation flights scarce

Some nationalities escape Biden asylum ban

SAN DIEGO, June 9, (AP) — The Border Patrol arrested Gerardo Henao 14 hours after President Joe Biden suspended asylum processing at the US border with Mexico this week. But instead of being summarily deported, he was dropped off by agents the next day at a San Diego bus stop, where he caught a train to the airport for a flight to Newark, New Jersey.

Henao, who said he left his jewelry business in Medellin, Colombia, because of constant extortion attempts, had one thing working in his favor: a scarcity of deportation flights to that country. Lack of resources, diplomatic limitations and logistical hurdles make it difficult for the Biden administration to impose its sweeping measure on a large scale.

Policy

The policy, which took effect Wednesday, has an exception for "operational considerations," official language acknowledging the government lacks the money and authority to deport everyone subject to the measure, especially people from countries in South America, Asia, Africa and Europe who didn't start showing up at the border until recently. The Homeland Security Department said in a detailed document outlining the ban that "demographics and nationalities encountered at the border significantly impact" its ability to deport people.

Thousands of migrants have been deported under the ban so far, according to two senior Homeland Security Department officials who briefed reporters Friday on condition that they not be named. There were 17 deportation flights, including one to Uzbekistan. Those deported include people from Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Peru and Mexico.

Henao, 59, said a Border Patrol agent told him about the ban after he was picked up Wednesday on a dirt road near a high-voltage power line in the boulder-strewn mountains east of San Diego. The agent processed release papers ordering him to appear in immigration court Oct 23 in New Jersey. He casually asked Henao why he fled Colombia but didn't pursue that line of questioning.

deal in 2018 for the Democrat to pressure the New Jersey attorney general's office to stop investigating his friends and family.

Jose Uribe testified in Manhattan federal

US may be less prepared for poll threats than it was four years ago

WASHINGTON, June 9, (AP) — With only five months before voters head to the polls, the US may be more vulnerable to foreign disinformation aimed at influencing voters and undermining democracy than it was before the 2020 election, the leader of the Senate Intelligence Committee said.

Sen. Mark Warner, a Virginia Democrat, based his warning on several factors: improved disinformation tactics by Russia and China, the rise of domestic candidates and groups who are themselves willing to spread disinformation, and the arrival of artificial intelligence programs that allow the rapid creation of images, audio and video difficult to tell from the real thing. In addition, tech companies have rolled back their efforts to protect users from misinformation even as the government's own attempts to combat the problem have become mired in debates about surveillance and censorship.

As a result, the US could face a greater threat of foreign disinformation ahead of the 2024 election than it did in the 2016 or 2020 presidential election cycles, Warner said.

"We may be less prepared 155 days out in 2024 than we were

under President Trump (in 2020)," Warner told The Associated Press in an interview Monday.

Noting similar campaigns in 2016 and 2020, security officials, democracy activists and disinformation researchers have warned for years that Russia, China, Iran and domestic groups within the U.S. will use online platforms to spread false and polarizing content designed to influence the race between Trump, a Republican, and President Joe Biden, a Democrat.

Warner's assessment of America's vulnerability comes just weeks after top security officials told the Intelligence Committee that the US has greatly improved its ability to combat foreign disinformation.

Several new challenges, however, will make safeguarding the 2024 election different than past cycles.

AI programs have already been used to generate misleading content, such as a robocall that mimicked the voice of Biden telling New Hampshire voters not to cast a ballot in that state's primary. Deceptive deepfakes created with AI programs have also popped up ahead of elections in India, Mexico, Moldova, Slovakia and Bangladesh.

"It was nothing," Henao said at a San Diego transit center, where the Border Patrol dropped off four busloads of migrants in a four-hour span Thursday afternoon. "They took my photo, my fingerprints and that was it."

Many migrants released that day were from China, India, Colombia and Ecuador. One group included men from Mauritania, Sudan and Ethiopia.

"Hello, if you are arriving right now, you have been released from immigration custody and you can go to the airport," a volunteer with a bullhorn told the migrants, directing them to a light-rail platform across the parking lot. "You can go for free if you don't have money for a taxi or an Uber."

Under the measure, asylum is sus-

pending when arrests for illegal crossings reach 2,500 a day. It ends when they average below 1,500 for a week straight.

Border officials were told to give the highest priority to detaining migrants who can be easily deported, followed by "hard to remove" nationalities requiring at least five days to issue travel documents and then "very hard to remove" nationalities whose governments don't accept US flights.

The instructions are laid out in a memo to agents that was reported by the New York Post. The Associated Press confirmed its contents with a US official who spoke on condition of anonymity because it has not been publicly released.

to cross-examine the naturalized US citizen.

"Next week we get the truth," Menendez said just before stepping into a car that carried him away from Manhattan federal court, where he has been on trial for the last month. Although he generally speaks briefly in Spanish each day leaving court, he made the comment about truth in English. (AP)



This photo provided by Wyoming Highway Patrol shows a damaged section of Teton Pass near Jackson, Wyoming on June 8 that officials said had 'catastrophically failed.' Aerial photos and drone video of the collapse show the Teton Pass road riven with deep cracks, and a big section of the pavement disappeared altogether. The road was closed at the time of the collapse. (AP)

Fla warns of shark dangers: Authorities are using boats to patrol the ocean and warning swimmers about sharks this weekend along Florida's Gulf Coast, where a woman and two teenage girls were hurt in two separate shark attacks on Friday.

The attacks off beaches in the Florida Panhandle led authorities to temporarily close several beaches to swimmers on Friday. Beaches were reopened Saturday, with flags warning of high hazards.

"All I can say is that these incidents are very rare," said **Demian Chapman**, a scientist and director of the Center for Shark Research at the Mote Marine Laboratory and Aquarium in Sarasota, Florida.

"It's even more rare to have two events in one day involving three people," he told The Associated Press on Saturday. "That's astronomically low odds of that happening."

In Walton County, the sheriff's office, fire department and the state's wildlife agency were working together to patrol the water with boats and the shore with vehicles, the South Walton Fire District said in an update Saturday. (AP)

'The Apprentice' struggles for US distribution after Cannes buzz

NEW YORK, June 9, (AP) — Two weeks after its much-anticipated premiere at the Cannes Film Festival, a film about Donald Trump in the 1980s is still seeking distribution in the United States.

In Cannes, "The Apprentice" unveiled a scathing portrait of the former US President as a young man. The film, starring Sebastian Stan, chronicles Trump's rise to power in New York real estate under the tutelage of Roy Cohn (Jeremy Strong), the defense attorney who was chief counsel to Joseph McCarthy's 1950s Senate investigations of suspected communists.

"The Apprentice," directed by the Danish Iranian filmmaker Ali Abbasi, immediately sparked controversy. After its premiere, Trump's reelection campaign spokesperson, Steven Cheung, called the movie "pure fiction" and said the Trump team would file a lawsuit "to address the blatantly false assertions from these pretend filmmakers."

Whether influenced by that threat or not, "The Apprentice" is yet to secure distribution from either a major studio or a leading streaming service - none of whom have put in a bid on the movie. While the film has picked up international distribution in most territories worldwide, it doesn't yet have a home in the country where Trump is running for president.

Though high-profile films typically find buyers either before or shortly after their festival debuts, negotiations can drag on. A spokesperson for the film's sales team declined to comment. A person close to the film

who requested anonymity because they weren't authorized to comment publicly said there are numerous offers for the film domestically.

Earlier this week, Abbasi's frustration seemed to boil over on X, the social media platform. In a response to a news article blaming a stream of sequels and remakes on the recently dismal performance of films at the box office, Abbasi offered "a new proposition."

"It's not a (expletive) sequel nor is it a (expletive) remake," wrote Abbasi. "It's called #The_Apprentice and for some reason certain power people in your country don't want you to see it!!!"

Convicted

Representatives for Trump didn't respond to requests for comment. Last Thursday, Trump was convicted of 34 counts of falsifying business records arising from what prosecutors said was an attempt to cover up a hush money payment to porn actor Stormy Daniels just before the 2016 presidential election.

One scene in the film is especially explosive. Late in the movie, Trump is depicted raping his wife, Ivana Trump (played by Maria Bakalova). In Ivana Trump's 1990 divorce deposition, she stated that Trump raped her. Trump denied the allegation and Ivana Trump later said she didn't mean it literally, but rather that she had felt violated.

Variety earlier reported alleged behind-the-scenes drama surrounding "The Apprentice." Citing anonymous sources, the trade publication

reported that billionaire Dan Snyder, the former owner of the Washington Commanders and an investor in "The Apprentice," has pressured the filmmakers to edit the rape scene. Snyder previously donated to Trump's presidential campaign.

Attorneys for Snyder didn't respond to requests for comment. Releasing "The Apprentice" in most years could be challenging. In an election year, it's a potential lightning rod. Distributors would be faced with the option of launching it either shortly before the election in November or after it.

"The Apprentice" received largely positive reviews in Cannes but didn't factor into the festival's juried awards. Strong's performance was particularly praised as a possible awards contender.

At the film's premiere, Abbasi argued for the movie's direct approach, saying "there is no nice metaphorical way to deal with the rising wave of fascism."

The following day, the filmmaker shrugged off the threat of a lawsuit.

"I don't necessarily think that this is a movie he would dislike," said Abbasi. "I don't necessarily think he would like it. I think he would be surprised, you know? And like I've said before, I would offer to go and meet him wherever he wants and talk about the context of the movie, have a screening and have a chat afterwards, if that's interesting to anyone at the Trump campaign."

Film

Variety



'Bridgerton' cast and producers pose at the 'Bridgerton' Season 3 global premiere at Alice Tully Hall on May 13, 2024, in New York. Even when hit TV series like 'The Crown' or 'Bridgerton' have wide appeal, Netflix still tries to cater to the divergent tastes in its vast audience. (AP)

Television

Netflix's secret recipe for success

Silicon Valley meets Hollywood magic

LOS GATOS, Calif., June 9, (AP) — Although its video streaming service sparkles with a Hollywood sheen, Netflix still taps its roots in Silicon Valley to stay a step ahead of traditional TV and movie studios.

The Los Gatos, California, company, based more than 300 miles away from Hollywood, frequently reaches into its technological toolbox without viewers even realizing it. It often just uses few subtle twists on the knobs of viewer recommendations to help keep its 270 million worldwide subscribers satisfied at a time when most of its streaming rivals are seeing waves of cancellations from inflation-weary subscribers.

Even when hit TV series like "The Crown" or "Bridgerton" have wide appeal, Netflix still tries to cater to the divergent tastes of its vast audience. One part of that recipe includes tailoring summaries and trailers about its smorgasbord of shows to fit the personal interests of each viewer.

So someone who likes romance might see a plot summary or video trailer for "The Crown" highlighting the relationship between Princess Diana and Charles, while another viewer more into political intrigue may be shown a clip of Queen Elizabeth in a meeting with Margaret Thatcher.

For an Oscar-nominated film like "Nyad," a lover of action might see a trailer of the title character immersed in water during one of her epic swims, while a comedy fan might see a lighthearted scene featuring some amusing banter between the two stars, Annette Bening and Jodie Foster.

Netflix is able to pull off these variations through the deep understanding of viewing habits it gleams from crunching the data from subscribers' histories with its service - including those of customers who signed up in the late 1990s when the company launched with a DVD-by-mail service that continued to operate until last September.

"It is a secret sauce for us, no doubt," Eunice Kim, Netflix's chief product officer, said while discussing the nuances of the ways Netflix tries to reel different viewers into watching different shows. "The North Star we have every day is keep people engaged, but also make sure they are incredibly satisfied with their viewing experiences."

As part of that effort, Netflix is rolling out a redesign of the home page that greets subscribers when they are watching the streaming service on a TV screen. The

changes are meant to package all the information that might appeal to a subscriber's tastes in a more concise format to reduce the "gymnastics with their eyes," said Patrick Flemming, Netflix's senior director of member product.

What Netflix is doing with its previews may seem like a small thing, but it can make a huge difference, especially as people looking to save money start to winnow the number of streaming services they have.

Last year, video streaming services collectively suffered about 140 million account cancellations, a 35% increase from 2022 and nearly triple the volume in 2020, when the COVID-19 pandemic created a boom in demand for entertainment from people corralled at home, according to numbers compiled by the research firm Antenna.

Streaming

Netflix doesn't disclose its cancellation, or churn rate, but last year its streaming service gained 30 million subscribers - marking its second-biggest annual increase behind its own growth spurt during the 2020 pandemic lockdowns.

Part of last year's subscription growth flowed from a crackdown on viewers who had been freeloading off Netflix subscribers who shared their account passwords. But the company is also benefiting from the technological know-how that helps it to keep funneling shows to customers who like them and make them think the service is worth the money, according to J. Christopher Hamilton, an assistant professor of television, radio and film at Syracuse University.

"What they have been doing is pretty ingenious and very, very strategic," Hamilton said. "They are definitely ahead of the legacy media companies who are trying to do some of the same things but just don't have the level of sophistication, experience nor the history of the data in their archives."

Netflix's nerdy heritage once was mocked by an entertainment industry that looked down at the company's geekdom.

"It's a little bit like, is the Albanian army going to take over the world?" former Time Warner CEO Jeff Bewkes said of Netflix during a 2010 interview after being asked about the threat Netflix posed at the time.

Not long after that put-down, Netflix began mining its viewing data to figure out how to produce a slate

of original programming that would attract more subscribers - an ambitious expansion that forced Time Warner (now rolled into Warner Bros. Discovery) and other long-established entertainment companies such as Walt Disney Co. into a mad scramble to build their own streaming services.

Although those expansions initially attracted hordes of subscribers, they also resulted in massive losses that have resulted in management shakeups and drastic cutbacks, including the abrupt closure of a CNN streaming service.

What Netflix is doing with technology to retain subscribers to boost its fortunes - the company's profit rose 20% to \$5.4 billion last year - now is widening the divide with rival services still trying to stanch their losses.

Disney's 4-year-old streaming service recently became profitable after an overhaul engineered by CEO Bob Iger, but he thinks more work will be required to catch up with Netflix.

"We need to be at their level in terms of technology capability," Iger said at a conference earlier this year. "We're now in the process of creating and developing all of that technology, and obviously the gold standard there is Netflix."

Netflix isn't going to help its rivals by divulging its secrets, but the slicing and dicing generally starts with getting a grasp on which viewers tend to gravitate to certain genres - the broad categories include action, adventure, anime, fantasy, drama, horror, comedy, romance and documentary - and then diving deeper from there.

In some instances, Netflix's technology will even try to divine a viewer's mood at any given time by analyzing what titles are being browsed or clicked on. In other instances, it's relatively easy for the technology to figure out how to make a film or TV series as appealing as possible to specific viewers. If Netflix's data shows a subscriber has watched a lot of Hindi productions, it would be almost a no-brainer to feature clips of Bollywood actress Alia Bhatt in a role she played in the US film, "Heart of Stone" instead of the movie's lead actress, Gal Gadot.

"We want to do a really good job putting the things that you prefer in front of you," Kim said. "Part of that is the content recommendations themselves, but it's also about how we present the content to you."

ATHENS: The body of missing British TV presenter Michael Mosley was found on a Greek island Sunday morning after a days-long search.

A police spokesman, who spoke on condition of anonymity because of an ongoing investigation, said a body was found on a rocky coast by a private boat and that formal identification was pending. Mosley's family confirmed his death Sunday.

Mosley's wife said in a statement that her husband took the wrong route on a hike and collapsed in a place where his body couldn't easily be seen. Mosley went missing on the island of Symi on Wednesday afternoon.

"Michael was an adventurous man, it's part of what made him so special," Dr. Clare Bailey Mosley said. "It's devastating to have lost Michael, my wonderful, funny, kind and brilliant husband. We had an incredibly lucky life together. We loved each other very much and were so happy together."

She thanked the people of the island of Symi, who she said worked tirelessly to find him.

"Some of these people on the island, who hadn't even heard of Michael, worked from dawn till dusk unasked," she said. "My family and I have been hugely comforted by the outpouring of love from people from around the world. It's clear that Michael meant a huge amount to so many of you."

Letteris Papakaloudoukas, the island's mayor, told The Associated Press he was on the boat with members of the media representatives when they saw a body some 20 meters above the Agia Marina beach. "We zoomed with the cameras and saw it was him," he said.

The mayor said that Mosley appeared to have fallen down a steep slope, stopping against a fence and lying face-up with a few rocks on top of it. (AP)

NEW YORK: Howard University is cutting ties to Sean "Diddy" Combs, rescinding an honorary degree that was awarded to him and disbanding a scholarship program in his name, after a recently released 2016 video that appeared to show him attacking the R&B singer Cassie.

"Mr. Combs' behavior as captured in a recently released video is so fundamentally incompatible with Howard University's core values and beliefs that he is deemed no longer worthy to hold the institution's highest honor," a statement from the university's

Board of Trustees said.

The statement said the board voted unanimously Friday to accept the return of the honorary degree Combs received in 2014. "This acceptance revokes all honors and privileges associated with the degree. Accordingly, the Board has directed that his name be removed from all documents



Mosley



Combs

listing honorary degree recipients of Howard University," it said.

The board also directed university administrators to cut financial ties to Combs, including returning a \$1 million contribution, ending the scholarship program and dissolving a 2023 pledge agreement with the Sean Combs Foundation. An email seeking comment was

sent to a Combs spokesperson by The Associated Press on Saturday.

Combs admitted last month that he beat his ex-girlfriend Cassie in a hotel hallway in 2016 after CNN released video of the attack. In a video statement posted on social media, he said he was "truly sorry" and his actions were "inexcusable."

"I take full responsibility for my actions in that video. I was disgusted then when I did it. I'm disgusted now," Combs said. (AP)

A lawsuit filed last year by Cassie, whose legal name is Cassandra Ventura, set off a wave of similar cases and public allegations against Combs. That lawsuit was settled. (AP)

People & Places

Music

'45 years strong'

Black Music Month marks its evolution

LOS ANGELES, June 9, (AP): Every June since the 1970s, across the United States, musicians, fans and industry professionals celebrate Black Music Month. It's an opportunity to highlight the contributions of Black artists and position Black art at the center of American culture across popular music and beyond.

Black Music Month's origins trace back to 1979. In that year, a decade after the Civil Rights era, President Jimmy Carter designated June a time to celebrate the cultural and historical significance of Black musicianship and held the first ever Black Music Month celebration on the White House lawn. That makes 2024 its 45th annual commemoration.

But what inspired Black Music Month in the first place, and how has it evolved?

Black Music Month was originally founded in 1979, but not by President Carter. Credit goes to Philadelphia soul pioneer Kenny Gamble of Gamble and Huff and a couple of other associates, said Naima Cochrane of the Black Music Action Coalition, an advocacy organization founded in June 2020 following a music industry blackout in response to the murder of George Floyd.

"Black Music Month was founded out of an organization called the Black Music Association," she says. Gamble based his organization, founded in 1978, on the Country Music Association because he saw how much power and influence they held in the country music business, Cochrane explains. He aimed to do the same with Black stakeholders in the music industry. Those included promoters, retailers, bookers, venue owners, executives, artists and household names like Rev. Jesse Jackson and Motown Records founder Berry Gordy.

Black Music Month, coincidentally, was brought forth by Gamble, Cleveland radio DJ Ed Wright, and media strategist Dyana Williams.

History

"Black Music Month was originally created to promote, protect, and perpetuate the business of Black music, not just to celebrate Black music," says Cochrane. "The tagline was originally 'Black music is green,' and it was meant as a way to drive retail sales to increase awareness for the artists but honestly, really to increase the business of Black music, and not just to celebrate the history of Black music."

"It's evolved into something different over the years... The original intention has gotten lost," she says. "The original purpose of the month was to prove that the business of Black music was profitable."

Each June, Black Music Month is recognized with a presidential proclamation.

"During Black Music Month, we celebrate the Black artists and creatives whose work has so often been a tidal wave of change - not only by defining the American songbook and culture but also by capturing our greatest hopes for the future and pushing us to march forward together," President Joe Biden's 2024 proclamation read. "Black music is a staple of American art and a powerhouse of our culture - that is why we must continue to open doors for the next generation of Black artists."

This year, Biden will once again celebrate Black Music Month with a Juneteenth concert featuring Patti LaBelle, Gladys Knight, Charlie Wilson, Kirk Franklin, Anthony Hamilton, Brittney Spencer, Trombone Shorty and more.

Under the Obama Administration, Black Music Month was re-named African-American Music Appreciation Month but it's since gone back to its roots. Black Music Month "is an acknowledgement that Black music is an original American artform and has influence in almost every other American art form. But it was designed to drive the business of Black music to Black stakeholders," Cochrane added.

In the years since its origins, Black Music Month has often been used as a salute to Black music excellence: 30 days to celebrate Black musicianship across media platforms, museums, streaming platforms, and beyond. But some fear that concentrating the observance might have limiting effects.

Followers

"I always felt conflicted: happy to see the uplifting of Black artists but disappointed that Black Music Month only benefitted superstars (and ostensibly turned the other 11 months over to white musicians)," 4AD Records label manager Nabil Ayers wrote of Black Music Month in 2021.

"Musically, the Black Music Month that I knew in the '90s and 2000s focused on the artists who could potentially sell the most records," he continued. "But the reality is that it costs money to make music, and financial support for artists matters now more than ever."

Of course, there are varying opinions. In 2016, Philadelphia resident Branford Jones started They Have the Range, a popular Instagram account with one million followers, dedicated to showcasing Black singers.

"When I created it, Black music programming wasn't really there," he says, noting a few other performance pages that "weren't posting everyday Black people," and a modern-day dearth of shows like "Soul Train" or BET's "106th and Park."

"For They Have the Range, every month is Black Music Month," Jones says, laughing. "But it's important to have a Black Music Month, especially in a time where so many people are trying to erase historical context. ... We know how much Black folks have contributed to the world when it comes to music."

He cites the Hulu series "The 1619 Project" as an influence: "One of the things they said about Black music is that it's uncatchable. Every single decade, (Black music) has been able to shift, change, and lead the masses."

For him, Black Music Month is an opportunity for celebration that can endure all year long - and it feels especially poignant that it lands in the month that also holds Juneteenth.

Also:

LOS ANGELES: This June, A&E's "Biography" series returns with a few specials on '80s rock and roll greats: Bret Michaels, Dee Snider, Sammy Hagar and Sebastian Bach among them. Michaels is kicking things off on Sunday, June 16 - or June 17, for those looking to stream on the A&E App, AETV.com and video on demand platforms - with an episode that documents his rise to fame in the glam-metal band Poison, his career as a reality TV star (VH1's "Rock of Love with Bret Michaels," "Celebrity Apprentice") and beyond.



LaBelle



The poster of Kuwaiti film 'Amakor.'



Morocco's Dakhla International Film Festival participants.

KUNA photos



Dakota Fanning, (left), and film subject Dr. Ann Burgess, (right), attend the 'Mastermind: To Think Like a Killer' premiere during the Tribeca Festival at the SVA Theatre, Friday, June 7, in New York. (AP)

Film

Fest spotlights Gulf cinema

Kuwaiti film 'Amakor' shines at Morocco's Dakhla Festival

DAKHLA, Morocco, June 9, (KUNA): The 12th edition of the Dakhla International Film Festival concluded over the weekend, featuring an eclectic selection of cinematic masterpieces from across the globe. Notably, the Kuwaiti film "Amakor" emerged as a standout, captivating both audiences and critics and highlighting the richness of Gulf and Kuwaiti cinema.

Zine El-Abidine Charafeddine, president of the festival, expressed his pride in showcasing films from the Gulf region, particularly Kuwait and the UAE, in this year's lineup. Speaking to KUNA, he emphasized the festival's role in acquainting Moroccan and African audiences with the dynamic realm of Gulf cinema, citing "Amakor" as a prime example. Directed by Kuwaiti filmmaker Ahmad Al-Khudari, "Amakor" delves into the story of a young man grappling with amnesia following a

life-altering accident. Its exploration of themes such as identity and resilience deeply resonated with viewers, solidifying its status as a festival highlight.

Abdullah Al-Tararwah, one of the stars of "Amakor," expressed his delight in representing Kuwaiti cinema in the feature films category. In an interview with KUNA, he underscored the importance of showcasing Kuwaiti cinematic achievements on an international platform, reaching audiences and critics across Africa, the Arab world, and Europe.

Produced by Ahmad Al-Khudari and written and directed by Mohammad Al-Muhaiteeb, "Amakor" has received widespread acclaim at various Arab and international festivals. With its compelling narrative and exceptional performances, the film continues to draw attention to the creativity and talent inherent in Kuwaiti cinema.

divisions and obstructed informed public discourse.

Kin Phea, director general of the Inter-



Whitehead



Phea

NEW YORK: Colson Whitehead's latest literary honor feels very much at home. The author's "Crook Manifesto," a crime story set in 1970s Harlem and centered on a beleaguered furniture store owner, is this year's winner of the Gotham Book Prize for an outstanding work about New York City. The \$50,000 award was established four years ago by bookstore owner-philanthropist Bradley Tusk and political strategist Howard Wolfson.

"Crook Manifesto is a portrait of a man, but also his city," Whitehead, a native New Yorker, said in a statement Wednesday. "Capturing the dynamism of my hometown and its crazy citizens is at the heart of the project, so I can't express how lovely it is for the book to be recognized by the Gotham Book Prize."

In a joint statement, Tusk and Wolfson praised Whitehead's novel as the kind of book they had hoped to celebrate, one that captures "the city in all of its complexity." (AP)

PHNOM PENH: The representatives of media and think tanks from Southeast Asia have made a joint appeal for combating fake news, saying that it has fueled societal

Books

D-Day history

Mosley delivers a gritty noir tale

NEW YORK, June 9, (AP): It's 1970 in Los Angeles, and Easy Rawlins has come a long way since Walter Mosley launched his series about this Black private detective with "Devil in a Blue Dress."

In that first novel, published in 1990, we met Easy as a young World War II vet. It was 1948, he'd just moved to Los Angeles after losing his job at a Houston defense plant, and he was struggling to pay his bills. Now, in "Farewell Amethystine," the 16th book in the series, Easy is a 50-year-old family man, lives in a nice house, and is the owner of a three-man private detective agency.

However, he's still a Black man in a city where driving a nice car or walking in a white neighborhood is grounds for arrest - or even a beating.

The story begins the way so many hardboiled crime novels have over the decades. A beautiful woman walks into the detective's office and asks for help. Her name is Amethystine Stoller. Her ex-husband, a forensic accountant, has gone missing, and she wants Easy to look for him.

Disappear

As Easy presses her for details, he grows uneasy. He can tell she's lying about something. More than that, she reminds him of his first love, a grown woman who bedded him when he was just a boy and then disappeared. He looked for her for years and has never forgotten her.

He's reluctant to take Amethystine's case, but he's drawn to her. The book's title, however, tips off readers that their budding love affair is unlikely to work out.

Easy soon discovers that her ex's disappearance has something to do with gangsters, a Las Vegas casino and, eventually, a series of murders. For help, Easy turns to Melvin Suggs, his lone friend in the LAPD, but learns that Suggs is in hiding, betrayed by corrupt officers in the department. So now, in addition to searching for Amethystine, Easy has a second problem on his hands.

Fans of this series may be disappointed that Easy's dangerous friend Mouse makes only a cameo appearance. However, the detective's old pal Fearless Jones is on hand to watch Easy's back.

Mosley's plotting can be a bit hard to follow at times - much like the work of Raymond Chandler, whose detective character, Philip Marlowe, worked the mean streets of Los Angeles in the 1940s. As with Chandler's books, however, the main attraction of the Easy Rawlins novels is the superb prose. Mosley's dialogue, much of it straight out of Watts and Compton, is pitch perfect, and some passages have the sensuous rhythm of a base-met slow dance.



Writing about the Allied invasion of Normandy, Garrett M. Graff is treading onto familiar history with his latest book.

From books by historian Stephen Ambrose to films like Steven Spielberg's "Saving Private Ryan," there's ample works chronicling the June 6, 1944, landing during World War II that ultimately led to the downfall of Nazi Germany.

Portrait

But in "When The Sea Came Alive: An Oral History of D-Day," Graff weaves together hundreds of eyewitness accounts to create a history that stands alongside those works, expanding readers' understanding of D-Day and offering a new, complete portrait in time for the 80th anniversary commemorations.

The oral history begins with a look at the planning of the operation, going back to 1943, and the buildup of personnel and equipment in the months leading up to the operation.

Graff uses a wide array and diversity of voices that give a fuller picture of the lead-up to the invasion, as well as the fighting itself. The book excels in highlighting the experiences of Black soldiers who landed on D-Day beaches and women who were part of the story, such as correspondent Martha Gellhorn.

But it should come as no surprise that the most harrowing portions of the book remain the landing and the battles that occurred on D-Day itself, with vivid first-hand account. Graff skills at sifting through the accounts and documents propel the action throughout the book.

Graff's book is a testimony to the value in preserving memories from grand historical events, demonstrating how much can be unearthed from even the most familiar stories.



Mosley

AHA accredited program aims to enhance stroke care at Adan Hospital

MoH introduces 'advanced support for stroke cases' training program

KUWAIT CITY, June 9: In an effort to bolster the skills of medical professionals in effectively managing stroke cases, the "Advanced Support for Stroke Cases" rehabilitation program has been inaugurated at the Adan Training Center within Adan Hospital. This initiative, accredited by the American Heart Association, aims to elevate the proficiency of the medical team in dealing with stroke patients with heightened effectiveness and efficiency, as reported by the Al-Rai newspaper.

Dr. Abdul Rahman Al-Mutairi, the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Health, welcomed Dr. Niran Al-Naqeeb, Director of the Medical Staff at Al-Adan Hospital, along with representatives from the American Heart Association, to oversee the commencement of the training program. Approximately 35 specialists from both governmental and private sectors, spanning primary health care to secondary and specialized care, participated in the program. The initiative equips them with the skills neces-

sary to identify, evaluate, and manage stroke cases while addressing skill gaps and implementing international Stroke Center certification programs. This strategic endeavor ensures the alignment with the latest therapeutic protocols to enhance patient care and the quality of health services offered within treatment facilities.

The comprehensive program covers various facets of stroke management, ranging from early diagnosis and assessment to immediate therapeutic intervention and the handling of critical cases. Given that stroke remains a leading cause of death and disability worldwide, the launch of this program underscores the Ministry of Health's commitment to enhancing the quality of healthcare delivery for patients.

This significant initiative marks a pivotal step forward in the continuous pursuit of excellence in stroke treatment and reaffirms the dedication of healthcare professionals to improving patient outcomes and overall healthcare service standards.

Early insulin works for Type 2

China's supercomputer helps fight diabetic complications

GUANGZHOU, June 9, (Xinhua): Chinese scientists, leveraging one of the world's fastest supercomputers, have identified a promising therapeutic strategy for treating diabetic complications.

The Tianhe-2 supercomputer in south China's Guangdong Province, ranking 16 among the global top 500 fastest computers published last month, has been used as a platform for drug discovery.

Supported by Virtual Screening on Tianhe-2 (VSTH), a high-throughput screening platform running on Tianhe-2, the team led by researchers from Sun Yat-sen University has found that 2MBC, a branched-chain acylcarnitine, can significantly speed up the rate of blood clot formation in the body.

Diabetes ranks among the most prevalent chronic conditions worldwide. It has the potential to trigger a cascade of complications including blood clot formation, a leading contributor to both disability and mortality within the diabetic population.

The researchers have found that 2MBC exerts a direct influence on platelets, augmenting their capabilities for aggregation, spreading, and contraction, and the effect is present in both rodents and human.

The chemical is a metabolite originating from the gut microbiota, and therefore, pre-treatment with antibiotics to clear the gut bacteria effectively halts this metabolic conversion, according to the study published recently in the journal Cell Metabolism.

This discovery paves the way for novel therapeutic targets and innovative strategies in combating complications associated with metabolic disorders like diabetes, said the researchers.

Also, the Tianhe-2 team has vowed to enhance the drug discovery platform, capitalizing on the rich data resources and the platform's superior performance to catalyze groundbreaking innovation in the field of biomedicine.

Chinese scientists have demonstrated the effectiveness of early insulin therapy for newly diagnosed patients with type 2 diabetes (T2D), which can reduce the risks of stroke and hospitalization due to heart failure compared to those who have not received the treatment.

A joint research team led by Professor Weng Jianping from Anhui Medical University, and scientists from the University of Science and Technology of China, Southern Medical Univer-

sity, and Peking University, conducted a 24-year observational study on the treatment of 5,424 T2D patients across the country.

They found that newly diagnosed T2D patients who underwent the therapy experienced a 31 percent reduced risk of stroke and a 28 percent lower risk of hospitalization due to heart failure.

This study further demonstrates the effectiveness of early insulin therapy in improving biomarkers related to low-grade inflammation and endothelial function, which are known indicators of cardiovascular risk, in newly diagnosed T2D patients.

This provides compelling evidence for adopting early insulin therapy as a first-line treatment option for newly diagnosed patients.

The findings were published in the international journal of Signal Transduction and Targeted Therapy in early June.

Also:

HARARE: At an acupuncture clinic in Harare, Zimbabwe's capital, Charity Karekwaivanane remained calm as acupuncture needles pierced her body.

"It's a mystery that I got healed by those needles. I did not know what they would do to my body. I don't have any pain anymore. I am okay," the 69-year-old grandmother who had suffered from back pain for more than a decade told Xinhua after receiving the treatment.

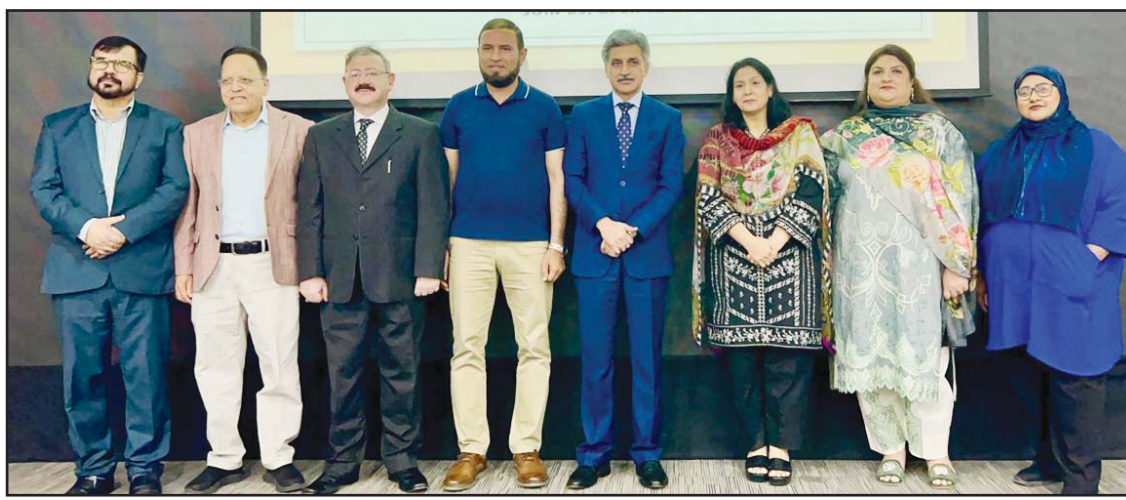
The acupuncturist, Richard Mutingwende, a Zimbabwean licensed acupuncturist, opened the clinic after witnessing first-hand the wonders of ancient Chinese medical treatment.

With acupuncture, Mutingwende has a tool to fulfill his passion for relieving others from pain.

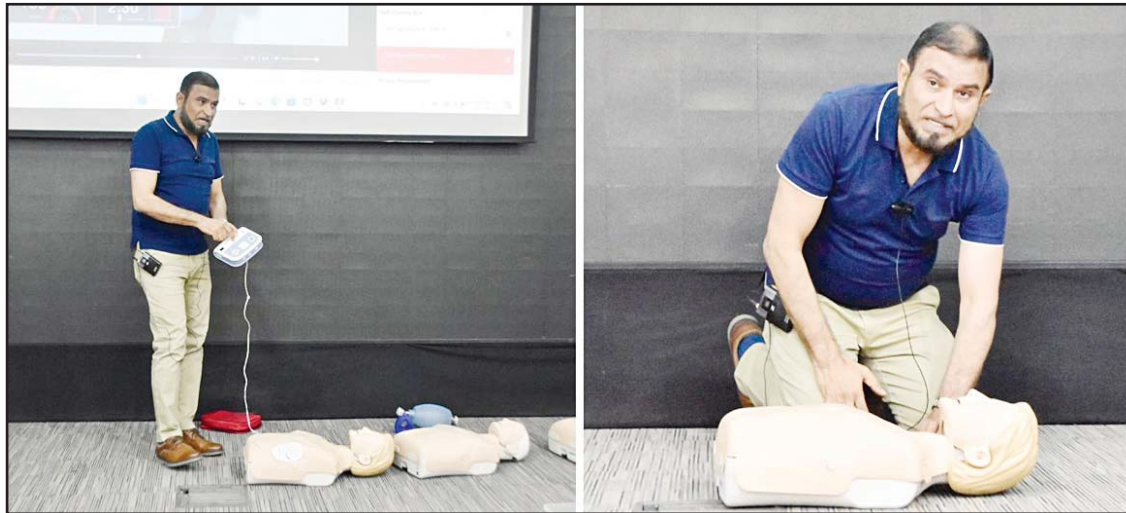
"Chinese treatment works wonders, it's like magic," Mutingwende told Xinhua. "It gives instant results, especially to conditions that don't have solutions when it comes to other systems of medicine. So you find many people come here as a last resort after trying quite several medical systems."

Mutingwende is among a group of 10 medical professionals who graduated from traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) and acupuncture personnel training course by Chinese doctors in Zimbabwe in 2022.

The training program, the first of its kind in Zimbabwe, was held at the Zimbabwe-China TCM and Acupuncture Center at the Parirenyatwa Group of Hospitals (PGH) in Harare.



Pakistani Ambassador Malik Muhammad Farooq and Dr. Mohsin Mahmood pose with PWF and SPDK members.



Dr. Mohsin Mahmood demonstrates proper technique of CPR during the seminar.

Students learn life-saving skills

Pakistan Women's Forum holds CPR seminar

By MahRukh Omer

KUWAIT CITY, June 9: Pakistan Women's Forum (PWF), Kuwait in collaboration with the Society of Pakistani Doctors in Kuwait organized a seminar "CPR, Basic Life Support" on Thursday, June 6, at the Kuwait Medical Association Hall Jabriya. H.E. Malik Muhammad Farooq, the ambassador of Pakistan to Kuwait, graced the event as a chief guest. The seminar was attended by the students and faculty of International School of Pakistan and Britain International Academy as well as PWF members and their families.

The seminar was conducted by Dr. Mohsin Mahmood (Consultant Physician and American Heart Association (AHA) certified Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) Instructor).

The event began with the opening

remarks by Mrs. Nighat Tariq, president, PWF, followed by Dr. Shuja Ud Din Muhammad, president, SPDK's remarks. Dr. Mohsin Mahmood started his presentation about basic life support for unconsciousness/coma, choking, burns, bleeding, heart attack, and then proceeded with the demonstration of CPR procedures. Question and answers were also addressed during the demonstration. The seminar was of high interest for the students.

H.E. Malik Muhammad Farooq was invited on stage to receive a token of appreciation from the presidents of PWF and SPDK followed by his speech. Shortly after H.E.'s speech, appreciation certificates were presented to the faculty and students of International School of Pakistan, Britain International Academy and Gulf Pakistani English School. Honorary Shields were presented to Dr. Shuja Ud Din

Mohammad, president, SPDK, and guest speaker Dr. Mohsin Mahmood.

Last but not the least students were provided the golden opportunity to partake in hands on CPR practice on dummies under the supervision of Dr. Mohsin Mahmood.

Refreshments were served followed by a group photo. The Presidents of both the organizations extended their gratitude towards the media i.e. Irfan Shafiq and Imran Zaffar for their outstanding coverage of the event. Mrs. Nighat Tariq highly appreciated Mrs. Shazia Arshad, general secretary PWF, for her efforts in communicating with the faculty of International School of Pakistan and Britain International Academy for attending the seminar, Marukh Omer for presenting the event and organizing media coverage and CELT Institute volunteers for their support.

Malawi to boost children immunization

Pakistan reports 5th case of polio in 2024

ISLAMABAD, June 9, (Xinhua): Pakistan reported the fifth polio case so far this year after a child was paralyzed in Quetta city of southwest Balochistan province and eventually died, the Pakistani Health Ministry said Saturday.

The affected two-year-old child developed an onset of paralysis on April 29 in his legs, the ministry said in a statement, adding that "he became progressively ill with weakness spreading to his arms, and unfortunately passed away in a hospital in the southern port city of Karachi a few weeks later."

The samples taken from him, his brother, and his cousin, who live in the same house, confirmed the presence of wild poliovirus type 1, said the statement.

The virus isolated from the samples belongs to the imported YB3A cluster

of WPV1, it added.

The government is focusing its efforts on closing the outbreak and enhancing polio vaccine and routine vaccination coverage rates in the province to ensure strengthened immunity for children, the ministry said. More than 50 environmental samples have tested positive for poliovirus this year in Balochistan, including 21 from the provincial capital Quetta alone, according to the statement.

Also:

MALAWI: Malawi on Friday received a donation of cold chain equipment from Africa Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) in partnership with United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to boost immunisation for children in the country.

The equipment, valued at 147,000 U.S. dollars, includes 722 vaccine carriers, six freezers, 10 vaccine refrigerators, 12 cold boxes, seven solar-powered refrigerators and spare parts.

Regional Coordinator at Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Lul Pout Riek said that the donation aims to assist Malawi in expanding its immunization program by improving the conservation and storage capacity of vaccines.

This support represents the first phase of Africa CDC's commitment to Malawi, with subsequent phases focusing on completing the vaccination of healthcare workers and vulnerable groups, as well as building a robust workforce of community health workers, he added.

Health literacy

UN: Support early childhood growth

BEIJING, June 9, (Xinhua): A new public campaign was jointly launched by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the Center for Women and Children's Health of the National Health Commission (NHC) and other partners on Friday to give children the best start in life.

The campaign, known as "Parent with Purpose, Nurture their Future," aims to build awareness on the importance of early childhood development (ECD), and to equip parents and caregivers with the knowledge, skills and tools to give their children the best start in life, by providing nurturing care during the first six years.

Early childhood, throughout the first six years of life, is an important time for shaping a child's development and setting a solid foundation for their future.

As part of this initiative, a three-month digital and media campaign has started, which will provide practical advice for parents and caregivers on ECD. It will include interactive activities, such as a competition for parents to share their own experiences, and an online resource center providing information and tips. It will also be promoted in ECD centers, hospitals and health centers across China.

Development

"Early childhood development is a holistic project that requires the joint efforts of all sectors of society," said Xu Zongyu, director general of the National Center for Women and Children's Health.

"We need to enable the public, especially parents, to understand the importance of early childhood development, to acquire knowledge and skills, and to take care of young children scientifically to promote their health and all-round development," Xu said.

Figures from the NHC showed that in 2023, the infant mortality rate and mortality rate of children under 5 in China stood at 4.5 per 1,000 and 6.2 per 1,000, respectively, down 16.7 percent and 17.3 percent from 2020.

"Every child has the right to the best start in life," UNICEF Representative to China Amakobe Sande said. "Early childhood, during the first six years of life, is a critical window of opportunity to shape the trajectory of a child's development and build a firm foundation for their future through nurturing care. As these children thrive, their communities also grow and prosper, benefitting the whole of society."

While the campaign is mainly targeted at parents and caregivers, UNICEF is also working with the private sector and government to advocate for policies and funding to support families. These include workplace policies, such as parental leave and flexible working, that make it easier for working parents to care for young children; and child benefits such as tax breaks and benefits for families with children.

Also:

CHINA: China has released a three-year action plan to further raise health literacy for all citizens from 2024 to 2027, the National Health Commission (NHC) said on Thursday.

Health literacy levels among Chinese citizens should be raised by an average of around 2 percentage points each year during this period, according to the plan jointly issued by the NHC, the National Administration of Traditional Chinese Medicine and the National Disease Control and Prevention Administration.

Major measures to achieve this goal include better promotion of the subject, regulating the release and dissemination of health information, building talent forces, and stepping up social advocacy and mobilization in this regard, the plan noted.

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