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Opinion

Your Highness the Prime Minister, we want something after 40 years of much ado

By Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

YOUR HIGHNESS, there is no doubt that the fruits of the new era are beginning to blossom in the process of restoring Kuwait to its pioneering position; as His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah promised in his speeches.

This necessitates the Council of Min-



Al-Jarallah

isters to be determined and active in getting rid of what the parliamentary tyranny committed previous parliaments when they approved arbitrary legislation. benefited Thev from unrealistic interpretations of the Constitution.

especially since it is multifaceted and has loopholes that allowed some parliamentarians to practice arbitrariness, which no other country in the world has ever witnessed.

Sometimes, they imposed laws that contradicted the social and cultural nature of Kuwait. They wanted to amend Article Two of the Constitution, as if the Islamization of laws was the salvation of the nation. In fact, they wanted to make Kuwait more like Afghanistan -- the Taliban, rather the 'radicalization' of society.

In reality, Kuwait is a moderate and tolerant Muslim country. This is the reason why they disrupted development projects to put pressure on those concerned to achieve their goals. From this standpoint, Kuwait declined in recent decades; when these people had the upper hand in the National Assembly.

Today, there is an opportunity to get out of the dilemma of development backwardness through many aspects that must be modernized as quickly as possible, without the need to rush things.

This includes getting rid of the problem of the actuarial deficit that the Public Institution for Social Security is suffering from, which indicates a deficit in the State. The Municipal Council did well by transferring land to the Ministry of Finance to allocate it for the institution.

Your Highness the Prime Minister, there is a proposal for the State to save a lot of money, and even increase revenues -- to allocate the land in the North for that institution and other parties, provided they invest it in development projects; whether warehouses, labor and industrial cities, or others to serve the area. Another condition is that they have a transportation license for transporting workers to

This is in addition to free trade zones in that region; similar to other Gulf countries, some of which have allocated more than 25 free trade zones.

On the other hand, the land obtained by the social security institution in the interior regions should be allocated for the implementation of entertainment and other projects managed by the youths of Kuwait; instead of the suffering they experience while waiting for employment in the public sector, which has become saturated. It has turned into disguised unemployment and a waste of public money without any benefit.

Also, in those areas, rental fee is reduced and paid by the tenant directly to the institution. Some of the plots can even be sold to investors and industrialists; thus, transforming the entire Kuwait into a workshop.

Your Highness the Prime Minister, there was a draft law on the northern economic zone in previous national assemblies. It languished in the drawers as

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Newswatch

RIYADH: The first edition of the symposium on pathways to reduce carbon emissions in petroleum downstream industries kicked off in Riyadh on Tues-

day.

The symposium is organized by the General Section 1. The symposium is organized by the General Section 1. The symposium is organized by the General Section 1. The symposium is organized by the General Section 1. The symposium is organized by the General Section 1. The symposium is organized by the General Section 1. The symposium is organized by the General Section 1. The symposium is organized by the General Section 1. The symposium is organized by the General Section 1. The symposium is organized by the General Section 1. The symposium is organized by the General Section 1. The symposium is organized by the General Section 1. The symposium is organized by the General Section 1. The symposium is organized by the General Section 1. The symposium is organized by the General Section 1. The symposium is organized by the General Section 1. The symposium is organized by the General Section 1. The symposium is organized by the General Section 2. The symposium is organized by the General Section 2. The symposium is obtained by the symposium is organized by the symposium is obtained by the symposium is retariat of the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC), in collaboration with the Saudi Ministry of Energy and Japan's Cooperation Center for Petroleum and Sustainable Energy

Inaugurating the symposium, Saudi Ministry of Energy official **Dr. Khaled Al-Mehaid** underscored significance of such a congregation, pointing out that thus far all expectations indicate that oil demand is to last for many decades.

Hydrocarbon sources must be consumed properly and in accordance with international regulations, asserted Al-Mehaid, adding that this could be executed via circular economy applications that rely on managing and conserving energy and promoting consumption of renewable energy sources. (KUNA)

ISTANBUL: The Turkish Coast Guard Command rescued on Tuesday 50 migrants who were pushed back into Turkish waters by Greek forces.

Teams were dispatched to the Menderes district of Izmir on Turkiye's Aegean coast after detecting irregular migrants in a rubber boat, the Coast Guard Command was quoted by Turkish News Agency (Anadolu) as saying.

The coastguards rescued 19 migrants, including three children, from a life raft that was pushed back into Turkish territorial waters. (KUNA)

Kuwait water usage jumps by 45 mln imperial gallons



Kuwait Gulf Oil Company photo

An oil platform operated by Kuwait Gulf Oil Company, a vital component of the nation's energy sector.

'Conservation vital to protect water reserves, budget'

By Mohammed Ghanem and Marwa Al-Bahrawi Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff and Agencies

KUWAIT CITY, June 25: Statistics issued by the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy revealed a 45 million imperial gallon increase in water consumption which reached 505.701 million imperial gallons compared to the production of 460.491 million imperial gallons on Monday.

Sources from the ministry attributed the increase in consumption over production to the rising temperatures, indicating that the strategic water reserve reached 3,649.378

million imperial gallons. Despite this, it is still necessary to rationalize the consumption of water similar to electricity in order to avoid withdrawing from the strategic water reserve and to save millions spent to desalinate water from the sea, sources added.

In a related context and in spite of the high temperatures that exceeded 50 degrees Celsius, the electricity load index stabilized in the green zone yesterday; recording 16,021 megawatts at peak time for the second day in a row after the entry of nearly 1,000 megawatts from South Zour Station after the completion of the necessary maintenance works.

Sources explained that the stability of the index in the green zone does not mean the ministry will not resort to programmed cuts if it needs to do so due to any emergency or increase in consumption rates. Therefore, it is necessary to continue to follow rationalization mechanisms

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Philippine congressman lauds Kuwait gov't

'Receiving Filipino domestic

workers applications begins' By Fares Al-Abdan

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

and **Agencies** KUWAIT CITY, June 25: Kuwait Union of Domestic Labor Offices (KUDLO) Chairman Khaled Al-Dakh-

nan has confirmed the start of receiving applications the recruitment of domestic workers from the Philippines.

Al-Dakhnan made the announcement shortly after Kuwait and the Philippines reached

Salo an agreement to lift the ban on Filipinos, and allow the issuance of all types of entry and work visas for them.

He said the union will visit the Philippines next month to strengthen coordination with recruitment agencies there regarding the recruitment mechanisms. "We hope to open more countries for the recruitment of domestic workers to increase the number of offices, so the citizens have more options," he added.

On the recruitment of workers from Ethiopia, Al-Dakhnan clarified that recruitment has not started since the signing of the agreement. "We are waiting for the visa ban to be lifted urgently to begin the recruitment of Ethiopian workers," he stated.

He thanked First Deputy Premier, Minister of Defense and Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousuf Al-Sabah for the efforts he exerted in the resumption of the recruitment of Filipino workers.

In a related development, KABAYAN Partylist Representative Ron P. Salo lauded the Kuwaiti Government, the Department of Migrant Workers (DMW) headed by Secretary Hans Cacdac, and the Philippine Embassy officials led by Ambassador to Kuwait Jose Cabrera III for their efforts in resolving the labor issue that has greatly affected both Filipino workers and their employers in Kuwait.

The lifting of the ban reflects the commitment of Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousuf to the Philippine delegation led by Salo when the latter had a courtesy call with Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousuf on June 13 during his Middle East consultation with the Filipino workers. Ambassador

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Day by Day

A SYRIAN national who has been implicated in a money laundering scheme involving approximately KD 120 million (roughly half a billion dollars) has been arrested.

This incident suggests he may not be acting alone, as indications point to the possible involvement of oth-

ers who may soon be uncovered.

The authorities should not limit their oversight to just exchange offices; many other sectors require vigilant monitoring and thorough

This includes businesses involved in ticket preservation, private aircraft leasing, and various other industries. It's possible that more individuals of Syrian origin, possibly holding dual citizenship, could be implicated in similar activities.

... Yet tomorrow is another day.

Zahed Matar

Amir condoles Jordan over aid trucks' accident **Kuwait slams attacks on hospitals, UN agencies**

VIENNA, June 25, (Agencies): Kuwait strongly condemned the ongoing attacks targeting facilities, places of worship, hospitals and buildings affiliated with the United Nations (UN), including the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) in Palestine.

This came in a statement by Kuwait's Permanent Representative to the UN and other international organizations in Geneva, Ambassador Nasser Al-Hayen, during a meeting of the UN Advisory Committee and the UNRWA.

Ambassador Al-Hayen reaffirmed Kuwait's steadfast and principled commitment to supporting the Palestinian cause, expressing Kuwait's aspiration to enhance the partnership with the UNRWA on all fronts.

Amassador Al-Hayen also emphasized Kuwait's support for the noble and significant role that UNRWA played in providing vital humanitarian aid to the people who were affected in occupied Palestine, as well as in Jordan, Lebanon and Syria.

The Kuwaiti ambassador pointed out that this commitment was clearly reflected through Kuwait's support for various initiative in this regard, the latest being the political initiative launched in collaboration with Jordan and Slovenia, aimed at strengthening countries' commitment to UNRWA.

Ambassador Al-Hayen confirmed that Kuwait would spare no efforts in supporting UN agencies, especially the UNRWA, having contributed more than USD 300 million over the past decade, with the latest contribution being approximately USD 30 million to support the agency's relief efforts.

He added that Kuwait urged the international community to increase financial and political support for



Palestinians mourn for their relative girl killed in an Israeli bombardment on a residential building owned by the Nasr family in the Maghazi refugee camp outside the morgue of al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital in Deir al Balah, central Gaza Strip, Tues-day, June 25, 2024. (AP)

UNRWA - particularly in the current circumstances - to help the agency fulfill its mandated role.

In his speech, Ambassador Al-Hain addressed the continued brutal and blatant aggression by the Israeli occupation in Gaza and Rafah, which can only be described as a violation of all international and humani-

He stated that this ongoing aggression has resulted in more than 37,000 martyrs and targeted more than 88 percent of schools, with the latest being Al-Sardi school on June 6, 2024, and destroyed nearly 435 health facilities and more than 260 places of worship.

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Kuwait boosts health emergency preparedness

By Marwa Al-Bahrawi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, June 25: Assistant Undersecretary for Public Health Affairs at the Ministry of Health Dr. Munther Al-Hasawi has affirmed that the ministry is focusing on preparations for health emergencies by monitoring and responding to any health emergency - whether related to viruses, bac-

teria, parasites, fungi, biological, chemical, environmental, radiological or nuclear situations.

Al-Hasawi made the statement on the sidelines of the launching of the course entitled, "Building Medical Capacities to Respond to Radiation Incidents," held at the theater of Kuwait Institute for Medical Specializations in cooperation with the European Union, United Nations, Center of Excellence and Gulf Cooperation Coun-

He said the ministry has had a number of achievements in this field, as evident in the establishment of the Kuwait Poison Control Center and Kuwait Center for Disease Control or Kuwait CDC that was inaugurated a few weeks ago, as well as the activation of training and development in the Radiation Protection Department.

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Expected weather for next 24 hrs: By Day: Very hot with light to moderate freshening at times northwesterly wind, with speeds of 12-42 km/h with a chance for rising dust over open areas.

Weather By Night: Hot to rather hot with light to moderate northwesterly wind, with speeds of 10-38 km/h.

Station Max Exp Kuwait City

Kuwait Airport 28 35 35 31 Abdaly Jahra Salmiyah Nuwaisib Wafra

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





KUNA photos

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah receives citizens at the Al-Sabah Family Diwan.

HH Crown Prince welcomes citizens to Al-Sabah Family Diwan

KUWAIT CITY, June 25, (KUNA): In a friendly and welcoming atmosphere, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah received a number of citizens in Al-Sabah Family Diwan at Bayan Palace on Monday.

The reception reflected the one-family spirit in Kuwaiti society that has been renowned for fraternal coherence and communication between the leadership and people.

HH the Amir congratulates Mozambique on Nat'l Day

KUWAIT CITY, June 25, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent on Tuesday a congratulatory cable to the President of the Republic of Mozambique, Filipe Nyusi, on his country's National Day

In the cable, His Highness the Amir wished President Filipe Nyusi good health and wellbeing and for Mozambique more progress and prosperity.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Crown

Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent a congratulatory cable to President Filipe Nyusi, on his country's National Day

In the cable, His Highness the Crown Prince wished President Filipe Nyusi good health and wellbeing.

Also, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah sent a congratulatory cable to President Filipe Nyusi, on his country's National Day



KUNA photo

Kuwait's First Deputy PM, Defense Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Fahad receives UAE Ambassador Dr Al-Neyadi.

Kuwait, UAE eye closer security co-op

Kuwait's First Deputy Prime Minister, Defense Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Fahad Yousef Al-Sabah held talks on Tuesday with UAE Ambassador Dr. Matar Al-Neyadi, focusing on efforts to strengthen security cooperation between the two Gulf Arab neighbors. The Kuwaiti minister praised the

"depth" of relations with Abu Dhabi, saying such ties are "brotherly and historic. The UAE diplomat, alongside a delegation accompanying him, was appreciative of the Kuwaiti hospitality, saying the matters discussed aimed to propel bilateral cooperation to greater levels, according to an interior ministry statement. (KUNA)



Kuwait Ambassador to India Al-Shemali meets with Indian Minister of External Af-

Kuwaiti envoy stresses efforts to consolidate ties with India

NEW DELHI, June 25, (KUNA): Kuwait Ambassador to India Meshal Al-Shemali called on Tuesday for intensifying efforts to deepen existing relations between India and Kuwait and diversify them into new fields.

In a statement to Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) after meeting with Indian Minister of External Affairs S. Jaishankar in New Delhi, the ambassador said that during their talks, bilateral issues of mutual interest and ways to enhance cooperation mechanism between the two countries in economic, political, cultural and social fields came up for discussion.

The ambassador also congratulated Jaishankar on his reappointment to the post of Minister of External Affairs following the parliamentary elections and subsequent formation of the new government.

He stressed that the days to come will witness visits by officials of the two countries at different levels, which will include political consultations and joint ministerial meetings covering various sectors.

He also stressed the importance of strengthening trade relations, which have witnessed significant development recently, as the total bilateral trade with Kuwait during the past fiscal year amounted to USD 10.47 billion marking an annual growth of 34.7 percent. Kuwait is the ninth largest oil suppliers to India meeting 3 percent of India's total energy needs.

He quoted the Indian minister as extending his sincere thanks to the leadership and government of Kuwait for their efforts and interest in supporting Indians in the background of the tragic fire accident that occurred at a residential area, killing approximately 49 people from the Indian community residing in Kuwait.

Panel sets out comprehensive guide for halal food regulation

National Halal Food Committee holds inaugural meeting

By Marwa Al-Bahrawi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, June 25: The inaugural meeting of the National Halal **Food Committee yielded** several significant recommendations and decisions aimed at regulating the importation and certification of halal food in Kuwait.

The following are the details: Preparation of Importation Guide -- The Standards and Metrology Department at the Food and Nutrition Public Authority was tasked with initiating the preparation of documents and arrangements to create a comprehensive guide outlining the conditions and requirements for importing halal food into Kuwait. This guide will serve as a reference for all importers to ensure compliance with halal standards.

Professional Certification for Halal Slaughtered Animals -- The committee proposed the development of a professional certificate specifically for halal slaughtered animals. This certification aims to standardize and ensure the adherence to halal slaughtering practices, meeting Islamic dietary laws.

Terms

Terms of Reference and Tasks -- The meeting defined the terms of reference and tasks of the National Halal Food Committee. These include technical and administrative oversight by the Food and Nutrition General Authority concerning halal foods, as well as the establishment and revision of mechanisms for appointing Islamic bodies authorized to issue halal certificates

and halal slaughter certificates. Accreditation and Certification -- There was an emphasis on enhancing accreditation activities for certification bodies involved in halal certification. The committee plans to participate in inspection visits to verify compliance with relevant halal

requirements. Development and Awareness Programs -- Proposals were made to develop programs aimed at raising awareness, conducting research, and advancing initiatives related to the committee's objectives. This includes following up on legal directives, legislation, and standard specifications relevant to halal food.

Overall, the decisions taken in the first meeting of the National Halal Food Committee reflect a concerted effort to regulate and enhance the importation and certification processes of halal food in Kuwait.

These measures are intended to ensure that imported halal products meet strict standards and are compliant with Islamic dietary laws, thereby safeguarding consumer interests and promoting transparency in the mar-



His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah chairs the weekly Cabinet meeting.

Other Voices

Muhammad Musaed and the crimes of citizens

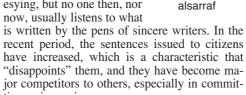
Bv Ahmed alsarraf

The late colleague Muhammad Musaed Al-Saleh, in an old article whose meaning I still remember, expressed his astonishment at the keenness of National Assembly legislators to be strict, sometimes exaggerated, in stipulating very severe punishments for some crimes, which

citizens rarely committed, and he demanded that the sentences be more rational.

Soon, citizens will commit the same crimes, which were once limited to others, and among them may be the children and grandchildren of the legislators themselves!

"Abu Talal" was prophesying, but no one then, nor



ting serious crimes. Only recently was the Criminal Security Sector able to arrest 4 people, working for the Ministry of Education, and 6 others, who ran accounts on social media sites that leaked high school exams.

As it became clear from the events of the worst fire disaster that occurred in Kuwait, there were citizens involved in it.

The Criminal Court also recently sentenced the president of a sports club to 6 months in prison, for his role in challenging the integrity of a member of the judiciary.

This was preceded by the issuance of an appeals ruling upholding the first-instance verdict, sentencing two citizens to death for their role in the killing of a third citizen.

This was preceded by a death sentence upheld by the Court of Appeal against a family member for killing a citizen. A final Cassation Court ruling was also issued against a former Minister of Social Affairs, the Undersecretary of the Ministry itself, and the President of the Federation of Cooperatives, to varying prison terms, for their role in stealing public money.

Five Kuwaitis male and female were also arrested at the airport, with one million Lyrica capsules in their possession, and two of the accused worked for the Customs, the agency entrusted with detecting drug smuggling!

Let us not forget in this haste that those who facilitated, assisted, and participated in the forging of nationality certificates and disability certificates. They were all dishonest citizens. All of this is the tip of the iceberg, as laxity was comprehensive, overwhelming, and unfortunately continued for a long time.

While this article was being written, there came the news that a Criminal Court verdict put behind bars a Kuwaiti doctor working for a government hospital for 5 years with work and enforceable labor, obliging him to return his salaries and fining him twice the amount, bringing the total amount he must pay to one million

It is reported that he was receiving full salaries for a period of 15 years undeservedly, so where was the oversight of other citizens regarding his violations throughout this period?

The prosecution also ordered the imprisonment of 27 people, including 6 Kuwaiti citizens, who were able to launder money worth more than 120 million dinars, and the majority of that money belonged to drug dealers, whose trade destroyed the lives of tens of thousands!

What we often need is not to tighten penalties, in all cases, but to implement laws, prevent exceptions, issue laws to fill loopholes, amend old ones, and be firm, be speedy, and transparent

As for what was stated by the Minister of Education that he would resort to striking those who failed the tests with an iron hand, this is not permissible in the state of law.

Proper procedure requires, in any incident or crime, putting all the facts and data before the prosecution, investigation committees, and the judiciary, to issue a fair ruling, and not rushing to impose punishment on the weak, and leaving the strong aside, as happened in the incident of expelling thousands of poor workers from their apartments, under the pretext of their violations

of the laws, turning a blind eye to the violator. How wonderful it was to read the text of the Interior Ministry's announcement, which prohibited the operation of delivery motorized bicycles, from 11 am until 4 pm, regardless of the opinion of some about it, and which stipulated that non-compliant people would be subject to "violation of the conditions of the permit," that

is, within the law, without exaggeration.

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Legal Affairs

help sought KUWAIT CITY, June 25:

The Kuwait News Agency has referred a complaint from one of its employees to

the Director General of the Agency to be investigated by the Legal Affairs Depart-

ment, reports Al-Seyassah The statement emphasized KUNA's commitment

to fostering a healthy work environment for all its em-

ployees, ensuring their rights

and duties are protected. This

approach is aimed at enhanc-

ing professional efficiency and fulfilling KUNA's media

The agency condemned the KUNA Workers Union

for allegedly exploiting sen-

sitive issues of its members

for purposes that it deemed

It stressed that such ac-

tions, which it described as

legally, morally, and ethically

mission effectively.

inappropriate.

diwaniya 🕈 حيوانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

'Will new holiday rules boost productivity or limit travel?'

"BEFORE every official holiday, there's rampant speculation as if something is going to happen, with people rushing to book flight tickets as if every holiday demands travel! However, I must admit, despite my reservations about the government's past actions, I commend its recent decision to set reasonable days for the Eid al-Adha holiday," columnist Asrar Johar Hayat wrote for Al-Qabas daily.

"For the first time, I sense a value in maintaining a work ethic in Kuwait. Official holidays shouldn't solely cater to employees' desire for overseas vacations. They should consider two key factors: providing breaks at appropriate times without unduly disrupting people's lives.

"Regrettably, in recent years, we've

grown accustomed to extended holidays, sometimes spanning over a week when counting weekends before and after the official days. "This pattern



longed breaks.

However, this approach delays government operations, disrupts agency projects, and burdens the budget, particularly with costs for staffing during holidays.

Asrar Hayat

"With the recent decision on Eid al-Adha holiday duration, it seems the Council of Ministers took a firm stance, unaffected by social media pressures urging longer breaks.

"Their responsibility lies in two things: not swaying decisions based on online reactions and upholding the value of productivity.

"The government employees are obligated to fulfill their duties and respect the vacation days set by official authorities. These authorities aren't obliged to tailor holidays to suit every employee's international travel plans, given the detrimental impact on work continuity.

"It's worth noting that the trend of using every holiday for foreign travel has unfairly neglected domestic tour-

"If we continually vacation abroad, we'd miss out on enjoying Kuwait's beauty and local attractions. The recent holiday presented a chance for many citizens to appreciate domestic tourism, thanks to the Council of Ministers' decision.'

Also:

"The situation of Syrian refugees in Lebanon may be similar to the situation of expatriate workers here, not all expatriate workers, but rather that oppressed group that fled the hell of poverty and misery in their countries to work in low-level service, such as cleaning, construction, security, or any other low-paid jobs, and some-times even getting paid on time and the workers have to depend on crumbs given by charity people and the companies in which they work forget about their wages and their rights to humanitarian housing," columnist Hassan Al-Issa wrote for Al-Jarida daily.

"Let's not overlook recent events like the Mangaf fire or the power cutoff to buildings violating housing conditions, as it's often the poor who bear the brunt of such actions.

"The conditions faced by Syrian refugees in Lebanon, described as 'miserable' by the Daraj website, highlight repeated persecution.

'In places like Kousba - Koura District, Syrian tenants are swiftly evicted with the assistance of municipal police and the army upon the building owner's immediate warning, bypassing any need for a court ruling, as illustrated from a firsthand perspective.

"Sawsan, a Syrian refugee who has resided in Lebanon for 13 years since fleeing her homeland, clarifies that it's not merely a story of residency but one of escape and seeking refuge.

"Many Syrian refugees originate from regions like Idlib, subjected to severe repression under the regime, with no assurances of safety should they attempt to return to their devastated

"Comparatively, if the Kuwaiti state appears more compassionate and humane towards its disadvantaged residents than the perceived indifference of the Lebanese state -- a state that supposedly exercises full sovereignty over its territory -- feelings of animosity persist nonetheless.

"This troubling sentiment is palpable in various circles, evident in mockery campaigns and calls for the expulsion of Egyptian workers, or warnings against the presence of unmarried laborers, often portrayed as contagious

"Philosopher Slavoj Žižek argues that hate speech stems from feelings of superiority and dominance. Those who harbor such sentiments believe they are inherently superior to those less fortunate in wealth or social standing.

"They lay claim, for instance, to legal and constitutional privileges meant to be impartially extended to all citizens. This attitude extends to disdain for naturalized citizens' children, contempt towards Bedouins, and animosity towards migrant workers -- essentially directed against anyone perceived as "others."

"These self-styled arbiters of superiority project their own psychological insecurities onto those outside their social group, which they believe should solely enjoy privileges and security. Their aversion towards others reflects a broader manifestation of human repugnance in all its dimensions.

"The recent operation of the heroic customs men that resulted in the confiscation of huge quantities of supply materials, before they were smuggled, makes us only stand in respect and appreciation for the tremendous efforts of these men," columnist Talal Al-Saeed wrote for Al-Seyassah daily.

"This seizure is very large and includes food supplies. No one knows how they got out of the warehouses and reached the hands of smugglers who try to smuggle them abroad in a professional manner. It is difficult to detect. This is a clear evidence that smuggling operations have been going on for a

long time, not just this time!
"The Kuwaiti citizen who receives the supplies cannot collect such a large quantity. This means that the 'kharir' in the supply branches is controlled by one community. Without a doubt, there is coordination between the branch managers of various associations to steal, otherwise, how can we collect the large quantities of smuggled goods that the customs video showed, and which we tried to export?

"Names that are not supposed to be related to smuggling were revealed. Most of them are doctors, engineers and others who hold important positions in the country. It is said that they have been referred to the prosecution. If that happens, the Sun will appear and we will know the thief!

"Some people in front of this very large amount of smuggled food supplies are calling for the food supply to be cancelled. In doing so, they are applying the proverb about a husband who is angry with his wife. The rest of the proverbs are well known!

"Ît is not true that when the government is unable to control food supply thieves, young and old, it deprives its citizens of their rights. It plays a major role in deterring food merchants. If food supplies were to be cancelled, the price of food items would reach KD100 in the markets. The elderly remember the 'living crisis' when the supply was scarce in the markets and the prices rose dramatically, while 'hookah' is sold in Saudi Arabia at a

certain price! "We say: O government, tighten your grip on the supply thieves. Never have mercy on any of them. Collapse the supply branches, encourage the customs inspectors who seize such quantities with cash rewards that will be disbursed to them immediately, and return the smuggled quantities to the warehouses of the Kuwaiti Supply Company, which must also be subjected to scrutiny and inspection, first and employees. No one is above the law.

"In short, we desperately need Red



"Allah Almighty honored me with Hajj in His Sacred House this year. It is a blessing from Him, added to His countless blessings. Thanks to Allah the Almighty, and thanks to the great and blessed efforts of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in making everything easy and safe," columnist M. Adel Al-Jarallah Al-Kharafi wrote for Al-

Seyassah daily. "Perhaps, what drew the attention of many were the high level capabilities, as well as the administrative, organizational and operational skills of those responsible for managing the Hajj process and performing of rituals. We can imagine the precision, discipline and skill at a time the rituals were performed by about two million pilgrims on specific dates and within a short period. It was an extremely difficult task and it was rare to see anything like it during the biggest global occasion.

"We always express our admiration for the West's skills in organization and management, but those skills, in my estimation, do not match the capabilities of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in managing Hajj. The infrastructure, facilities and services for rituals are at the highest level. Hajj and all its rituals depend on infrastructure and means of communication and transportation in which the Kingdom has come a long way. This was never seen before and it does not apply to Hajj only, but to all of the Kingdom's infrastructure that directly and indirectly serves the

Hajj pilgrims.
"In the context of the facts I talked about, in addition to being a divine religious ritual that Allah Almighty has assigned to us, organizing Hajj at this high level is considered a major human and civilizational achievement.

"From an engineering standpoint, it is also an important technical achievement, as the roads bear great and continuous pressure from a large number of vehicles, the electronic communication system operates with enormous capacity, cleaning services, and the organization and guidance teams work round the clock, yet everything went

"Without a doubt, it was a major and unparalleled organizational, technical and engineering achievement. It was organized and supervised by qualified human resources. Agencies and institutions contributed high efficiency that Muslims all over the world should be

— Compiled by PFX Fernandes & Mahmoud Ateyieh



Capt Muhammad Asiri with members of the association.

Al-Jarida photo

Kuwait Fire Department organizes symposium

Key causes and prevention of fires highlighted

KUWAIT CITY, June 25: As part of the ongoing "Prevention and Protection" campaign, the Public Relations and Media Department of the Directorate-General of Fire Department (DGFD) organized a symposium Monday evening at the Kuwait Society of Engineers, reports Al-Jarida daily.

The symposium focused on highlighting the leading causes of fires and effective measures to minimize their occurrence and contain their

Additionally, the importance of adopting safety protocols, fire prevention strategies, and drowning prevention methods were emphasized.

According to the Public Relations and Media Department of the Fire Department, the symposium featured a demonstration using a real video to raise awareness about fire incidents caused by children's interference or electrical faults. Captain Muhammad Wahid Asiri provided explanations

and commentary during the presentation of the video. The department further stated that

and prevention strategies.

Brigadier General Muhammad Badr Al-Gharib, Director of the Public Relations and Media Department. expressed gratitude to Eng. Faisal Al-Atl, President of the Society of Engineers for the educational seminars and lectures that are aimed at enhancing community safety by educating members on accident response

unacceptable, undermine employee privacy and dignity. Utilizing these issues as leverage against management was criticized for potentially harming KUNA's reputation. Regarding the handling

of the complaint, KUNA acknowledged the employee's correct procedure in directly submitting the complaint to the General Director due to its sensitive nature. However, the agency expressed disappointment that the union chose to publicize the case on social media before formal legal procedures commenced. This action was deemed contrary to ethical work standards and the

Court acquits man, jails friend to 15 yrs in kidnap & rape case

Blogger sentenced to 5 years in prison with hard labor

By Jaber Al-Hamoud, Munif

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff and Agencies

KUWAIT CITY, June 25: The Criminal Court has acquitted a man of kidnapping a girl and raping her, while it sentenced his friend to 15 years in prison with hard labor for the same charges.

Case files indicate that the Public Prosecution charged the two friends with kidnapping the victim. This was done by force and trickery, as they agreed to track her down after she left the house of one of the accused with-

out his knowledge.

The two followed her and as soon as they caught up with her, they blocked her path and forced her to get into the car, with one of the accused getting out, pushed her inside and tried to take her to her residence.

Then, they took her to a desert area, away from the eyes of her family and guardians. One of the accused tried to

One of the accused was charged

based on the fact that he connived with the other accused, and that as soon as he got hold of her alone in the car, he drove away and raped her. Lawyer of the other accused, At-

torney Enam Haider, appeared before the court and argued that the elements of the crime of kidnapping are absent, the investigations are inconclusive, the confession of his client is invalid, and case documents lacked evidence that his client committed the crime.

Blogger jail: The Criminal Court has sentenced a blogger to five years in prison with hard labor, ordered the deletion of the blogs and confiscation of the phone.

Atty. Haider

curity case was Public Prosecution charged the blogger with defaming HH the Amir, challeng-

A state se-

ing the authority of HH the Amir and misusing the

143 motorbikes seized: The General Traffic Department (GTD) in the Interior Ministry impounded 143 delivery motorbikes within 48 hours of implementing the decision to ban them on the roads from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm. According to the department, it impounded 53 delivery motorbikes on Monday and 90 on Sunday -- the first day of implementing the decision. It affirmed that its campaigns

will continue to ensure strict compli-

ance with the directive.

Electric cable stolen: A citizen filed a case against an unknown person who stole electric cable from his livestock pen in Kabad.

According to a security source, the citizen told police that an unknown person stole electrical cable from his livestock pen, indicating that a case has been filed and a search is underway to arrest the thief.

Drunk driver in accident: Two vehicles collided on Blajat Street and one of the drivers -- a young man -- was found under the influence of alcohol with a bottle of liquor in his A security source revealed that the

Operations Unit at the Interior Ministry received information about the collision on Blajat Street near Bidaa Roundabout. Security and medical emergency personnel rushed to the location. Upon their arrival, it was discovered that the driver of one of the two vehicles was drunk and a bottle of alcohol was found in his possession. He was immediately referred to the concerned authority.

Fraud cases on the rise: Around 10 citizens have been the victims of fraud daily over the last three years, reports Al-Qabas daily quoting sourc-

According to sources, majority of fraud cases are related to real estate properties; pointing out that the court deals with about 10 fraud cases per day. Sources said the fake investments crime comes second, while the fraudulent sale of luxury cars is in third place with almost 500 citizens and expatriates victimized.

Sources pointed out that despite the large number of victims so far; the number is still increasing as new victims continue to be added to the list due to the high professional level of criminals and the new ideas they create to deceive others.

Sources said the criminals usually take advantage of the people's desire to be rich quickly by promising them high gains and regular interest. Sources went on to say that in some cases, the criminal continues to pay the revenues of the fake investment for almost one year and then the truth is revealed.

Shortage of teachers: The concerned departments at the Ministry of Education have completed the study on seeking the assistance of retired Kuwaiti teachers to address the shortage of teachers in some subjects, reports Al-Rai daily.

Sources disclosed that the Public Education and Administrative Affairs departments carried out the study; which included the required number of teachers for the following subjects -- English, French, Mathematics, Science, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Geology, Philosophy, Arabic, Information Technology, Social Studies, Islamic Studies, Decoration and Electricity.

13 food outlets shut

PAFN destroys 550 kilos of spoiled meat in May-June

By Marwa Al-Bahrawi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, June 25: Muhammad Al-Kandari, head of the Mubarakiya Center for Control and Inspection at the Public Authority for Food and Nutrition (PAFN), disclosed that during May and June, 550 kilos of spoiled meat unsuitable for human consumption were disposed of in the Mubarakiya area alone.

In an exclusive statement to Al-Seyassah, Al-Kandari reported that 13 food establishments were shut down by inspection teams due to numerous serious violations, including the presence of spoiled meat, insects crawling inside the establishments and rodents in some establishments.

Following the Eid al-Adha holiday, Al-Kandari mentioned that inspection teams conducted visits to various food establishments, resulting in the closure of two establishments and the disposal of 50 kilograms of spoiled

He emphasized the escalation of inspection campaigns targeting butcheries, restaurants, sweet shops, bakeries, central markets, and all food-related businesses to combat any attempts to tamper with food and endanger

MEW collects KD 150m in due bills

KUWAIT CITY, June 25: The Consumer Services Department at the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy collected payments for water and electricity bills amounting to KD150 million from April 1 to June 15, reports Al-Rai daily quoting sources from the ministry. Sources said the collection of such a huge amount within

the abovementioned period is considered a big achievement of the ministry. Sources affirmed there are many ways to settle outstanding energy bills, such as online payment through the official website of the ministry or the allocated payment centers in different parts of the country.





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with two distinguished diplomats at his office in the Governor's

General Office, reports Al-Seyas-

First, he welcomed Michael Ma

Fros, the Ambassador of the Republic of Cyprus to Kuwait. Their

discussions focused on enhancing

bilateral relations between Kuwait

and Cyprus, exploring avenues for

Later in the day, Sheikh Abdullah

Al-Salem received Zhang Jianwei,

the Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Kuwait. The

meeting centered on mutual inter-

ests and ways to strengthen ties

between Kuwait and Beijing to advance shared priorities and mutual

Ambassador Jianwei expressed gratitude for Kuwait's warm hospitality towards the Chinese diplo-

matic mission, emphasizing the im-

portance of Kuwait-China relations. In response, Sheikh Abdullah Salem

Al-Ali thanked Ambassador Jianwei

for his visit and appreciated China's

efforts to enhance cooperation with

These meetings underscore Ku-

deeper cooperation.

Broader cooperation

Governor of Capital hosts

KUWAIT CITY, June 25: Sheikh

Abdullah Salem Al-Ali, the Governor of the Capital, held meetings

Kuwait collects over 85,000 blood bags, 8,000 bags of platelets in 2023: minister Cyprus and China envoys

Kuwaitis make up 55% of donors



Kuwaiti Minister of Health, Dr. Ahmed Al-Awadhi poses for a group photo during World Blood Donor Day celebration.

(blood transfusion), (blood donation),

and (genetic laboratories).' He praised the fruitful efforts and joint cooperation between the Ministry of Health and governmental and private bodies and institutions that play an essential and effective role in the success of blood donation campaigns that contribute to increasing the strategic reserve, considering blood dona-

tion "a humanitarian mission in which the entire community participates."

The Minister of Health extended his sincere thanks and great gratitude to every group that voluntarily donated blood without compensation in order to contribute to saving lives and helping patients in need, appreciating the role of the Blood Bank in supporting the strategic blood reserve.

For her part, Director of the Blood Transfusion Services Department, Dr. Reem Al-Radwan, said in a speech that the State of Kuwait participates every June in the World Health Organization's celebrations of World Blood Donor Day, which is held this year under the slogan "20 years of celebrating giving ... Thank you to blood donors.

wait's commitment to fostering diplomatic relations with both Cyprus and China, aiming for broader cooperation and mutual prosperity.

KFAED participates in ACG meet

KUWAIT CITY, June 25: The Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED) participated in the 2024 regular meeting of the heads of institutions of the Arab Coordination Group (ACG), reports Al-Seyassah

The meeting, led by the Fund's Acting Director General Waleed Al-Bahar took place in Vienna, Austria.

In a statement, the Fund highlighted discussions on various shared interests and methods to enhance the group's operations in addressing

pressing economic and social chal-

Kuwait.

lenges.

Key topics included climate change and food security in partner countries. The group reaffirmed its commitment to advancing collaborative efforts and harmonizing activities to align with global development standards, aiming to maximize the impact of projects funded in developing nations.

Emphasis was placed on fostering joint initiatives to tackle climate change impacts, with member contributions geared towards supporting sustainable development initiatives.



KUWAIT CITY, June 25,

(KUNA): Kuwaiti Minister of

Health, Dr. Ahmed Al-Awa-

dhi, announced on Monday

that more than 85,000 bags

of blood and 8,000 bags of

platelets will be collected during the year 2023, stressing

the keenness to "obtain safe

blood with the best modern

scientific methods to ensure

the provision of high-quality blood and cell therapy."

This came in a speech delivered by the Minister of Health during

the Blood Transfusion Services Department's celebration on the occasion of World Blood Donor Day,

in honor of distinguished donors,

distinguished entities in organizing

specialized campaigns, and entities

citizens constituted 55 percent of blood donors, compared to 45 percent

for residents of 75 nationalities.

Minister Al-Awadhi explained that

He pointed out that the Ministry of

Health, represented by the Department

of Blood Transfusion Services, is

seeking to obtain international recog-

nition from the American Blood Banks

Organization, noting that "the Kuwaiti

Blood Bank is the only Arab bank to

with social responsibility.



Part of honoring blood donors.

Photos by Mohammad Morsi

Al-Yahya's leadership hailed

Iran's Ambassador commends Kuwait's vital role in Asian Cooperation Dialogue

By Fares Al-Abdan

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, June 25: Iran's Ambassador to Kuwait, HE Mohammad Totonji, highlighted Kuwait's pivotal role in the Asian Cooperation Dialogue (ACD), underscoring its support since the forum's inception and its hosting of the general secretariat.

Speaking on the occasion of the forum in Tehran. Totonii commemorated the late Amir Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad for his constructive contributions to prior forum activities. He emphasized the significance of Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Abdullah Al-Yahya's recent visit to Tehran to lead the Kuwaiti delegation, affirming the forum's importance in charting Asia's future path.

Totonji described the ACD as an intergovernmental organization established on June 18, 2002, headquartered in Kuwait, and encompassing 35 Asian countries, including Kuwait and Iran.

The forum, initiated by the Thai Prime Minister, aims to bolster cultural, economic, and social cooperation across Asia, uniting nations to enhance regional stature globally by leveraging strengths and opportunities, reducing poverty, and elevating living standards.

Over the years, the ACD has made significant strides in developing financial and economic markets, enhancing competitiveness, and achieving tangible successes

Iran, a key member state, has consistently supported the ACD's objectives, collaborating with other nations to bolster its framework.

Totonji noted that Iran assumed the forum's presidency in September 2023, with a theme centered on modern technologies fostering Asian connectivity and strength. The cities of Yazd and Isfahan hosted significant events in 2024, including forums on tourism and commerce chambers, respectively.



HE Mohammad Totonji, Iran's Ambassador to Kuwait.

New circular issued

Public Authority retracts online teaching decision

KUWAIT CITY, June 25: Just 24 hours after initially approving "online" teaching for the next two weeks, the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training swiftly retracted its decision in response to widespread objections from faculty members concerned about its impact on educational quality, reports Al-Jarida daily.

Dr. Hassan Al-Fajjam, the Director of the authority, issued a new circular endorsing in-person classes for the remainder of the summer semester.

The updated circular cited feedback from faculty members and technical challenges encountered on the first day of online classes, exacerbated by the short summer semester.

Emphasizing student interests and after consultations with the Ministry of Electricity, the Authority reinstated inperson teaching. The directive stressed the need for energy conservation during working hours to support national efforts in preserving the electrical sys-

CAPT announces bidding process for Holy Qur'an printing complex

KUWAIT CITY, June 25: The announcement by the Central Agency for Public Tenders outlines the upcoming tender process for the establishment, completion, and maintenance of the Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Complex for the Printing of the Noble Qur'an, reports Al-Jarida daily.

Here are the key points from the an-

nouncement:

Project Details -- The project involves establishing, completing, and maintaining the Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Complex; the complex will be located in the Subhan area on a plot of land measuring 27.2 thousand square meters.

The building itself will cover approximately 44.72 thousand square meters. The complex will house printing halls, their annexes, administrative offices, and

Initiation and Design -- The Ministry

of Works initiated legal procedures to propose the project. The project design has been completed, indicating readiness for implementation.

Tender Process -- The Central Agency for Public Tenders announced that bids for the project will be accepted starting

The tender will follow the procedures and frameworks outlined in the Public Tenders Law.

Specialized companies will be invited

to participate in the bidding process. Purpose -- The establishment of the complex aims to facilitate the printing of

the Noble Qur'an, underscoring its cul-

tural and religious significance. The tender process is set to begin shortly for the construction of the Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Complex, which will play a pivotal role in the printing and preservation of the Noble Qur'an.



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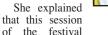
Event period expanded to two months

NCCAL to hold 16th session of summer cultural festival in July

KUWAIT CITY, June 25, (KUNA): The Assistant Secretary-General for the Culture Sector of the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters, Aisha Al-Mahmoud, announced the launch of the 16th session of the summer cultural festival on the first of July. under the patronage of the Minister of Information and Culture, Abdul Rahman Al-Mutairi.

Al-Mahmoud said in a press statement on Tuesday that the festival period will extend for the first time over

two consecutive months to cover the summer vacation period, taking into account the diversity of cultural activities and events to satisfy all age groups and different interests.



of the festival includes artistic and vocational workshops at the cultural level for children and adults, such as language workshops (German and Korean) being presented for the first time at the festival, along with new artistic workshops like jewelry making, wood painting, and theatrical lighting. Additionally, there will be plastic exhibitions and theatrical performances.

She added that the session will witness the participation of popular groups. The festival will begin with a concert titled "Night of Al-Huraibi," celebrating the legacy of the great artist Saleh Al-Huraibi, featuring a collection of his songs performed by artist Ahmed Al-Huraibi, conducted by Maestro Dr. Muhammad Al-Baijan at the Abdul Hussein Abdul Reda Theater. The closing ceremony, titled "Thursday Night," will feature the participation of several Kuwaiti singers showcasing the heritage of singing in all its forms.

Al-Mahmoud revealed a major event being held for the first time in the festival, the "Children's Literature Forum," which will span three days and attract prominent children's literature writers from around the world, sharing their distinguished experiences through discussion circles with leading Kuwaiti writers, enriching the cultural landscape of children's literature.

She indicated that training workshops will accompany the forum, focusing on developing writing skills and keeping pace with international literature trends, alongside an exhibition of children's literature drawings, emphasizing their importance in connecting literature with visual art.

She pointed out that the festival also includes specialized lectures on smart digital libraries and modern information systems, as well as a lecture on ancient Greek history in cooperation with an emerging cultural initiative.

She stated that "Summer Cultural" activities will be spread across all governorates of the country to reach the widest audience in the most accessible locations during the summer, highlighting this geographical diversity as a cornerstone of the National Council's

She indicated that activities will be held at the Slayil Al-Jahra complex, serving as a cultural center and children's activities hub during the festival, continuing its activities throughout the year. Additionally, cultural events will take place at Al-Khiran Mall, Kuwait National Library, Kuwait National Museum, Dasma Theater, and other



Celebration of the International Day for Women in Diplomacy. Inset: Ambassador Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Deputy Minister of Foreign

Kuwaiti gala honors women diplomats in gesture of recognition

Kuwait's Foreign Ministry organized a ceremony on Monday in recognition of the country's women diplomats, coinciding with an international day dedicated to their contributions.

Sponsoring the lavish gala on the United Nations' "International Day for Women in Diplomacy," Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Abdullah Al-Yahya, in a speech given by his deputy Sheikh Jarrah Al-Sabah, congratulated some

of the country's most renowned women diplomats to acknowledge their contributions towards Kuwaiti diplomacy, saying they represented a "pillar" of Kuwaiti development. Irrespective of rank or positon, Kuwaiti women diplomats have amassed exceptional accomplishments through the years, which subsequently served Kuwait's best interests and propelled the nation to international prominence, he underlined. (KUNA)

Shaping careers through hands-on experience

KUNA welcomes trainee students from PAAET as part of field training program

(KUNA): Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) hosted trainee students from the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training as part of their field training program before their graduation in the academic year 2023-2024.

This collaboration KUNA and the Authority underscores the partnership and cooperation among various ministries and agencies in the country, aiming to enhance the educational and training sectors. It reflects KUNA's commitment to its media, awareness, and training mission as part of its social responsibility

These trainees, specializing as information systems security technicians, participate in training activities and events at the Higher Institute of Communications and Navigation of the Authority. They receive guidance from departments focused on communications and information technology at KUNA and engage in practical applications related to their

The field training program will continue until August 1st, enriching the experience and skills of the trainee students. Participation in this program is a key requirement for their graduation.





Top & above: Students trained within the field training program in KÜNA.

Your Highness

Continued from Page 1

a result of the struggle over quotas; just as it happened in the fields of the North, Silk City and others.

Today, the way is paved for you, Your Highness the Prime Minister, to truly implement His Highness the Amir's desire to return Kuwait to its pioneering position.

The actuarial deficit in the Public Institution for Social Security is a deficit in the management of public funds, not just in the institution, whose counterparts in other countries invest in all sectors; given that it has many arms managed by economic minds, which Kuwait needs today.

Your Highness the Prime Minister, we hope that you will consider this proposal; as Kuwait stands at a crossroads, while the wise Amiri wish expressed by His Highness the Amir becomes a reality

If the Council of Ministers fails in this mission; it will be a major catastrophe, because the Kuwaitis want something after 40 years of much ado.

Kuwait boosts

Continued from Page 1

He pointed out that the best time to prepare for a health emergency is a time of rest and peace, as emergencies may occur any moment and spread rapidly. He said they do not have to be artificial or caused by humans, because they could be due to natural factors; hence, the need to prepare for them.

He added the Radiation Protection Department has many achievements in recent months, including the State of Kuwait's accession to the International Energy Agency's Code of Conduct for the Security of Radioactive Sources.

He stated that the department also developed and activated several radiation monitoring stations affiliated with the ministry, established monitoring rooms that operate round the clock, implemented governance through the issuance of several ministerial decisions regulating radiation security and radiation activity in the country, and the ongoing training and development

Kuwait slams

Continued from Page 1

Ambassador Al-Hain expressed his deepest condolences to the families of humanitarian workers who lost their lives while performing their duties with the honesty and integrity due the ongoing bombardment, which claimed the lives of 200 workers, 193 of whom were UNRWA employees.

Ambassador Al-Hain also thanked UNRWA Commissioner-General Philippe Lazzarini for his representation on the tragic humanitarian situation in Gaza and its impact on Palestinian refugees, expressing sincere

appreciation for the tireless efforts. In other news, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a condolences cable Tuesday to the King of Jordan Abdullah II over the deaths and injuries of several soldiers, following an accident involving military trucks as part of a relief and humanitarian aid convoy en

route to the Gaza Strip. His Highness the Amir expressed his sincere sorrow and deep sympathy to the families of the victims, and a fast recovery to the injured.

The State of Kuwait expressed on Tuesday its deepest condolences to the Kingdom of Jordan over an accident involving a military aid convoy heading to the Gaza Strip, which led to several casualties.

In a statement by the Foreign Ministry, Kuwait offered its deepest condolences to the Jordanian leadership and people over this tragic accident, wishing solace to the families of the victims and swift recovery to those injured.

The statement also reflected strong appreciation of Jordan's efforts in providing aid to Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, an effort, which came in cooperation with other countries and international organizations.

Meanwhile, there are extreme short-

ages in medical supplies and services in the Gaza Strip's hospitals and clinics, said Health Authorities on Tues-In a press statement, the authorities

indicated that the lack of medicine, staff, and care threatened the lives of patients throughout the strip including 1,000 dialysis patients most of them were children. In latest development, at least 26 Palestinians were killed in Israeli air-

strikes that hit two residential homes, two schools housing displaced people east and west of Gaza City, and a gathering on Tuesday, Palestinian sources The General Directorate of Civil Defense said in a statement that its crews

dealt with three attacks respectively on a school in the Al-Darraj area, east of Gaza City, and another school in the Shati camp, west of the city, and a house belonging to the Al-Zamili family in the Al-Shuja'iya neighborhood. The statement added that its crews re-

these locations and attended to dozens of wounded people, all of whom were transferred to hospitals for treatment. Meanwhile, security sources reported that Israeli aircraft launched several

covered the bodies of 13 people from the

missiles targeting a house belonging to the Haniyeh family in the Al-Shati refugee camp, west of the city, and it was leveled to the ground. Medical sources told Xinhua that

the raid killed 10 people, including the sister of the head of the Hamas political bureau, Ismail Haniyeh, and a number of his family members remained trapped under the rubble.

Later, Israeli aircraft struck a gathering of Palestinians west of Gaza City, killing three people and wounding a number of them, according to local sources and evewitnesses.

The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) said in a statement on Tuesday that the Israeli army struck two structures that were being used by Hamas "terrorists" in Shati and Daraj Tuffah in the northern Gaza Strip.

"The terrorists operated inside school compounds that were used by Hamas as a shield for its terrorist activities," it said.

"The terrorist operatives were

Women's Associations inaugurates activities to mark 30th anniversary

Founder Sheikha Latifa honored for her legacy

KUWAIT CITY, June 25, (KUNA): The Kuwaiti Union of Women's Associations has launched activities to celebrate the 30th anniversary of its establishment, marking a significant milestone in advancing Kuwaiti wom-

In a press statement on Tuesday, the President of the Union, Sheikha Fadia Saad Al-Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah, stated that the celebrations began today and will continue until the end of December, featuring numerous events, programs, and seminars targeting women and families.

Pivotal role

She emphasized that Kuwaiti women's efforts, initiated with the Union's establishment in 1994, are now entering a new phase of organization to adapt to evolving circumstances and meet women's needs. She highlighted the pivotal role of women in the country's development process, reflecting the vision of political

Sheikha Fadia Al-Sabah also underscored the Union's commitment to developing future plans for women after a comprehensive study of their needs and challenges, aimed at supporting and empowering women across all sectors. She expressed confidence that promoting women's advancement and empowerment re-



Sheikha Fadia Saad Al-Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah -President of the Kuwaiti Union of Women's Associations

mains a top priority.

She praised the role of the Union's founder and initiator, Sheikha Latifa Al-Salem Al-Sabah, and her col-

leagues, for their positive impact on issues concerning women, families, and children, wishing them continued progress and success.

'Receiving Filipino

Continued from Page 1 Cabrera, Labor Attaché Manuel Di-

involved in the planning of numer-

ous terror attacks against Israel, and

some of the terrorists were involved

in holding hostages captive and took

part in the October 7th massacre," it

maano and former Representative Paul Hernandez were with Salo during the courtesy call.

In a recent press statement, Salo said: "We thank Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousuf and the Kuwaiti Government for opening their doors to Filipinos to be able to work in Kuwait. I also thank the DMW led by Secretary Hans Cacdac and the Philippine Embassy officials in Kuwait for ensuring that appropriate measures are in place to provide greater protection for our OFWs working in Kuwait. Such protection will ensure that our OFW's overseas journey will become worthwhile.'

It has been reported earlier that during his visit. Salo also toured the shelter established by Kuwait for workers who escaped from their sponsors. He had a discussion with most of the Filipino workers living in the shelter -- about120 who are awaiting repa-

triation to the Philippines. He affirmed that the Kuwaiti Government is taking care of the Filipino workers in the shelter, including 21 children.

He then disclosed that his visit was aimed at understanding the concerns of Filipino migrant workers in the Middle East and ensuring effective government response. He conducted a Town Hall meeting with the Filipino community (FilCom) at the Philippine Embassy Office in Surra, where various issues such as the visa ban on Filipinos and the diplomatic impasse between the Philippines and Kuwait were discussed in detail. On the challenges that OFWs are

facing, Salo cited the significant impact of the visa ban on Filipinos wanting to work in Kuwait, as well as Filipino nationals engaged in overseas employment and businesses in Kuwait. He mentioned the persistent pleas of OFWs who want to work in Kuwait but are unable to apply for work visas, as well as of OFWs in Kuwait who are unable to go home for fear that they cannot return. He also noted reports of Filipino-owned establishments, particularly restaurants, experiencing closures due to reduced Filipino clientele resulting from the visa restrictions. In response to these challenges, the Philippine government has been actively advocating for measures to enhance the protection and welfare of migrant workers in Kuwait, he added.

He commended Kuwait's efforts and reiterated the Philippine government's focus on resolving underlying issues leading to OFWs running away from their employers, such as unpaid salaries, overwork or maltreatment.

Meanwhile, data from the Philippine Embassy in Kuwait revealed that there are around 245,000 Filipino workers in Kuwait now; compared to 268,000 before the ban. It also showed that 50 percent of the total domestic labor force in Kuwait are Filipinos. Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousuf mentioned to Salo that all his 18 domestic workers, including the nannies of his grandchildren, are Filipinos.

Kuwait's visa ban on Filipinos and the lost employment opportunities for Filipinos were the subject of the privilege speech of Salo on March 11, 2024; since he himself experienced difficulty in securing a visa in his initial attempt to visit the Filipinos in Kuwait.

Kuwait water

Continued from Page 1

that have contributed a major role in the decline in consumption rates, especially in the government sector. The load rates, as of yesterday, were still less than the maximum load expected by the ministry for the summer of this year -- 16,707 megawatts, sources added.

Meanwhile, the Kuwait Gulf Oil Company announced on Tuesday its ongoing efforts to reduce electricity consumption at its work sites, including its main office and joint operations. This initiative aligns with state directives to regulate electricity usage, decrease electrical loads, and sustain national resources.

In a press statement, the company highlighted that its employees are actively engaged in energy-saving practices, such as turning off lights, air conditioning units, computers, and other equipment after official working hours.

In joint operations areas, various legal measures have been implemented in administrative offices, field, and operations areas. Additionally, official working hours at external locations have been adjusted to comply with state procedures during peak periods.

The Kuwait Gulf Oil Company reiterated its commitment to public benefit by reducing energy consumption and preserving the environment and public resources. The company expressed hope that these measures will achieve the desired goals and contribute to the ongoing efforts to conserve state resources and rationalize electricity consumption in the oil sector. The company also appreciated the efforts of its employees and their professional and national commitment.

The Kuwait Gulf Oil Company, a subsidiary of the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation, was established in 2002. It is responsible for the exploration, development, and production of oil in the onshore area of the region divided between Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

Experts have underscored the urgent need to implement a plan to promote rational consumption in order to address the power outage issue and ensure a stable summer.

Mishal Al-Mana highlighted the Consumer Protection Association's efforts, in collaboration with Kuwait TV and the ministry, to raise awareness about judicious electricity and water usage. This initiative includes posters, leaflets and video clips aimed at educating the public in order to prevent the scheduled power cuts that the ministry

announced earlier. Al-Mana revealed the association's participation in the Advisory Committee for Awareness of Electricity and Water Usage is set to begin next week.

World News Roundup

Europe

ICC issues warrants

India's Modi to 'visit' Russia, Kremlin says

MOSCOW, June 25, (AP): Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to visit Russia, the Kremlin announced Tuesday

Russian President Vladimir Putin's foreign affairs aide, Yuri Ushakov, said that Modi's visit was being prepared but didn't announce a date, saying that it will be done jointly later.

Russia has had strong ties with India since the Cold War, and New Delhi's importance as a key trade partner for Moscow has grown since the Kremlin sent troops into Ukraine in Febru-



ary 2022. China and India have become key buyers of Russian oil following sanctions imposed by the US and its allies that shut most Western markets for Russian exports. Under Modi's leadership, India has avoided condemn-

ing Russia's action in Ukraine while emphasizing the need for a peaceful settlement. Modi's visit follows his ree-

lection for a third straight term. He last visited Russia in 2019 for an economic forum in the far eastern port of Vladivostok. He last traveled to Moscow in 2015

ICC issues warrants for Russia officials: The International Criminal Court (ICC) issued arrest warrants Tuesday for Russia's former defense minister and its military chief of staff for attacking civilian targets in Ukraine.

The court is accusing former Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu and chief of staff Gen Valery Gerasimov of war crimes and the crime against humanity of inhumane acts.

The court said in a statement that warrants were

issued because judges considered there were reasonable grounds to believe that the men are responsible for "missile strikes carried out by the Russian armed forces against the Ukrainian electric infrastructure' from Oct. 10, 2022 until at least March 9, 2023.

"During this time-frame, a large number of strikes against numerous electric power plants and sub-stations were carried out by the Russian armed forces in multiple locations in Ukraine," the court added.

Last year, the court also issued a warrant for Russian President Vladimir Putin, accusing him of personal responsibility for the abductions of children from Ukraine.

Ukraine set to launch EU talks: Ukraine is set to officially launch membership talks with the European Union on Tuesday in what President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has described as a dream come true for his country's citizens more than two years into a war with

Deputy prime minister for European and Euro-Atlantic integration Olga Stefanishyna will lead Ukraine's delegation at an intergovernmental conference in Luxembourg marking the official opening of talks to align the country's laws and standards with those of the 27-nation bloc.

A few hours later, Moldova, which applied to join the EU after Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February 022 and was granted candidate status four month later, will take part in a separate intergovernmental conference to officially launch its own accession pro-

Ukraine, too, sought candidate status in the days after Russia invaded. By June 2022, EU leaders had quickly made it official. But things have moved more slowly since then and membership, if it comes, might be years away.

Turkey's accession talks have lasted almost two

decades without result.

Still, starting the talks process is sending another strong signal of solidarity with Ukraine beyond the billions in financial support the EU has provided. It's also a show of support for Moldova, which has faced its own challenges with Russia.

Tuesday's intergovernmental conference marks the launch of talks but the negotiations themselves are unlikely to begin for a few months

Candidate countries must bring their laws and standards into line with those of the EU in 35 policy areas, known as chapters, ranging from the free movement of goods through fisheries, taxation, energy and the environment to judicial rights and security.

Macron warns voters: French President Emmanuel Macron is warning voters against choosing the far right or the hard left, asserting that their divisive policies increase the risk of political "conflict and civil war," ahead of Sunday's first round of crucial parliamentary elections.

Macron said both the far-right National Rally and hard-left France Unbowed bring bad responses to "real problems" because they "respond in some way by increasing conflict and civil war.

Macron called snap elections following the defeat of his centrist alliance at European Union elections earlier this month. Voters will choose lawmakers for the National Assembly in two rounds on June 30 and

July 7.

"When you are fed up with everything, when daily life is hard, you can be tempted by extremes that have quicker solutions. But the solution will never lie in rejecting others," Macron said.

He asserted that the National Rally's policies, detailed by the party's president Jordan Bardella on Monday, would "lead to civil war" and are "an impoverishment program, because it's several thousand euros in hidden taxes every day and an impossibility of paying pensions and paying employees well."

Antisemitic incidents in Germany: A group that tracks antisemitism in Germany said Tuesday it recorded an overall increase of more than 80% in incidents last year, with well over half of the total coming after Hamas-led militants attacked Israel in early

The RIAS group said it recorded 4,782 antisemitic incidents in 2023, ranging from comments to attacks. That compared with 2,616 in 2022.

The group said that 2,787 of last year's recorded incidents - more than the previous year's total - took place after the Oct. 7 attack by Hamas on Israel, which triggered the ongoing war in Gaza.

The incidents RIAS documented last year included seven cases classified as "extreme violence," which did or could endanger lives or result in severe injury, 121 attacks, 329 cases of targeted damage to property, 183 threats and 4,060 incidences of offensive behav-



Mounted soldiers pass Buckingham Palace on their way to Horse Guards Parade as they take part in the ceremonial welcome for the state visit of the Japanese Emperor Naruhito and Empress Masako to Britain in London on June 25. Inset: From left, Japan's Empress Masako, Britain's Queen Camilla, Britain's King Charles III and Japan's Emperor Naruhito pose for a family photo at the ceremonial welcome for their state visit to Britain, at Horse Guards Parade. (AP)

Britain's King Charles III welcomes visiting Japanese emperor, empress

King Charles III welcomed the Japanese emperor and empress for a state visit that began on Tuesday, offering the best in pomp and circumstance as the UK seeks to bolster its role as the most influential European nation in the Indo-Pacific region.

Emperor Naruhito and Empress Masako are to attend a banquet hosted by the king, lay a wreath at Westminster Abbey and tour one of Britain's premier biomedical research institutes. But the emperor began this week's trip by visiting a site that has special meaning: The Thames Barrier.

The retractable flood control gates on the River Thames seemed a natural destination for a royal long interested in the waterway that runs through the heart of London. Naruhito studied 18th-century commerce on the river as a graduate student at the University of

Oxford some 40 years ago.

He chronicled the interest in his memoir "The Thames and I," together with his fondness for Britain and its people. The future emperor got a chance to experience life outside the palace walls. Tuesday's ceremonial welcome seemed warm. Charles and Naruhito, who have known each other for years, settled into the back of a carriage and chatted like old chums. (AP)



Laurie Jones, a full-time resident of Ruidoso, holds her dog Scout as she waits in her truck for re-entry into the fire-ravaged village on June 24. As residents return to a fire-ravaged village in the mountains of southern New Mexico, the mayor warned them that some parts of Ruidoso remain off limits as special search and rescue teams comb the charred rubble along the hardest-hit streets. (AP)





Murthy

America

'Gun violence public health crisis': The US surgeon general on Tuesday declared gun violence a public health crisis, driven by the fast-growing number of injuries and deaths involving firearms in the country.

The advisory issued by Dr Vivek Murthy, the nation's top doctor, came as the US grappled with another summer weekend marked by mass shootings that left dozens of people dead or wounded.

"People want to be able to walk through their neighborhoods and be safe," Murthy told The Associated Press in a phone interview. "America should be a place where all of us can go to school, go to work, go to the supermarket, go to our house of worship, without having to worry that that's going to put our life at risk."

To drive down gun deaths, Murthy calls on the US to ban automatic rifles, introduce universal background checks for purchasing guns, regulate the industry, pass laws that would restrict their use in public spaces and penalize people who fail to safely store their weapons.

None of those suggestions can be implemented nationwide without legislation passed by Congress, which typically recoils at gun control measures. Some state legislatures, however, have enacted or may consider some of the surgeon general's proposals. (AP)

Cargo ship leaves Baltimore: The cargo ship Dali headed out of Baltimore for Virginia on Monday, nearly three months after it lost power and crashed into one of the Francis Scott Key bridge's supporting columns and caused the bridge to collapse. The 984-foot Dali started moving shortly

before 8:30 am with four tugboats. The Dali was sailing under its own power

Politics

Burgum backs CO2 pipeline favored by Biden

Trump changes 'tone' before CNN debate

NEW YORK, June 25, (AP): After months of casting President Joe Biden as a shell of a man incapable of putting two sentences together, Donald Trump has changed his tune days before their first debate

"I assume he's going to be somebody that will be a worthy debater," the former president and presumptive Republican nominee said in an appearance on "The All-In" podcast last week.

Imitates

The changed rhetoric marks a dramatic shift from how Trump typically describes the man he will face in a rematch this November. At his rallies and in speeches, Trump typically casts the Democratic incumbent as a "low-IQ individual" who is "the worst, most incompetent, and most corrupt president" in the nation's history, and often imitates Biden appearing lost on stage.

The effort to adjust expectations ahead of Thursday's matchup in Atlanta comes amid concerns from some in his party that Trump has set the bar so low for Biden that he is sure to exceed it. And it underscores the stakes for both men in a race that has appeared largely static for months.

Millions are expected to tune in Thursday, offering a rare opportunity for both sides to try to gain momentum in a contest that will likely be decided by a small fraction of voters in a handful of battleground states.

Trump - who has never admitted he lost fairly to Biden in 2020 and continues to spread false and unproven theories about election fraud - may also be setting up a series of excuses in case he is outperformed by Biden.

"Maybe I'm better off losing the debate," Trump quipped in an interview

with a full crew of 22 and six salvage experts,

The Coast Guard is overseeing the voy-

age and providing a 500-yard safety zone

around the Dali during its trip. (AP)

the US Coast Guard said in a news release.

US judges temporarily halt much of Biden student debt forgiveness plan

TOPEKA, Kan., June 25, (AP): that allow students who borrowed Federal judges in Kansas and Missouri on Monday together blocked much of a Biden administration student loan repayment plan that provides a faster path to cancellation and lower monthly payments for millions of borrowers.

The judges' rulings prevent the US Department of Education from helping many of the intended borrowers ease their loan repayment burdens going forward under a rule set to go into effect July 1. The decisions do not cancel assistance already provided to borrowers.

Kansas, US District Judge Daniel Crabtree ruled in a lawsuit filed by the state's attorney general, Kris Kobach, on behalf of his state and 10 others. In his ruling, Crabtree allowed parts of the program

\$12,000 or less to have the rest of their loans forgiven if they make 10 years' worth of payments, instead of the standard 25. But Crabtree said that the De-

partment of Education won't be allowed to implement parts of the program meant to help students who had larger loans and could have their monthly payments lowered and their required payment period reduced from 25 years to 20 years.

In Missouri, US District Judge John Ross' order applies to different parts of the program than Crabtree's. His order says that the US Department of Education cannot forgive loan balances going forward. He said the department still could lower monthly payments.

with Real America's Voice earlier this month. "I'll make sure he stays. I'll lose the debate on purpose, maybe I'll do something like that."

BISMARCK, ND: North Dakota Gov Doug Burgum is one of Donald Trump's most visible and vocal backers, sprinting around the country to drum up support for the former president's comeback bid while auditioning to be his running mate.

Far from the glare of the campaign trail, however, Burgum is wrestling

with a mammoth carbon dioxide pipeline project in his home state. The \$5.5 billion venture has split North Dakota and left him straddling an awkward political divide as Trump and President Joe Biden offer voters starkly different visions about how to deal with climate

A Republican little known outside North Dakota, Burgum is a serious contender to be Trump's vice-presidential choice. The two-term governor has stood out in the narrowing field of choices due to his executive experience and business savvy.

Team combs for remains: As residents return to a fire-ravaged village in the mountains of southern New Mexico, the mayor on Monday warned them that some parts of Ruidoso remain off limits as special search

along the hardest-hit streets. They're looking for the remains of peo-

ple who are still unaccounted for after the South Fork and Salt fires ripped through the area just days ago, killing at least two people, forcing thousands to flee and destroying more than 1,500 structures. Mayor Lynn Crawford put the number

of missing at 29. Village officials said in a Sunday night update that the search teams have identified potential additional fatalities, but any confirmation will have to be made by investigators. (AP)

Hiker found safe: A hiker missing for 10 days was found safe in the mountains in Northern California, authorities said.

Lukas McClish, 34, left the rural community of Boulder Creek for a hike on June 11 and was reported missing June 16, according to the Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office.

Witnesses heard someone yelling for help on Thursday and searchers were able to locate McClish with drones in the Big Basin Redwoods State Park, more than 7 miles (11 kilometers) from Boulder Creek, the sheriff's office said.

Photos show a dirt-covered McClish embracing family members in an emotional reunion. He was not injured during the 10 days and told KGO-TV he was able to drink water during the ordeal. He said he got lost during what was supposed to be a threehour hike and couldn't recognize some landmarks destroyed by fires. (AP)



Denmark's Crown Prince Christian, (third from left), pose with his parents King Frederik, third from right, Queen Mary, (second from left), and his siblings, (from left), Prince Vincent, Princess Josephine and Princess Isabella after completing his final exam and becoming a graduate from Ordrup Gymnasium, High School, in Copenhagen, Denmark on June 24. (AP)

Lat/Am

Joly gets 35 years

Colombia starts peace talks with rebel group

BOGOTA, Colombia, June 25, (AP): Colombia launched peace talks with the Second Marquetalia rebel group on Monday as the administration of leftist President Gustavo Petro tries to pacify rural areas of the country that have seen rising violence despite efforts to broker ceasefires with various armed groups.

The talks were announced in Caracas, Venezuela in a ceremony that included government delegates and rebel leaders who signed a 2016 peace deal but later took up arms again after saying they had become disillusioned with the implementation of the deal.

'We want to participate in politics without resorting to the use of weapons," said the Second Marquetalia's lead negotiator Walter Mendoza. "The condition for that will be for the government to fulfill its side of the



With an estimated 2,000 fighters, the Second Marquetalia is one of the nation's smaller rebel outfits. The government's decision to begin peace talks with the group has been criticized by Colombian opposition leaders who accuse Petro of being soft on crime.

Negotiations with the Second Marquetalia are controversial because the group is led by members of the former Revolutionary Armed Forces of Co-

lombia, or FARC, who signed the peace deal but took up arms again, as some of them faced drug trafficking

"For the sake of peace I wish good luck to these talks," Humberto de la Calle, a senator who was the government's chief negotiator in the 2016 peace talks with the FARC, wrote on the social media platform X.

"But this sends an awful message to society: which is that cheaters and those who do not keep their word can get ahead.'

Conflicts

Government officials said that Colombia's constitution gives them a mandate to end conflicts through peaceful means.

"None of the current conflict in Colombia began with President Petro," said Armando Novoa, the government's lead negotiator. "But we have an ethical and moral duty to protect victims, communities and people in areas of the country that have long been forgotten.

The Second Marquetalia group is led by Luciano Marin, a former FARC commander who was the group's chief negotiator in the peace talks that led to the disarmament of more than 13,000 rebels fighters.

The former rebels were spared prison sentences and given 10 seats in Colombia's congress as part of the 2016 peace deal, including a senate seat that was awarded to Marin, who is more commonly known by his nom de guerre of Ivan Marquez. But the rebel leader grew weary of the peace deal in 2018, after one of his close comrades, Seuxis Paucias, was arrested by Colombian police on a US arrest warrant, for allegedly conspiring to export 10 tons of cocaine to the United States.

As the investigation closed in on Marin, the rebel commander disappeared from public events, retreated into the jungle and announced the creation of his new rebel group in an August 2019 video where he claimed

he had been betrayed by the government.

Marin has been fighting the Colombian state since then with his Segunda Marquetalia group, but began to hold talks in private last year with officials from the Petro administration at secret locations in Venezuela.

Also:

PRAGUE: Argentina's self-described anarcho-capitalist President Javier Milei wrapped up his brief trip to three European Union countries by visiting the Czech Republic on Monday.

Milei met Czech leaders, including his counterpart, retired Gen. Petr Pavel and conservative Prime Minister Petr Fiala, and gave a speech at a conference on how to deal with an ineffective government.

High on the agenda was the two countries' support for Ukraine, bilateral cooperation in business, technology, defense and other fields and a trade agreement between the European Union and the countries of the Latin American Mercosur trade bloc.

After their meeting, Milei and Pavel made only brief statements and didn't take questions. "We together support (Ukraine) President Volodymyr Zelenskyy against the brutal Russian aggression, and at the same time we agree that Israel has a right to defend itself against terrorism," Milei said through a translator.

Pavel said he believed that Argentina will become in the future one of the global partners of NATO.

"I'm glad that Argentina is ready to take its share of responsibility for the global security," Pavel said. He highlighted the importance of a trade deal between the EU and Mercosur. "Czechia and Argentina are among the countries that are convinced a free and

open trade contributes not just to an economic prosperity but also to security.

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico: A man who once described himself as "king" of a notoriously violent gang in Haiti and is linked to the kidnapping of 16 US citizens was sentenced to 35 years in prison Monday in a federal court in Washington, DC.

Germine Joly, best known as "Yonyon," had pleaded guilty in late January to weapons smuggling and the laundering of ransoms related to the US citizens kidnapped in October 2021, bringing his trial to

The case against Joly is part of an ongoing push by US authorities to stem the smuggling of weapons from the US to Haiti, where gangs control 80% of the capital and have left more than 580,000 people homeless as they continue to pillage neighborhoods in a quest to seize more territory. US officials also are trying to crack down on the kidnapping of US citizens in Haiti, whose ransoms finance the purchase of illegal arms

"The leaders of violent gangs in Haiti that terrorize Americans citizens in order to fuel their criminal activity will be met with the full force of the Justice Department," US Attorney General Merrick B. Garland said in a statement.

Joly, 31, had asked the judge for leniency and forgiveness, with his attorneys requesting that he receive no more than 17.5 years in prison. The attorneys did not immediately return messages for comment.

Joly was co-leader of the 400 Mawozo, which translates roughly to "400 Simpletons," one of Haiti's most powerful gangs. It controls part of Croix-des-Bouquets, a neighborhood in the eastern region of the Port-au-Prince capital and surrounding areas. It also operates along a route that connects the capital with the border city of Jimaní in the Dominican Republic, which shares the island of Hispaniola with Haiti.



South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol, (center), boards the USS Theodore Roosevelt aircraft carrier at the South Korean naval base in Busan, South Korea on June 25. (AP)



Chinese Premier Li Qiang meets with Prime Minister of Vietnam Pham Minh Chinh in Dalian, northeast China's Liaoning Province, June 24, 2024. (Xinhua)



Africa

Ivory Coast flooding kills 24: Flooding and landslides in Ivory Coast's largest city of Abidjan have left at least 24 people dead following a week of heavy rains, four times the usual volume in some cases, authorities said Tuesday.

Flood-related deaths are not uncommon in the West African nation during the rainy season, but according to the Ivorian meteorological agency, the recent rainfall was particularly violent with that more than 200 millimeters (8 inches) in some districts, four times the usual amount in a day.

Informal settlements are particularly vulnerable because of poor storm drainage among homes often built quickly without zoning regulations.

The flooding and landslides have also caused "significant" damage across the city, flooding houses and roads, said the Ivory Coast National Office for Civil Protection. At least 271 people who were trapped after the rains have been successfully rescued, it said. (AP)

Kenya police deployment in Haiti: Hundreds of Kenyan police officers were leaving Monday for Haiti, where they will lead a multinational force against the powerful gangs whose deadly violence spiked this year and helped bring about a change in government.

The deployment is controversial. The government of Kenyan President William Ruto is defying a court's ruling calling it unconstitutional. And critics have expressed concern about the long history of alleged abuses by police officers.

The 400 police officers are the first of the 1,000 that Kenya expects to send for the United Nations-led force in Haiti. Ruto's sendoff ceremony on Monday was closed to the media, but his office shared a speech in which he urged the officers to uphold in-

tegrity. US President Joe Biden, however, thanked Ruto for Kenya's leadership of the multinational force during Ruto's recent state visit to Washington. The United States has agreed to contribute \$300 million to the force, but Biden argued that an American troop presence in Haiti would raise "all kinds of questions that can easily be misrepresented." (AP)

Part of Kenya parliament on fire: Part of Kenya's parliament building was on fire Tuesday as thousands of protesters against a new finance bill entered and legislators fled, in the most direct assault on the government in decades. Journalists saw at least three bodies outside the complex where police had opened fire.

Protesters had demanded that legislators vote against the bill imposing new taxes on a country, East Africa's economic hub,

Asia

Investigators search in factory ruins

'NKorea again flying balloons toward South'

SEOUL, South Korea, June 25, (AP): South Korea said North Korea was flying balloons likely carrying trash across the border Tuesday for a second straight day, despite South Korea's threat to retaliate with anti-Pyongyang propaganda broadcasts at border areas.

The latest round of Cold War-style campaigns between the rival Koreas is flaring after North Korea recently signed a major defense deal with Russia that experts say could embolden the North to direct more provocations at its southern neighbor.

Crossing

South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said the balloons were moving southeast on Tuesday night after crossing the border. It asked the South Korean public not to touch any North Korean balloons that fall to the ground and to report them to police or military au-

It's North Korea's sixth launch of balloons since late May. South Korea said North Korea floated rubbish-carrying balloons on Monday night, but no major damage was reported. In a Tuesday speech marking a Ko-

rean War anniversary, South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol called North Korea's balloon activities "a despicable and irrational provocation.' Later Tuesday, Yoon boarded a vis-

iting U.S. aircraft carrier docked at a southeastern port and told American and South Korean troops there that the two countries' alliance is the world's greatest and can defeat any enemy. Yoon became the first sitting South Korean president to board a U.S. aircraft carrier since 1994.

South Korea's military said North Korea floated about 350 balloons in its Monday night campaign, and about 100 of them eventually landed in South Korean soil, mostly in Seoul and nearby areas. Seoul is about 40-50 kilometers (25-30 miles) away from the border. The military said the trash carried by the North Korean balloons were mostly papers and that no hazardous items were found.

In its earlier balloon launches, North Korea dropped manure, cigarette butts and waste batteries along with cloth scraps and waste papers in various parts of South Korea. No major damage was reported. In response, South Korea redeployed gigantic loudspeakers June 9 along the border for the first time in six years and briefly resumed anti-North Korean propaganda broad-

where frustrations over the high cost of liv-

ing have simmered for years.

The protesters, many of them youth,

outmaneuvered police to enter parliament

shortly after legislators voted to pass the

Aussies cautiously welcome expected plea that could bring Assange 'home'

MELBOURNE, Australia, June 25, (AP): Australian leaders cautiously welcomed an expected plea agree-ment that could set free Julian Assange, who was pursued for years over WikiLeaks' publication of a trove of classified documents.

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said on Tuesday there was nothing to be gained by keeping the Austral-ian incarcerated.

A plane thought to be carrying Assange landed Tuesday in Bangkok as he heads to the Northern Mariana Islands, a US common-wealth in the Pacific midway be-tween Australia and Japan, where he is expected to appear in a US federal court Wednesday local time.

He is expected to plead guilty to an Espionage Act charge of conspiring to unlawfully obtain and disseminate classified national defense information, the U.S. Justice Department said in a letter filed in

Assange is expected to return to Australia if a judge accepts the plea agreement.

Joint Chiefs of Staff spokesperson Lee Sung Joon told reporters Tuesday that the South Korean military is ready to turn on its border loudspeakers again. A written Joint Chiefs of Staff statement said officials would examine unspecified strategic operational circumstances and that broadcasts' resumption would depend on how North Korea acts.

Also:

SEOUL, South Korea: Forensic and other experts combed through the charred ruins of a factory building near South Korea's capital to find the cause of a devastating fire that killed 23 people, mostly Chinese migrant workers, in one of the country's deadliest blazes

More than 100 people were working at the factory in Hwaseong city, just south of Seoul, when the fire tore through it Monday morning. Security cameras showed smoke engulfing the second-floor worksite of the factory, soon after sparks were detected from a site where lithium batteries were stored, fire officials said.

One victim was pronounced dead at a hospital, and fire workers retrieved

protesters allowed opposition legislators

who voted against the bill to walk out of the besieged building.

One person shot dead was wrapped in a

Public support for Assange has grown in Australia during the seven years he has spent avoiding extradition to the United States by hiding in the Ecuadorean Embassy in London and later during his five years in Belmarsh Prison. Albanese has been lobbying since his government was elected in 2022 for the United States to end its prosecution of Assange.

Assange's plight was seen as a test of Albanese's leverage with the administration of US President Joe

Albanese told Parliament that Australian High Commissioner to

the United Kingdom Stephen Smith had flown with Assange from Lon-"The government is certainly aware that Australian citizen Mr

Julian Assange has legal proceedings scheduled in the United States. While this is a welcome development, we recognize that these proceedings are crucial and they're delicate," Albanese told Parliament.

21 bodies from the factory one by one later Monday. An additional body was recovered on Tuesday. Eighteen victims were Chinese, two were South Korean and one was Laotian. The nationalities of the other two dead were being verified.

Many Chinese people, including ethnic Koreans, have migrated to South Korea to find jobs since China and South Korea established diplomatic ties in 1992. Like other migrant laborers from Southeast Asian countries, they often work in factories, construction sites and restaurants, engaging in the so-called "difficult, dangerous and dirty" jobs that are shunned by more affluent South Koreans.

Chinese Ambassador Xing Haiming visited the factory site on Monday night and reportedly expressed condolences to the victims. Police were extracting DNA samples from the dead bodies and their potential relatives to confirm their relations, according to fire officials.

One factory worker remains out of contact, and officials say the body discovered Tuesday likely belongs to that person. Eight were injured, two of them in serious condition.

member of the ruling party, was also briefly on fire. The office is located near parlia-

extinguish the fire.

Protesters could be heard shouting, "We're coming for every politician." (AP)

ment. Police water cannons were used to

EU sanctions 6 in Sudan: The EU Foreign Affairs Council Monday adopted sanctions against six individuals responsible for activities undermining the stability and political transition of Sudan, where fighting is still ongoing between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) and their respective affiliated

On the RSF side, the new listings include Abdulrahman Juma Barakallah, a General commanding the RSF in West Darfur who is responsible for committing atrocities and other abuses, said the Council in a statement, which is meeting today in Luxembourg. The sanctioned individuals also include the RSF' financial adviser, as well as a prominent tribal leader of the Mahamid clan affiliated with the RSF in West Darfur, it noted.

On the SAF side, sanctions target the Director General of Defense Industry System, a company already sanctioned by the EU, and the Commander of the Sudanese Air Force Al-Tahir Mohammad Al-Awad Al-Amin, for their responsibility in the indiscriminate aerial bombing of densely populated residential areas since the beginning of the conflict. (KUNA)



Kenyan flag.

Those representing the armed group 'Segunda Marquetalia - EB,' (from left), Francisco Toloza, Walter Mendoza, and Ivan Marquez, sit with Venezuelan Foreign Minister Yvan Gil, (far right), during the start of peace talks with the Colombian government in Caracas, Venezuela on June 24. (AP)

oil plunges

The price of Kuwaiti oil went down by 26 cents to USD 86.88 per barrel on Monday in comparison to USD 87.14 pb last Friday, said the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) on Tuesday.

At the global level, the price of the Brent crude went up by 77 cents to USD 86.01 per barrel, the same occurred with the West Texas Intermediate, which went up by 90 cents to USD 81.63 pb. (KUNA)

Transparency in Kuwait's oil sector is imperative, particularly concerning technical capabilities and current methodologies aimed at achieving ambitious production goals, reports Al-Jarida daily. There's a pressing need to develop comprehensive production and refining strategies through long-term sectoral planning.

Experts, during an investigative approach by the daily, unanimously agree that the Oil Minister should engage international oil companies to ensure timely achievement of production targets in exploration and production. Privatizing non-essential sector activities is crucial due to

their interconnected nature and the sector's numerous challenges, including inadequate technical capacity and outdat-

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ed technology in managing oil fields. The sector's organizational structure remains fragile, with unclear responsibilities among the ministry, corporation, and oil companies, necessitating radical reform beyond mere restructuring.

Experts emphasize that strategic planning and developmental initiatives -- such as production increases, refinery development, and foreign investment expansion -- must be more than just rhetoric to yield tangible results. Despite formal independence and structured governance, internal competition among multiple companies in extraction and refining creates functional imbalances

They stress the urgent need for Kuwait to prioritize

increasing crude oil production in line with current field conditions, questioning whether local companies can meet these challenges alone or require collaboration with international firms.

Jassim Al-Saadoun argues that while addressing these issues belatedly is better than perpetuating ambiguity, critical questions must guide transparency efforts, including reasons for the significant rise in production costs and the role of national versus contracted labor in sector operations. He insists on accurate disclosure of Kuwait's oil reserves and reservoir status, and scrutiny of ministerial appointments to ensure they serve the sector's competitiveness.

Market Movements

				Change	Closing pts
	SAUDI	-	TASI	+33.73	11,730.77
١	JAPAN	-	Nikkei 225	+368.50	39,173.15
A	PHILIPPINES	-	PSEi	+26.59	6,299.05

PAKISTAN

Change Closing pts -1.43 3,998.82 -309.22 77,922.88

3usiness

Kuwait's oil sector needs transparency for ambitious goals

Information technology, consumer staples, and industrials sectors witness highest number of transactions

Brookfield leads GCC M&A transactions with \$2 bln deal for GEMS Education, report Markaz

Top 5 M&A Deals by Reported Value* - Q1 2024

KUWAIT CITY, June 25: Brookfield Asset Management Limited (Brookfield) leads the top GCC M&A transactions during Q1 2024 as per a report recently issued by the Investment Banking Department at Kuwait Financial Centre "Markaz". The report highlights the USD 2.0 billion transaction that was announced by the Canadian investment firm, highlighting that they are exploring the acquisition of a majority stake in UAE-based GEMS Education from CVC Capital Partners.

In the second position, Lyondell Bassell Industries Holding B.V. (Lyondell Bassell) secured the secondlargest transaction by signing an agreement to acquire a 35% stake in Saudi-based National Petroleum Industrial Company (NATPET) from Alujain Corporation, valued at USD 498.2 million. National Corporation for Tourism & Hotels (NCTH) took on the following transaction, penning a proposal to Alpha Dhabi Holding expressing its interest in acquiring 100% of ADH Hospitality RSC Limited, Murban (BVI) Holding Inc and Hill View Resorts (Seychelles) Limited by way of a share swap, where NCTH will issue 1.3 billion shares at par value of AED 1.0 per share, implying a transaction value of USD 248.8 million. Moreover, following the successful acquisition of a 46% stake in Gulf Insurance Group, Fairfax (Barbados) International Corporation (Fairfax) has issued a mandatory tender offer to acquire the remaining 10% not owned by Fairfax or any related party for KD 1.9 per share, implying a transaction value of up to USD 179.2 million. Lastly, Gulf Islamic Investments aims to expand its footprint in the Saudi Arabian healthcare market by acquiring a majority stake in Abeer Medical Company for an estimated USD 159.8 million.

GCC M&A Decline

According to Markaz's report, the GCC market sealed a total of 48 closed transactions throughout Q1 2024, which implies a decline of 13% year over year. United Arab Emirates claimed the lion's share with 21 closed transactions, followed by Saudi Arabia, closing a total of 20 transactions. Apart from Saudi Arabia, all other markets in the region remained stable or saw a decline in their M&A activities

Acquirers and Targets

Consistent with historical trends, the majority of trans-

Target Company	Target Country	Buyer	Buyer Country	Percent Sought	Value (USDmn)	Status
GEMS Education	United Arab Emirates	Brookfield Asset Management Limited	Canada	÷	2,000	Announce d
National Petrochemical Industrial Company	Saudi Arabia	LyondellBassell Industries Holding B.V.	United States	35	498	Announce d
ADH Hospitality RSC Limited; Hill View Resorts (Seychelles) Limited	United Arab Emirates	National Corporation for Tourism and Hotels	United Arab Emirates	100	249*	Announce d
Gulf Insurance Group K.S.C.P.	Kuwait	Fairfax (Barbados) International Corporation	Canada	10	179	Announce d
Abeer Medical Company	Saudi Arabia	Gulf Islamic Investments	United Arab Emirates		160	Announce d

Source: S&P Capital IQ, GCC Stock Exchanges, Local Newspapers, Reuters, Markaz Analysis. These transactions were selected based on available information.

* The transaction value is an estimate and was calculated based on the following assumptions: (1) The buyer intends to issue 1.3 billion shares and (2) The shares are expected to be issued at a price of AED 1.0 per share.

actions completed in Q1 of both 2024 and 2023 were carried out by acquirers from the GCC. Specifically, during the first quarter of 2024, GCC acquirers took the lead, being responsible for a substantial 65% of the total completed transactions, leaving foreign acquirers with a 33% share. Note, the remaining 2% represents transactions for

which the buyer information was not available. GCC acquirers also dominated the market during the first quarter of 2023 as they accounted for 76% of the total number of closed transactions with foreign counterparts contributing a noteworthy 24%

Furthermore, GCC acquirers primarily invested in compa-

nies within their local markets and in international markets, and targeted regional companies to a lesser extent. Throughout Q1 2024, GCC acquirers closed a total of 31 transactions within their local markets, compared to 42 transactions in Q1 2024. In addition, GCC acquirers sealed 23 cross-border transactions throughout Q1 2024, relative to 26 cross-border transactions in Q1 2023. It's noteworthy that UAE buyers spearheaded the cross-border activity, representing approximately 65% of the total number of closed cross-border transactions, while Bahrain and Kuwait followed, contributing 13% and 9%, respectively.

Foreign Buyers

Shifting focus, it is worth mentioning that GCC targets experienced an increase in foreign buyer interest during this period. They concluded a total of 16 transactions, which was higher than the 13 transactions in the preceding year, marking a 23% year-over-year increase. Notably, UAE targets continued to be the prime attraction for foreign buyers, who sealed 10 transactions involving Emirati targets in the first quarter of 2024.

Sectorial View

Moreover, the deals concluded in Q1 2024 were directed towards companies spanning diverse sectors, emphasizing a consistent trend observed in recent quarters. That said, the , Consumer Staples, Industrials and Information Technology sectors stood out as the most active, collectively accounting for 42% of the transactions completed during this period.

Deals in the Pipeline

By the end of Q1 2024, there were a total of 33 announced transactions in the pipeline, marking a substantial increase compared to Q1 2023, which ended with 22 transactions in the pipeline. The majority of these transactions involved United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia targets, who each accounted for 39% of the total number of announced deals, followed by Kuwait, Bahrain, and Oman at 12%,6%, and 3% respectively. Apart from Kuwait and Oman, all the other markets experienced an increase in activity compared to the same period in 2023, noting that Qatar had no announced transactions in the pipeline for both periods.

Boursa performance reflects cautious investor sentiment

138.6 mln shares traded in 12,530 transactions

By Mahmoud Shendi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY. June 25: The Boursa Kuwait experienced a decline in its general index and market value due to various factors, as outlined in the recent trading session:

General Index Performance -- The general index fell by 14.8 points, reaching 6,994 points, which represents a decrease of 0.2%. This decline was influenced by strong selling pressure in the market.

Trading Activity -- During the trading session, 138.6 million shares were traded across 12,530 transactions. The total value of these transactions amounted to 34.9 million dinars (approximately 106.4 million dollars).

Market Value -- The market value of the Boursa (Kuwait Stock Exchange) decreased by about 87 million dinars, settling at 41.296 billion dinars. In the previous session, it was 41.383 billion dinars

Sector-Specific Impact -- Investors, both individual and institutional, were particularly cautious and awaiting the financial results of companies for the first half of the year. This anticipation was especially keen regarding bank

Segment Performance -- The main market index decreased by 42.8 points, reaching 5,907 points, a decline of 0.7%. The Premier Market index also saw a decrease of 8.1 points, reaching 7,620 points, which corresponds to a

Kuwait leads export surge

GCC-Turkey exports drop by 47%, imports increase 30%

KUWAIT CITY, June 25: In April 2024, the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries' exports to Turkey totaled \$804.64 million, marking a significant decrease of 47% from \$1.527 billion in April 2023, reports Al-Seyassah daily quoting Mubasher citing Turkish government data.

the GCC countries saw a notable increase of 30%, reaching approximately \$1.016 billion compared to \$782 million in April last year.

Meanwhile, imports from Turkey to

This resulted in a trade deficit of \$211.36 million for the GCC countries in April 2024, in contrast to a surplus of \$745.81 million in the same month

Kuwait, specifically experienced a substantial rise in exports to Turkey, with April 2024 figures reaching \$14.25 million, up from about \$2.02 million in April 2023, reflecting an

decrease of 0.11%.

the transactions.

Oman ranked third with exports amounting to \$104.52 million, while its imports from Turkey declined

\$31.6 million in April 2023.

increase of over 605%.

sponding period last year.

previous year's exports.

lion in April 2023.

In the meantime, the daily said, Kuwait's imports from Turkey

decreased by 10 percent to \$36.22 mil-

lion from \$40.26 million in the corre-

The UAE led in exports to Turkey,

The UAE's imports from Turkey

Saudi Arabia followed with exports

accounting for 50% of the total with

\$409.56 million, a decrease from the

surged by 38% to \$599.38 million in

April 2024 compared to \$434.89 mil-

valued at \$201.55 million, down from

\$301 million in April 2023, constitut-

ing 25% of total GCC exports to

by 28.76% to \$22.51 million from

Sector Trading -- Significant trading

The main market segment traded

activities were observed across various

sectors, with notable sums involved in

53.8 million shares valued at 8.2 mil-

lion dinars (about 25 million dollars).

The Premier Market segment traded

84.8 million shares worth 26.7 million

The recent performance of the

dinars (approximately 81.4 million

Boursa Kuwait reflects cautious investor sentiment amid anticipation of corporate earnings reports, particularly from banks. The decline in indices and market value underscores the current market dynamics and the impact of investor sentiment on trading activities.

Cryptocurrency sees declines amid investor caution

KUWAIT CITY, June 25: Cryptocurrencies experienced further declines in Monday morning trading, driven by waning interest among investors in risky assets, reports Al-Jarida daily.

The Bitcoin dropped by 4.67% to 61,100.86 points, Ethereum fell by 5.50% to \$3,284.85, and Ripple declined by 1.70% to 47.15 cents.

This trend comes amidst uncertainty surrounding the Federal Reserve's monetary policy, prompting cautiousness among investors regarding Bitcoin funds listed on US stock exchanges. The Bloomberg data shows a composite index of the top 100 crypto assets by market value decreased by approximately 5 percent over the past week, marking its most significant decline since April.

Last week marked the cryptocurrency market's second-worst performance of 2024, reflecting subdued demand for Bitcoin funds amid lingering uncertainty over US monetary policy.

In contrast to this cautious sentiment, Standard Chartered Bank is reportedly gearing up to launch a department dedicated to trading Bitcoin and Ethereum. This move positions the bank as one of the first global institutions to engage directly in spot trading of cryptocurrencies.

The new department, slated to operate within the bank's foreign exchange trading unit, is set to commence operations soon in London, according to sources familiar with the matter who requested anonymity. While banks like Goldman Sachs

have been active in trading cryptocurrency derivatives, stringent regula-tions have historically limited direct involvement in underlying assets.

The Basel Committee on Banking Supervision's requirement for a 1250% risk weight on un-hedged cryptocurrency investments underscores the challenges banks face in this sector. In an email statement, Standard Chartered emphasized its collaboration with regulatory authorities to meet institutional clients' demand for Bitcoin and Ethereum trading.

Partnership aims to boost Kuwait-Thailand commerce

Kuwait Airways and Thai Airways announce codeshare partnership

KUWAIT CITY, June 25: As part of its tireless efforts to diversify its network around the world, Kuwait Airways announced the signing of a codeshare partnership with Thai Airways International Public Company Limited (THAI), by which THAI's code will be used for flights between Kuwait and Bangkok, and also from Kuwait to destinations in Europe including Rome and Athens, and Kuwait national carrier's code will be used for THAI flights between Bangkok and Kuala Lumpur starting 26th June, 2024. The agreement will take the partnership between the two carriers to new heights, while providing greater opportunities to passengers in Kuwait and Thailand.

Captain Ahmad M. Alkreebani, Chief Executive Officer, Kuwait Airways, stated, "Kuwait Airways is pleased to sign this important agreement with Thai Airways which will enhance commercial and tourism relations between Kuwait and Thailand. Both Kuwait Airways and THAI will work closely to offer the best services to passengers and improve customer experience.'

Alkreebani added, "Passengers will be able to book these flights directly through our websites or the travel agents' reservation systems. Furthermore, this codeshare agreement will further enhance the relationship between the two airlines and between the two friendly countries, Kuwait and Thailand."

Alkreebani continued by saying, "Kuwait Airways is keen to provide a wide network of new destinations and additional options to its valued passengers in response to its growing demand for sought-after destinations such as Bangkok, Kuala Lumpur and others, providing various diverse opportunities for passengers.'

Alkreebani concluded by saying, "The agreement will provide better travel options and connectivity to the customers of Kuwait Airways and THAI. Both airlines have also agreed to explore additional possibilities of cooperation. I extend my congratulations to the Kuwait Airways and THAI team members for their contribution in finalizing the agreement.

Mr. Chai Eamsiri, THAI Airways Chief Executive Officer, said "It is with great pleasure to establish the codeshare partnership with Kuwait Airways, one of the oldest airlines in the Gulf Cooperation Council and the region.'

Eamsiri stated, "The codeshare agreement will offer passengers greater choices in traveling between Bangkok and Kuwait, with access to other parts of the Middle East, North Africa



Kuwait Airways and Thai Airways sign codeshare partnership.

Alkreebani:

■ An important agreement to enhance commercial relations between the two countries

Eamsiri:

■ The agreement offers passengers greater choices in trave-

and the European countries. We look forward to developing the relationship further and introducing more addedvalue benefits in the future enhancing our seamless connectivity and offering passengers with more options and ex-

Eamsiri added that subject to approval from relevant authorities, Thai Airways in cooperation with Kuwait Airways will providevarious options for valued passengers departing from Kuwait to destinations in the Middle East and beyond such as Amman, Dubai, Jeddah, Riyadh, Casablanca, and Cairo operated by Kuwait Airways, while routes in Korea and Far East as well as within Thailand are operated by THAI.

About Kuwait Airways

Kuwait Airways (KAC), the national carrier of Kuwait, established in 1954, owns a young and diverse fleet consisting of the latest type of aircraft from the largest aircraft manufacturing companies in the world, namely Airbus and Boeing. The fleet is equipped with

the latest technology and advanced features that keep pace with the best international aviation standards, in addition to state-of-the-art entertainment programs and seating specifications. To suit the customers of the national carrier, the company has the best competencies and talents working in the region from various technical specializations, with experience and efficiency. In addition, Kuwait Airways strives to attain the highest levels of quality by assisting its valued customers and to develop the company's operational system in line with the latest improvements in the commercial air transport sector. For more information about Kuwait Airways, visit www.kuwaitairways.com About THAI

Established in 1960, Thai Airways International Public Company Limited currently operates flights to 61 destinations with a fleet of 73 aircraft. More information about THAI can be found on thaiairways.com or social media ac-

Dr. Saad Al-Nahedh elected an independent member

Zain holds Ordinary General Assembly, elects Al-Kharafi as Board Vice Chairman



Some of the attendees of the Ordinary General Assembly.



Bader Al-Kharafi



Dr. Saad Al-Nahedh

Board of Directors.

KUWAIT CITY, June 25: Zain Group today held an Ordinary General Assembly at its headquarters with a quorum of 76%, whereby the assembly's proceedings witnessed the addition of a new item, related to electing a member of the Board of Directors to complete the term of the board member who had submitted his resignation previously.

The Ordinary General Assembly agreed to include this new item on the agenda and accordingly, Zain Chairman Osamah Al Furaih, opened the floor for voting on this item, along with the main item previously included on the Assembly's agenda. The main item was to elect an additional member of the Board of Directors, as a second independent director, in order to fulfill regulatory requirements.

The Ordinary General Assembly elected Oztel Holdings SBC Limited as a complementary member of the Board of Directors, which in turn named Bader Nasser Al-Kharafi as its representative on the Board of Directors. The Ordinary General Assembly also elected Dr. Saad Ahmed Al-Nahedh as an independent member of the Board of Directors, and Fahd Abdel Al-Rahman Al-Mukhaizeem as an alternate board member.

After the Assembly, Zain Group's Board of Directors met,



Zain Kuwait HQ building.

and the Board elected Bader Nasser Al-Kharafi as Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors.

On May 22, 2024, the Group held an Extraordinary General Assembly that witnessed the Assembly's approval of the Board of Directors' recommendation to approve the amendment of Article 15 of the Company's Articles of Association in accordance with the requirements of Article 2-2 of Module Fifteen "Corporate Governance".

Article 15 now stipulates: "The Company shall be managed by a Board of Directors consisting of ten members. Each shareholder, whether a natural person or a legal

entity, may appoint representatives to the board in proportion to the shares that they own. The General Assembly shall elect the remaining members by secret ballot. The number of Board members appointed in said manner shall be deducted from the aggregate number of Board members that are elected. Shareholders having representatives on the Board of Directors may not participate with other shareholders in electing the remaining members of the Board of Directors, except in relation to those shares that exceed the percentage used for the appointment of their representatives to the

Concern mounts about attacks

EU targeting Russia's LNG ghost fleet with sanctions

BRUSSELS, June 25, (AP): The European Union on Monday slapped new sanctions on Russia over its war on Ukraine, targeting Moscow's shadow fleet of tankers moving liquefied natural gas through Europe as well as several companies.

At a meeting in Luxembourg, where the sanctions were endorsed, EU foreign ministers also agreed on new financial support to help Ukraine defend itself. Some expressed concern about a rise in hybrid attacks by Russia - including allegations of election interference, cyber-attacks and sabotage.

In an effort to push Russia into using more costly routes for energy purposes, the ministers said in a statement. the EU will "forbid reloading services of Russian LNG in EU territory for the purpose of transshipment operations to

third countries. The EU estimates that about 4-to-6 billion cubic meters (141 billion-212 billion cubic feet) of Russian LNG was shipped to third countries via EU ports last year. Russia is suspected of running a "ghost fleet" of up to 400 ships to evade sanctions and keep up the flow of energy earnings so that it can finance the war.

The measures will target ship-toship and ship-to-shore transfers as well as reloading operations. It also involves a crackdown on the re-export of LNG to third countries via the EU, plus a ban on new investments to help Russia complete LNG projects it is

Scores of new "entities" - often companies, banks, agencies and other organizations - were added to the EU's list, including some in China, Turkey and the United Arab Emirates. Many are accused of circumventing the bloc's sanctions or providing sensitive equipment to Russia.

More than 50 officials are also being targeted with asset freezes, as well as travel bans. Russia's President Vladimir Putin, Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and scores of lawmakers and several oligarchs are among more than 1,700 people already listed by the EU.

Over 400 entities previously hit include companies working in the military, aviation, shipbuilding and machinery sectors, the Wagner mercenary group, political parties and banks. Around 210 billion euros (\$225 billion) worth of Russian Central Bank assets are blocked in the EU.

After chairing the meeting, EU for-eign policy chief Josep Borrell said that "Putin wants to prove that Ukraine is vulnerable, and we have to prove that we will support Ukraine.

Borrel reached to provide Ukraine with 1.4 billion euros (\$1.5 billion) in July, and a further 1 billion euros (\$1.1 billion) by the end of the year, to boost its stocks of air defense equipment and ammunition, and to help bolster the country's defense industry.

The money would be drawn from profits made from frozen Russian assets held in Europe, he said.

Earlier, some ministers had insisted that action must be taken to end hybrid attacks in Europe by Russia that take place in a "grey zone" just below the threshold of military action which are aimed at destabilizing Ukraine's backers.

Finnish Foreign Minister Elina Valtonen said that "there's a plethora of actions they have been undertaking against European countries." Finland has closed border crossings with Russia, blaming the Kremlin for an orchestrated campaign exploiting migrants.

"There is no observer status in Europe anymore to Russia's aggression. We are all victims of Russia's aggression," she said. "It is crucial that we keep on aiding Ukraine because Russia only understands power."

Apple first target of EU's digital competition rules

Rulebook has tech giants on radar

LONDON, June 25, (AP): European Union regulators on Monday leveled their first charges under the bloc's new digital competition rulebook, accusing Apple of preventing app makers from pointing users to cheaper options outside its App Store.

The European Commission said that according to the preliminary findings of its investigation, the restrictions that the iPhone maker imposes on developers using its mobile App Store had breached the 27-nation bloc's Digital Mar-

The rulebook, also known as the DMA, is a sweeping set of regulations aimed at preventing tech "gatekeepers" from cornering digital markets under threat of heavy financial penalties. The commission opened an initial round of investigations after it took effect in March, including a separate ongoing probe into whether Apple is doing enough to allow iPhone users to easily change web browsers, and other cases involving Google and Meta.

Apple has been facing pressure on both sides of the Atlantic to tear down some of the competitive barriers around its lucrative iPhone franchise.

The U.S. Justice Department filed a sweeping antitrust lawsuit against Apple this year, accusing it of illegally monopolizing the smartphone market and boxing out competitors, stifling innovation and keeping prices artificially high. By the time that case was filed, Apple had already started to comply with a U.S. court order enabling links to alternative payment systems within iPhone apps, but a judge has expressed frustration with the company's approach and has indicated may changes may be

App makers such as Spotify had complained for years about Apple's requirement that subscriptions only be bought through iOS apps, allowing the company to take a commission of up to 30%. Those grievances culminated in European regulators slapping Apple with a \$2 billion fine for unfairly favoring its music streaming service over Spotify and other rivals.

Under the DMA's provisions, app developers must be allowed to inform customers of cheaper purchasing options and direct them to those offers.

The commission, the bloc's executive arm, said App Store rules "prevent app developers from freely steering consumers to alternative channels for offers and content."

Apple now has a chance to respond to the findings. The commission must make a final decision on Apple's compliance by March 2025. The company could face fines worth up to 10% of its global revenue, which could amount to billions of euros, or daily penalties.

The regulatory tensions prompted Apple to recently raise the specter of excluding the European market from a package of new artificial intelligence features coming to iPhones because the



The logo of Apple is illuminated at a store in the city center in Munich, Germany, on Dec. 16, 2020. European Union regulators have accused Apple of breaking new rules on digital competition by preventing software developers on its App Store from steering users to other venues. (AP)

China to create new 'consumption' scenarios to tap consumer demand

BEIJING, June 25, (Xinhua): China is moving to foster new consumption scenarios in multiple sectors, including tourism, automobiles and electronics, aiming to boost consumer demand and promote the steady growth of con-

According to the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), the country's top economic planner, China will expand its visa-free transit policy, loosen vehicle purchase restrictions and spur intelligent, AIpowered electronics consumption.

The country will include more countries in the visa-free transit policy and increase inbound flights from major passenger source countries to optimize its entry and exit measures, stated a circular jointly issued by the NDRC and four other government bodies on Monday.

To further facilitate the travel experience of overseas tourists, China will launch additional high-quality inbound travel products and services.

Efforts should be made to improve street signs in foreign languages in public places such as popular tourist attractions, restaurants, hotels and airports, the circular noted.

It suggested incorporating multilingual services into map and navigation applications and enhancing ride-hail-

In terms of payment services, China

will promote the acceptance of overseas bank cards in various venues and stores, enabling easier access to dining, accommodation, transportation, ticket purchases and reservations for international visitors to the country, according

Chinese cities with restrictions on vehicle purchases are encouraged to ease these limitations and provide additional quotas for vehicle purchases. Local governments are encouraged to support vehicle replacement and renewal when conditions allow.

The circular noted that efforts will be made to steadily promote the commercialization of autonomous driving and new scenarios for advanced smart driving.

Automobile-related products and services will be enriched in diverse scenarios, such as car races, camping and car modification. The country will also further enhance the safe and convenient trading of used cars.

Furthermore, China will support the consumption of new-generation hightech electronics, such as smart wearable devices and AI-powered humanoid

The circular said that efforts would be made to facilitate human-computer interaction by promoting the development of technologies like flexible displays, supercharging, AI assistants and on-device large models.

Canada to start '30-day' consultation to slap surtax on Chinese electric vehicles ing unfair competition from China's

TORONTO, June 25, (AP): Canada's government is investigating whether to impose a surtax on imports of Chinese-made electric ve-

A 30-day consultation on the issue will begin on July 2 to counter what Deputy Prime Minister Chrystia Freeland said Monday is a clear effort by Chinese companies to generate a global oversupply.

Canada's move comes weeks after both the United States and the European Commission announced plans to impose higher import tariffs on Chinese EVs this summer.

"Our automotive sector supports nearly 550,000 good paying Canadian jobs," Freeland said. "Canadian workers and the auto sector are fac-

company believes the new rules within

But the European commission is

keeping the pressure on Apple, simulta-

neously opening a new investigation

into contractual terms that it's offering

Regulators zeroed in on a "core tech-

nology fee" of 50 euro cents (54 cents)

that Apple is now charging developers

for each time their apps are download-

ed and installed from outside Apple's

App Store. The DMA's provisions

open the way for alternative app stores

The commission said the the new

terms are a "condition to access some

of the new features enabled by the

DMA." Rivals had criticized the fee,

saying it would deter many existing

to give consumers more choice.

the region are too onerous.

app developers.

on what is driving China's surging EV exports, including unfair market practices as well as labor and environmental standards In addition to a surtax, the consultation will consider whether Canada

intentional state directed policy of

overcapacity that is undermining Canada's EV sector ability to com-

pete in domestic and global markets.'

The consultation will seek input

should change which cars are eligible for the federal EV purchase rebate worth up to \$5,000 Canadian (\$3,661) per vehicle. It will also look at whether to

expand investment restrictions in

free apps, which don't pay any fees,

Canada. Right now the only Chinese-

made EVs imported into Canada are from Tesla, made at the company's Shanghai factory. There are no Chinese-branded EVs sold or imported at the moment.

Freeland said Canada will act in concert with its allies in the United States and the European Union. She noted North America has an integrated auto sector, and said her government would ensure Canada doesn't become a dumping ground for Chinese oversupply.
U.S. President Joe Biden has

said Chinese government subsidies for EVs and other consumer goods ensure that Chinese companies don't have to turn a profit, giving them an unfair advantage in global

from jumping ship. "We are concerned Apple's new

business model makes it too hard for app developers to operate as alternative marketplaces & reach their end users on iOS," the European Commissioner for Competition, Margrethe Vestager, said on social media.

Apple Inc. said over the past several months, it "has made a number of changes to comply with the DMA in response to feedback from developers and the European Commission.'

"We are confident our plan complies with the law, and estimate more than 99% of developers would pay the same or less in fees to Apple under the new business terms we created," the company said in a statement. "All developers doing business in the EU on the App Store have the opportunity to utilize the capabilities that we have introduced, including the ability to direct app users to the web to complete purchases at a very competitive rate.

The company said it will "continue to listen and engage" with the commis-

The EU had been carrying out a similar investigation since 2020 into whether Apple's in-app purchasing system and restrictions violated Brussels' antitrust rules. But "to avoid multiple investigations into the very same conduct," that probe is being shut down to focus on the investigation under the DMA, which clearly spells out what Apple can't do, the commission said

In collaboration with Kuwait International Airport and Directorate General for Civil Aviation

stc welcomes returning pilgrims at Kuwait International Airport's Terminal 4

KUWAIT CITY, June 25: Kuwait Telecommunications Company - stc, a world-class digital leader providing innovative services and platforms to customers, enabling the digital transformation in Kuwait, welcomed arriving pilgrims at Kuwait International Airport's Terminal 4 from Makkah. The initiative, organized in collaboration with Kuwait International Airport and the Directorate General for Civil Aviation (DGCA) and Incheon Korea for Airports Services- T4, for the 3rd year in a row, comes as part of the activities organized under stc's extensive corporate social responsibility (CSR) program in support of the community.

Representatives from stc, in collaboration with the staff of Kuwait International Airport and the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) and Incheon Korea for Airports Services T4 welcomed returning Pilgrims from Mecca with coffee and dates. Gifts were distributed to them in cooperation with "Tateera' when they arrived. The gesture celebrates those who have completed their pilgrimage and are now return-



The public relations team of stc welcome arriving pilgrims.

ing to Kuwait. stc's special welcome comes as a reoccurring initiative that the Company organizes in recognition of this special time of the year, primarily focusing on supporting the local community in diverse ways.

In line with its CSR framework, stc aims to continuously serve as a contributing member of the community by acknowledging and celebrating the achievements of citizens and residents. With community focus as a key pillar of its extensive CSR program, stc has built a strong network of partners that have helped expand its reach and broaden its initiatives to support the Kuwaiti society.

As a pioneer in Kuwait's telecom sector, stc believes in the crucial role that companies play in empowering the community and strengthening the economy. By implementing its CSR strategy, stc spares no effort in achieving its objectives to positively impact society. The Company will continue to form fruitful collaborations and strategic partnerships with local entities and businesses of various sizes, creating a larger lasting

În this regard, stc extends its gratitude to Kuwait International Airport, DGCA, and Incheon Korea for Airports Services T4 and all those who contributed to arranging the special welcome for the returning pilgrims. The Company also highlighted that it will continue to show its support and dedication to the community by organizing, participating or sponsoring initiatives that align with its strategic CSR objectives and pillars.



DAI poster

Grand prize of KD 2,000 awarded at AlDirwaza account event

KIB promotes digital banking experience at Al Khiran Mall

KUWAIT CITY, June 25: To mark the occasion of Eid Al-Adha, Kuwait International Bank (KIB) recently held a promotional event at Al Khiran Mall, featuring a dynamic booth that allowed visitors to open an AlDirwaza account and be rewarded with instant gifts.

Over the course of two days, mall visitors were given the opportunity to spin the wheel to win more than 400 prizes from a wide range of vendors. In addition to the instant prizes, all participants who opened an AlDirwaza account automatically entered a special draw, with one lucky winner walking away with a grand prize of KD 2,000.

Commenting on the event, Abdulaziz Al-Shammari, the Head of Central Sales at KIB, said: "We were delighted to bring this engaging and rewarding experience to Al Khiran Mall. Our new customers witnessed hands-on the ease and convenience of our digital banking experience while being offered fantastic rewards and a chance to win a substantial cash prize. We extend our thanks to everyone who joined us and took advantage of this unique opportunity.

On his part, Abdulaziz Althawab, Assistant Manager of Marketing and Corporate Communications at KIB, "This event underscored our commitment to providing innovabanking solutions, enhancing customer engagement, and rewarding customer loyalty. With a focus



KIB team promotes digital banking experience at event.

on digital transformation, we sought to provide a unique experience at the booth, allowing visitors to easily register new accounts through KIB's digital onboarding system. This seamless process enabled customers to open an AlDirwaza account in just a few simple steps

The AlDirwaza account is a savings account for individual customers, based on the Wakala investment principle, launched by KIB as one of its banking products for individuals.

The account is currently the best of its kind in the sector, with annual expected profits of up to 2% disbursed on a monthly basis, where the customer gets an expected profit of 2% for the first 3 months from the account opening date and up to 1% expected rate

The expected profits are automatically deposited into the customer's account within the first day of the beginning of each month. Al Dirwaza account holders are eligible to enter the weekly, monthly and annual draws on the condition of maintaining at least KD 100 in their account.

It is worth mentioning that KIB is dedicated to providing innovative and customer-centric banking solutions. With a strong focus on digital transformation, the Bank aims to enhance the banking experience for its customers through cutting-edge technology and exceptional service that meet all their needs, stemming from its main slogan, "Bank for Life"

Kuwait vision 2035 advances with innovative risk management training

KIBS & LIBF complete risk management leaders programme in London

KUWAIT CITY, June 25: The Institute of Banking Studies Kuwait (KIBS) and The London Institute of Banking & Finance (LIBF) are proud to announce the successful completion of the Risk Management Leaders Programme held in London. This groundbreaking initiative marks a significant milestone in enhancing the capabilities of banking and financial professionals, in line with Kuwait Vision 2035.

The programme, designed to provide comprehensive training on the multifaceted risk environment, included an interactive series of sessions focusing on post-pandemic risks, cyber and digital threats, geopolitical challenges, ESG, and climate-related risks. Over a two-week period, participants engaged in trainer-led workshops, role play, case studies, guest speaker sessions, and site visits, including notable visits to Moody's and Starling Bank.

Eng. Rana AlNibarai, Director General at the Institute of Banking Studies Kuwait, commented, "This programme represents a pivotal step towards realising Kuwait Vision 2035 by investing in our human capital and fostering a culture of excellence in risk management. Our collaboration with LIBF has empowered our professionals with the



KIBS contributes to human capital development for Kuwait Vision 2035 through the LIBF Risk Management Leaders Programme.

knowledge and skills necessary to navigate the complexities of the modern financial landscape.

Ehsan Razavizadeh, Managing Director of MENA and Asia at LIBF, added, "We are delighted to partner with IBS Kuwait in delivering this essential training programme. By equipping participants with practical skills and insights, we are helping to cultivate a new generation of agile leaders who can drive innovation and maintain stability in the banking and financial

A highlight of the programme was the visit to Moody's, to learn more about how they enable individuals and organisations to decode complexity and unlock opportunities through their extensive data capabilities, tools and technologies which span credit ratings research and insights, information services and decision

solutions. The programme also featured a visit to Starling Bank, where participants delved into the Starling story, gaining an overview of Engine, the technology underpinning Starling's operations. They also witnessed demonstrations of key processes such as onboarding and explored how Starling manages risk

through these processes. Kuwait Vision 2035 places a strong emphasis on improving education in-stitutions as part of its commitment to human capital development. By raising educational standards and fostering creativity and research, Kuwait aims to nurture a highly skilled workforce capable of driving national progress. The Risk Management Leaders Programme aligns perfectly with this vision, ensuring that Kuwaiti professionals are wellprepared to tackle future challenges and

opportunities in the financial sector. Risk management has become increasingly critical in recent years, particularly in the aftermath of the Covid-19 pandemic. The Risk Management Leaders Programme equips participants with the practical skills needed to evaluate and enhance risk management approaches, thereby fostering a more intuitive and perceptive

Dr. Al-Awadhi emphasizes role of donors

PakDonors recognized among top contributors to blood bank

KUWAIT CITY, June 25: The Annual Blood Donation Day, organized by the Blood Bank Kuwait, was a resounding success, celebrating the contributions of numerous organizations and individuals dedicated to saving lives through blood donation. Under the care and presence of the Minister of Health, Dr. Ahmed AbdulWahab Al-Awadhi, the event recognized the outstanding efforts of various groups, with PakDonors proudly securing the 5th position among the top 20 organizations.

The event, held at the Crown Plaza, Kuwait, saw Dr. Al-Awadhi emphasize the critical importance of blood donation and praise the selfless acts of donors who play a pivotal role in ensuring the availability of blood for patients in need.

"Today, we honor our real heroes the donors. Their generous contributions are the backbone of our efforts to save lives and support the health infra-structure of Kuwait," Dr. Al-Awadhi stated. He further expressed his gratitude towards all participating organizations, highlighting the collaborative spirit that drives the success of such

PakDonors, a community-driven organization dedicated to promoting blood donation among the Pakistani diaspora in Kuwait, was lauded for its exceptional commitment and consistent performance. "We dedicate this success to our real heroes, our donors,"

Nouman Aslam Ghuman, in-charge Coordinator of PakDonors, remarked. 'Their unwavering support and altruism have enabled us to achieve this recognition. Each donor is a testament to the power of giving and the impact one can make on countless lives. We also would like to thank all our sponsors, community, and mediaespecially Embassy of Pakistan who always stand with us for this noble cause and especially to all volunteers; without their hard work and dedication, this is not possible.

The event focused on appreciating blood donation organizations and individual donors for their invaluable contributions. Awards and recognitions were presented to honor the dedication and commitment of those who have supported the blood donation cause in

As the day concluded, the Blood Bank Kuwait reiterated its call for continued community support and regular blood donations to meet the ongoing demand. The success of the Annual Blood Donation Day stands as a reminder of the collective power of community efforts in making a significant difference.

PakDonors, with its notable achievement, has set a benchmark for other organizations, showcasing how dedicated efforts and community engagement can lead to remarkable outcomes in the realm of public health and humanitarian aid.



Awards presented for contributions to blood donation cause.

'Diminishing appeal of journalism in era of economic pressures'

Journalism faces crisis of attrition amidst pay stagnation and job insecurity

By Matthew Powers University of Washington

The Conversation is an independent and nonprofit source of news, analysis and commentary from academic experts.

This year has been a grim one for journalism, with layoffs at the Los Angeles Times, Time magazine, NBC News, Forbes, National Geographic, Business Insider and Sports Illustrated. Further cuts loom in newsrooms across the U.S.

Growing numbers of reporters and editors, tired of waiting for the other shoe to drop, are exiting the profession, citing burnout as the reason for their departure.

When scholars of journalism study the effects of the shrinking press corps, they usually focus on how it hurts civil society. Vast swaths of the country are at risk of becoming "news deserts," with limited access to reliable local journalism. This state of affairs makes it harder for people to make educated decisions and is linked to reduced political engagement, research shows. What's more, fewer reporters means less oversight of those wielding political and economic pow-

But to me, those concerns - while important - ignore an-

other issue, one that extends well beyond the news industry. As I argue with Sandra Vera-Zambrano in our new book, "The Journalist's Predicament," fewer people are seeing a life in news as a worthwhile career. This reflects a broader problem - namely, the ways that relentless economic pressures are pushing people away from socially important ca-

As an occupation, journalism is attractive to many people because they can be paid to do work that's interesting and socially beneficial.

In this regard, it is similar to otherwise very different jobs like nursing, teaching, social work and caregiving.

These are "vocations," in the sense that sociologist Max Weber described them more than a century ago. Based on strong personal commitments, vocations promise

recognition and a sense of self-worth for doing work that's connected to broader values: healing people, fighting injustice, imparting knowledge, serving the cause of democracy.

While these jobs have never paid especially well, people could get by and raise a family on them. That's becoming less and less the case

Across all of these professions, issues with recruitment and retention are so common that the term "crisis" is no longer an exaggeration.

Journalism, in many ways, represents ground zero for the

crisis that confronts contemporary vocations.

For one, pay in the industry is stagnant. With a median wage in 2023 of US\$57,500, journalists' salaries have not kept pace with inflation or jobs in public relations and corporate communication.

Job security, as ongoing layoffs suggest, is nearly nonexistent. Recent drives to unionize newsrooms have done little to stem losses, and they do nothing at all for the freelancers that constitute a growing share of all journalists - and, for the most part, belong to no union at all.

Inside or outside newsrooms, work typically involves longer hours and more demands.

And to what end? In many cases, it's to perform tasks that

aren't that interesting or socially valuable. The journalists we spoke to bemoaned the relentless demands to churn out new content for websites and social media feeds. They talked about using multimedia to report on topics that were assigned primarily for their potential to amuse and entertain, rather than to inform or provoke thought. They griped about spending more time sitting at their desks sifting through press releases instead of gathering original reports from the field. And they described fewer and fewer opportunities to pursue stories that are personally interesting and socially valuable.

In this context, it is hardly surprising that many people de-

cide to leave journalism, or avoid a career in it entirely. Jobs in public relations pay substantially more, with a \$66,750 median annual wage, and involve fixed hours and more sta-

To be sure, these alternative careers might not promise the same adventure and excitement of journalism. But that also means people in that field are less likely to find themselves frustrated by unmet expectations.

More surprising - and relevant for considering the crisis vocations face more broadly - is the fact that so many people, despite these conditions, nonetheless still find work in journalism appealing.

This appeal is not naively held. Surveys regularly show that aspiring journalists are well aware of the troubles confronting the industry. They're nonetheless still willing to sacrifice better pay and job security for work that allows for

self-expression and connects to broader values. Their persistence, in spite of these conditions, highlights something important about journalism and vocations more broadly: These are careers that provide rewards that cannot

be reduced to money. The enduring attraction of contemporary vocations clarifies the nature of the crisis. In contrast to older vocations, such as the priesthood, many people still dream of being

journalists, nurses and teachers. (AP)

Al song-generators Suno, Udio sued for copyright breach

BOSTON, June 25, (AP): Big record companies are suing artificial intelligence song-generators Suno and Udio for copyright infringement, alleging that the AI music startups are exploiting the recorded works of artists from Chuck Berry to Mariah Carey.

The Recording Industry Association of America announced the lawsuits Monday brought by labels including Sony Music Entertainment, Universal Music Group and Warner Records.

One case was filed in federal court in Boston against Suno AI, and the other in New York against Uncharted Labs, the developer of Udio AI. Suno AI CEO Mikey Shulman said in an emailed statement that the technology is "designed to generate completely new outputs, not to memorize and regurgitate pre-existing content" and doesn't allow users to reference specific artists.

Shulman said his Cambridge, Massachusetts-based startup tried to explain this to labels "but instead of entertaining a good faith discussion, they've reverted to their old lawyer-led playbook."

Udio didn't immediately respond to requests for comment.

RIAA Chairman and CEO Mitch Glazier said in a written statement that the music industry is already collaborating with responsible AI developers but said that "unlicensed services like Suno and Udio that claim it's 'fair' to copy an artist's life's work and exploit it for their own profit without consent or pay set back the promise of genuinely innovative AI for us all."

AI has been a heated topic of conversation in the music industry,

with debates ranging from the creative possibilities of the new technology to concerns around its legality. În March, Tennessee became the first US state to pass legislation to protect songwriters, performers and other music industry professionals against the potential dangers of artificial intelligence. Supporters said the goal is to ensure that AI tools cannot replicate an artist's voice without their consent.

The following month, over 200 artists signed an open letter submitted by the Artist Rights Alliance non-profit calling on artificial intelligence tech companies, developers, platforms, digital music services and platforms to stop using AI to infringe upon and devalue the rights of human artists.

The 2024 BET Awards are fast approaching. Last year's show celebrated 50 years of hip-hop with tributes to the genre's earliest voices, late legends and new talent during a show packed with spectacular performances that consistently felt like a party. This year is stacking up to be just as exciting with award-winning performers - Lauryn Hill, anyone? - and presenters.

Oscar-nominated actor Taraji P. Henson will once again host the BET Awards.

"I am thrilled to be returning as the host of the 'BET Awards' for the third time," she said in a statement. "I am also looking forward to celebrating my peers and the impact of our culture on entertainment."

Here's everything you need to know before the June 30 show. The BET Awards will air live on June 30 at 8 p.m. Eastern on BET

from the Peacock Theater in Los Angeles. Drake leads the nominations with seven, including an album of the year nod for his eighth studio album, "For All the Dogs." One of the awards he's up for is the music video for "First Person Shooter," his collaboration with J. Cole that may have been the catalyst for his re-

cent beef with rapper Kendrick Lamar. Nicki Minaj follows with six, including for album of the year for her highly anticipated "Pink Friday 2" release. Two of her nominations were for her song with Ice Spice, "Barbie World," part of the block-

buster "Barbie" soundtrack. J. Cole, Sexyy Red, SZA and best new artist Grammy winner Victoria Monét tie with five nods; 21 Savage, Beyoncé, Doja Cat, Megan Thee Stallion, Tyla and Usher boast four each.

A few months after wowing audiences while headlining the 2024 Super Bowl halftime show, Usher will also receive the lifetime achievement BET award.

The film nominees this year are: "American Fiction"; "Bob Marley: One Love"; "Renaissance: A Film by Beyoncé"; "Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse"; "The Book of Clarence"; "The Color Purple"; "The Equalizer 3" and "The Little Mermaid."

Simone Biles, Naomi Osaka, Steph Curry, LeBron James and Patrick Mahomes are among the sports stars competing for awards.

Variety



A model wears a creation for the Chanel Haute Couture Fall-Winter 2024-2025 collection presented Tuesday, June 25, 2024 in Paris. (AP) - Details Page 12

lelevision

Gladstone brings heart, humor to gripping tale

SANTA FE, N.M.: Alec Baldwin's defense attorneys argued Monday that damage done during Laughter, resilience in 'Fancy Dance' FBI testing to a revolver that killed a cinematographer on the set of the Western "Rust" has stripped them of the ability to put on a proper LOS ANGELES, June 25, (AP): Lily Gladstone knows

defense at the actor's forthcoming trial, and asked a **New Mexico** judge to dismiss the involuntary manslaughter charge against him.

"They understood that this was potentially exculpatory evidence and they destroyed it anyway," Baldwin lawyer John Bash said during a virtual court hearing. "It's outrageous and it requires dismissal."

Prosecutors argued that the gun breaking into pieces during testing was "unfortunate" but that Baldwin's team still has plenty of evidence for a defense and did not meet their burden for having the case thrown out.

Judge Mary Marlowe Sommer said she expects to issue a ruling on the motion to dismiss on Friday

During the fatal rehearsal on Oct. 21, 2021, Baldwin was pointing the gun at Halyna Hutchins on a movie-set ranch when it went off, killing her and wounding director Joel Souza, who survived.

Sheriff's investigators initially sent the revolver to the FBI only for DNA testing, but when an FBI analyst heard Baldwin say in an ABC TV interview in December that he never pulled the trigger, the agency told the local authorities they could conduct an accidental discharge test.

The FBI was told to go ahead, and tested the revolver by striking it from several angles with a rawhide mallet. One of those strikes caused the gun

to break into three pieces. The FBI had made police and prosecutors aware that the test could do major damage to the gun, which hadn't been tested by the defense, but the authorities went ahead with the test without bothering to disassemble it and photograph its parts first, thus eliminating their most critical evidence in the case, Baldwin's lawyers argued.

"We can never use our own expert to examine that firearm," Bash said. The prosecution argued that the gun was not destroyed as the defense said.

'The parts are still available," special prosecutor Erlinda Johnson said. "The fact that this gun was unfortunately damaged does not deprive the defendant of ability to question the evidence.

But Baldwin's lawyers said the damage done to the top notch on the revolver's hammer rendered the the gravity stories about what she calls the "epidemic" of missing and murdered Indigenous people have. But she also values humor in telling those stories.

In "Fancy Dance," released Friday in limited theatrical and streaming release on Apple TV+ June 28, Gladstone plays Jax, who has cared for her niece, Roki, since her sister's disappearance on the Seneca-Cayuga reservation in Oklahoma. As the pair searches for their loved one and prepares for Roki's upcoming powwow, they share moments of unexpected levity baked into the emotional story.

"You would be very hard pressed to find any Indigenous person in North America today that is not touched by an element of the story very personally," Gladstone said in a recent interview with The Associated Press. "We all know an MMIP (Missing and Murdered Indigenous Person). It's something that we all collectively kind of grieve and work to fix. ... We stick together and we survive through it by being funny, by finding humor in it.'

Newcomer Isabel Deroy-Olson, who stars alongside Gladstone as Roki, said the film's humor helps the audience get through the heavier moments of the story -

which was also true for the actors. "With all of us having a pretty similar sense of humor, we brought that behind the scenes, too, as a way to kind of lift each other up, and that's so true in all of our communities," she said. "We just we like to laugh with each other. Showing that both on and off screen was really important to us.

"You have to keep joy, you have to keep laughter, and you have to keep our optimism in order to survive an ongoing genocide," said director and co-writer Erica Tremblay.

Named after Jacqueline "Jax" Agtuca, who works for the National Indigenous Women's Resource Center, Gladstone's character grows frustrated with the lack of attention or care authorities put towards her sister's case and turns to her community for help in the search. Gladstone said amplifying this kind of story on screen without it being "shoved down anybody's throat" can

"By being and embodying a character, a person who's going through the steps of doing that work, you're inviting the audience into that perspective, into that world where they get to learn about the jurisdictional loopholes and the inequities in society that are creating the obstacles for the characters they're rooting

for," she said.
"You learn about that obstacle in a way that you have a desire to change it, instead of just hearing about it in a PowerPoint presentation or as a talking point on a news segment that you're going to fast forward through because you're more interested in what the score was for your team," Gladstone continued.

While movies and shows have broached the subject of missing Indigenous people before, they've often been criticized for coming up short in accurately and respectfully depicting the issue or don't reach a wide audience. Taylor Sheridan, co-creator of Paramount hit "Yellowstone," wrote and directed one of the very few widely distributed films about the topic with 2017's "Wind River."

ABC's 2022 drama "Alaska Daily" also explored violence against Native women and the lack of attention paid to their cases, but was canceled after one season. ABC had previously put out "Big Sky," a Montana-set drama that premiered in 2020 and caught flak for centering on white victims instead of Indigenous women, who make up the majority of the state's missing and murdered population.

Missina

The Bureau of Indian Affairs estimates there are approximately 4,200 missing and murdered cases nationally that have gone unsolved.

"Fancy Dance" focuses on the lack of institutional support and jurisdictional issues that make solving cases of missing Indigenous people difficult. In another shift from its predecessors, "Fancy Dance" does not show any violence against women on screen, a move that is often viewed as exploitative.

The film premiered at the Sundance Film Festival in 2023, and despite critical acclaim, it had not been picked up by a distributor until over a year later. Tremblay said the filmmaking team didn't see the offers they were expecting based on how they were "hitting the checklist of what it takes to make a successful indie film," but noted that the film landing on Apple's streaming service is their "dream ending."

The lynchpin to the whole plan to get this film out into the world was Lily's continued advocacy of the film and the beautiful moment that that she and all of the Indigenous cast and crew of "Killers of the Flower Moon" had last year," Tremblay said. "Lily using some of that shine to aim at "Fancy Dance," I think was critical for us and we're so grateful to be where we're at." Also:

LOS ANGELES: Occasionally, while filming an intense courtroom scene for his new series, Jake Gyllenhaal would catch his "Presumed Innocent" co-star Peter

Sarsgaard glaring at him from across the room. "It was just funny," recalled Gyllenhaal in a recent interview alongside Sarsgaard, doing a quick impres-

sion of Sarsgaard's stare.
"It's like, 'OK, OK,'" joked Gyllenhaal as if to say "tone it down" as Sarsgaard cackled at the commentary. The two rib each other like family because they are family. Sarsgaard is married to Gyllenhaal's older sis-

ter, actor and director Maggie Gyllenhaal. It's not Gyllenhaal and Sarsgaard's first time acting together, either. They also co-starred in 2005's "Jarhead" and 2007's "Rendition." But "Presumed Innocent" is their first series together (and Gyllenhaal's first TV show ever) - and marks the first time they're playing adversaries.

Premiered recently on Apple TV+, "Presumed Innocent" is based on the legal thriller novel by Scott Turow that was originally adapted as a 1990 film starring Harrison Ford.

Here, Gyllenhaal plays Chicago prosecutor Rusty Sabich, charged with murdering his colleague - an accusation that has fractured the district attorney's office. Sarsgaard is attorney Tommy Molto, another co-worker intent on proving Sabich's guilt. Meanwhile, Sabich's marriage to Barbara (Ruth Negga) is falling apart under the weight of the accusation and the potential he could be found guilty.

Early scripts didn't pit Sabich and Molto against each other quite as antagonistically, but creator and showrunner David E. Kelley took note of Gyllenhaal and Sarsgaard's chemistry and pivoted.

"It's a little bit like a football quarterback coming up to the line at some point and looking at what you've got in front of you ... and seeing where the opportunities lay," Kelley said.

O-T Fagbenle, who plays attorney Nico Della Guardia, also enjoyed watching the two spar.

"I'm an ignoramus. I only found out on set that they were related," Fagbenle said. "They got on great, obviously, but they really have brotherly kind of, you know, roughhousing. Not physical but like verbal. And so when I saw them, I was just like, 'Oh, wow, there is such a history between you two."

most important testing impossible. They argued that if Marlowe

Sommer declined to throw out the case, she should at least not allow any of the technical gun analysis to be presented at trial. (AP)

LONDON: Taylor Swift had a surprise for fans attending her





Eras Tour at London's Wembley Stadium on Sunday: her boyfriend and tight end for the Super Bowlwinning Kansas City Chiefs, Travis Kelce.

Dressed in a tuxedo with a tailcoat and top hat, Kelce joined Swift on stage for a transitional sketch that leads into the song "I Can Do It With a Broken Heart.

In fan videos, he's seen carrying Swift, urging her into a costume change. He fanned and powdered her face as part of the act.

Last month, in her first Eras Tour concert since the release of 'The Tortured Poets Department,' Swift shook up her setlist. At the La Défense Arena in Paris, fans were treated to the inclusion of

new songs from the record-breaking album released in April.

The billion-dollar Eras Tour is meant to be a career retrospective, with Swift performing more than 40 tracks reflecting 17 years of recorded music. "The Tortured Poets Department" was her first brand-new release since the tour's

People & Places

Books

Clinton's essays

'Pitch Dark' follows a game warden's hunt

NEW YORK, June 25, (Agencies): Heavy storms have made much of northern Maine impassible. Streams and rivers are overflowing their banks, and logging roads and forest trails are crisscrossed with toppled trees. It's no time to go exploring or hunting, so why has a heavily armed stranger rented an ATV and disappeared into the wilderness?

Game Warden Mike Bowditch thinks he may have a missing person case on his hands, but when he finds out that the stranger has been offering large sums of cash for information about the whereabouts of a guy calling himself Mark Redmond, he senses bigger trouble

So begins "Pitch Dark," the 15th book in Paul **Doiron**'s fine series of crime novels featuring Bowditch. Redmond, it turns out, is at a remote lake-side camp



skilled builder, he's constructing a log cabin there for a legendary bush pilot named Josie Jonson, a friend of Bowditch's wife. Bowditch persuades Josie to pick him up in her helicopter and fly him up there, figuring on both looking for the missing stranger and warning Redmond that he might be in danger. When Bowditch delivers the

with his 12-year-old daughter. A

warning, however, Redmond shows neither surprise nor concern. Instead, he serves Bowditch and Josie cups of drug-laced coffee, strips them of their weapons and

trols, and disappears into the forest with his daughter. When Bowditch regains consciousness, he finds that Josie has choked to death on her own vomit, making Redmond a murderer. With no weapon, no vehicle and no way to call for assistance, Bowditch takes off after him anyway, determined to hunt the killer down before he escapes into Canada.

communications devices, wrecks the helicopter con-

Wilderness

Tracking a villain through a wilderness is something of a staple for crime novelists who set their stories in America's remaining wild areas. For example, C.J. Box and William Kent Krueger, whose books are set in Wyoming and Minnesota respectively, have written good ones. However, it would be difficult to find one more suspenseful or with more startling twists than "Pitch Dark." As always, Doiron's characters are well-drawn, and his cold, rain-drenched setting is so vividly portrayed that readers may find themselves shivering.



Author Michael Brodeur takes the gym too seriously, and not seriously at all at the same time, in his book "Swole: The Making of Men and the Meaning of Muscles" in an effort to show the readers that the overly online world of hypermasculinity is an illusion and what a man can be is what you make of it.

Brodeur evokes his own autobiography to guide the reader through the history of weightlifting and the role of men in society. He's a middle-aged, Gen-X, selfdescribed "meathead" who brags about the depths of his squats and size of his biceps and butt, but also lives a life as the classical music critic for The Washington Post and a gay man.

These dueling identities weave through Brodeur's "Swole." The narrative works, most of the time, but sometimes Brodeur's chapters feel more like miniature essays surrounding a broader theme of masculinity than a comprehensive whole.

He celebrates male bodies and men wanting to be bigger, stronger, and uses humor and the history of idols like Arnold Schwarzenegger, He-Man, and professional wrestling to show how men's identities have evolved and changed since he was a child struggling to come to terms with his own sexual orientation.

Brodeur appears to reject the modern-day gym industry that often sells their version of the ideal body: A place where calorie counts are perfected, macronutrients are measured and microtargeting of muscle groups are a must.

Instead, Brodeur tells the reader to reach for the ideal you want — be comfortable looking at yourself in a mirror, and know it's also OK to be somewhat embarrassed about looking at yourself in a mirror.

Brodeur also warns about the rising influence that internet personalities like Andrew Tate or the Liver King are having on younger men, or the unending number of TikTok personalities that basically lay out easy ways for young men to purchase and abuse anabolic steroids.

"Adrift and allegedly emasculated by the mass rejection of 'real masculinity,'" men are now balls-deep in an imaginary internet-based civil war with themselves," he writes.

"Swole" allows men to celebrate masculinity as they want to define it.

Also:

NEW YORK: Hillary Clinton's next book is a collection of essays, touching upon everything from marriage to politics to faith, that her publisher is calling her most personal yet.

Simon and Schuster announced Tuesday that Clinton's "Something Lost, Something Gained: Reflections on Life, Love and Liberty" will be released Sept. 17.

Among the topics she will cover: Her marriage to former President Bill Clinton, her Methodist faith, adjusting to private life after her failed presidential runs, her friendships with other first ladies and her takes on climate change, democracy and Vladimir Putin.

"The book reads like you're sitting down with your smartest, funniest, most passionate friend over a long meal," Clinton's editor, Priscilla Painton, said in a statement. "This is the Hillary Americans have come to know and love: candid, engaged, humorous, selfdeprecating - and always learning.

Clinton, the former first lady, US senator and secretary and presidential candidate, will promote her book with a cross country tour. "Something Lost, Something Gained" comes out two months before Bill Clinton's memoir about post-presidential life, "Citizen."

BEIJING: A total of 1,426 agreements and statements of intent for book copyright exports were reached at the 30th Beijing International Book Fair, which closed on Sunday, with children's books ranking first in the number of export deals.

During the five-day book fair, Chinese publishers introduced a number of children's picture books and literature works available for copyright sale for publishing in other languages.

Lin Yun, head of the China Peace Publishing House, which introduced a series of Chinese children's picture books at the fair, said good children's books serve as a bridge for cultural exchanges. She said the company hopes to "bring informative and distinctive works to children in different countries and introduce China to them.





Top and above: Models present creations Chanel Haute Couture Fall-Winter 2024-2025 collection in Paris. (AP)

Delphine Arnault, (left), and Jennifer

Lopez attend the Dior Haute Cou-

ture Fall-Winter 2024-2025 collection

presented Monday, June 24, 2024 in

Paris. (AP)

Variety

LAS VEGAS: A Nevada judge is being

asked to decide Tuesday if a former Los

murder trial in the 1996 killing of hip-hop

music legend Tupac Shakur in Las Vegas

Duane "Keffe D" Davis, now 61, has

only person ever charged with a crime in a

killing that for 27 years has drawn intense

Prosecutors allege the gunfire that killed

Shakur stemmed from competition between

East Coast members of a Bloods gang sect

and West Coast groups of a Crips sect, in-

cluding **Davis**, for dominance in a musical

genre known at the time as "gangsta rap." Davis' defense attorney, **Carl Arnold**,

declined by telephone Monday to speak

ahead of a hearing before Clark County

District Court Judge Carli Kierny in Las

MEMPHIS, Tenn.: The Memphis Music

Hall of Fame inducted its inaugural class

of 25 luminaries at a rousing ceremony

12 years ago, honoring legends spanning

who recorded, taught and performed in

Memphis secured their place in the Hall

of Fame in this cradle of blues, soul and

rock 'n' roll - Justin Timberlake, Tina

Turner, Carla Thomas, to name a few.

This year, it will be inducting its 100th

Wilson Pickett, rapper, producer and song-

member of the Memphis music landscape

with a class of nine, including soul singer

writer Jazze Pha, and Jack Soden, who

to ZZ Top to Three 6 Mafia.

generations and genres, from Elvis Preslev

In later years, dozens of other musicians

sought to be released since shortly after

his arrest last September made him the

interest and speculation.

Vegas. (AP)

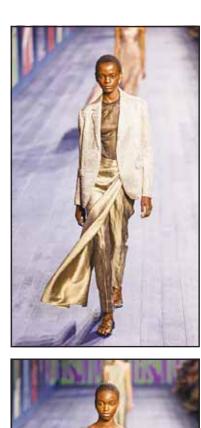
Angeles-area gang leader will be freed

from jail to house arrest ahead of his

Shakur



Anna Cleveland wears a creation for the Thom Browne Haute Couture Fall-Winter 2024-2025 collection presented Monday, June 24, 2024 in Paris. (AP)





Top and above: Models present creations for the Dior Haute Couture Fall-Winter 2024-2025 collection in Paris. (AP)

Fashion

Dior's stylish salute to sports at couture week

Sport, elegance collide in Paris

PARIS, June 25, (AP): Dior staged an homage to sport on the eve of the Paris Olympics on the grounds of the Musée Rodin on the first day of Paris Couture Week on Monday.

The show let the sumptuous, lightweight silks - georgette, taffeta, tulle, and sporty jersey - speak for themselves, draped elegantly over the body.

Here are some highlights of the fallwinter 2024 collections:

The walls were lined with mesmeric artworks in eye-popping color of sports players and athletes by artist Faith Ringgold, who died in April. Designer Maria Grazia Chiuri used fall's couture as a stage "to pay a fitting tribute to all athletes ... from antiquity to the present day."

On the runway, Grecian-style draping evoked the original Olympics. The nod to antiquity echoed the Italian designer's penchant for historical influences.

Jersey fabric, an unconventional couture material, was handled poetically. It cascaded down the model's body in loose, fluttery segments, with a twin leather belt to define the waist.

Mosaic embroidery on skin-tight tank tops added a contemporary twist, seeming to sculpt the bust. Sandals adorned with pearls sported crisscross

straps up the leg.

The nicest looks were the simplest. An ecru lightweight wool gown seemed like a single whoosh of fabric. hanging whimsically and loosely from the shoulders. It had an unexpected cowl back. This simplicity with an element of surprise is quintessential Chiuri, who has said she often finds elegance in restraint.

Venus Williams marveled and ap-

plauded from the front row. Couture Week kicked off with a bang at the Hôtel Salomon de Roths-Kylie Jenner, veiled and striking in a pink ribbed hourglass Schiaparelli bustier, caused a media frenzy. Doja Cat appeared in a coat with pronounced shoulders, while "Emily in Paris" star Philippine Leroy-Beaulieu added to the star-studded front row. Guests were enveloped in an intimate black box-like setting adorned with

nostalgic chandeliers. On the runway, designer Daniel Roseberry unveiled fall silhouettes inspired by the legendary phoenix. The bird and rebirth theme was inspired by Schiaparelli's homage to ballerina Anna Pavlova, symbolized by a coq feather stole she once wore. The couture was executed with theatrical flair.

Opened

The show opened with a breathtaking phoenix gown featuring 3D chrome trompe l'oeil feathered wings over a black ensemble, paired with silver eggshell earrings. This set the tone for a collection defined by technical

Phoenix motifs appeared throughout. Gowns of washed silk and wool crepe bustier dresses featured phoenix-wing shoulders and plunging necklines. Models, heads wrapped in transparent crepe, engaged the audience with direct eye contact, creating a commanding presence.

Standout pieces included a bustier dress of moving circles, creating a mesmerizing effect, and a cocoonshaped jumpsuit of faux horsehair and

sequins mimicking zebra skin. These designs were accompanied by a haunting soundtrack featuring Nina Simone's "Plain Gold Ring."

Roseberry's exploration of Schiaparelli's relationship with women emphasizing their power to reinvent themselves - was clear. "The context of this collection, which honors Elsa's singular gift for rebirth, is second only to its form," he said.

Reflecting on the bond between fashion and wearers, Roseberry remarked: "People don't buy Schiaparelli; they collect it." This sentiment resonated throughout the collection, offering garments that were not merely fashion statements but pieces of history and art meant to be treasured.

Iris van Herpen presented her couture as sculptures in what the house called a "profound shift" in the Dutch designer's trajectory.

"For a long time I've been working on expanding people's perception of how fashion and art can be symbiotic,' van Herpen said. She compared her techniques in couture, such as draping directly on the mannequin, to sculpting.

"Even though we call one practice 'haute couture' and the other 'art,' to me, it's one universe," she said.

Van Herpen unveiled her collection amid her new large-scale, monumental pieces at a "hybrid" show. They were crafted with innovative techniques on tulle surfaces and suspended via steel

While preparing her retrospective in Paris' Musée des Arts Décoratifs that recently closed, van Herpen realized a longstanding ambition to delve into sculpture and painting.

teamed up with Elvis' former wife Priscilla age of 42. (AP) **Presley** to open **Graceland** as a tourist attraction in 1982. That was five years after **NEW YORK:** In Lower East Side of



Luke Wilson, (left), and Alejandro Edda, cast members in 'Horizon: An American Saga,' greet each other on the carpet at the premiere of the film at the Regency

Manhattan, where the cracked walls were adorned with murals, the largest Banksy museum in the world has been established.

The museum included a large display of more than 160 works by the most mysterious and famous contemporary artist, documenting his journey to Palestine on the separation wall in the West Bank.

Street art currently occupies a prominent place in the global cultural scene, with graffiti artists displaying their works in public spaces as a form of social interaction, and the name Banksy stands out in the forefront of this artistic field.(KUNA)

WASHINGTON: The Supreme Court on Monday rejected an appeal from **Josh** Duggar, a former reality television star convicted of downloading child sexual abuse images.

Duggar was on the TLC show "19 Kids and Counting" with his large family before his 2021 conviction.

The court did not elaborate on the denial, as is typical.

Federal authorities investigated after po-

lice in Little Rock, Arkansas, found child sexual abuse material was being shared by a computer traced to him. Investigators testified that images depicting the sexual abuse of children, including toddlers, were downloaded in 2019 onto a computer at a car dealership Duggar owned. (AP)



Village Theatre, Monday, July 24, 2024, in Los Angeles. (AP)

Partnership aims to empower patients with skin conditions

Sanofi and KSD sign MoU to enhance dermatological care in Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, June 25: The Kuwait Society of Dermatologists (KSD) and Sanofi have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) aimed at improving dermatological care in Kuwait. This collaboration demonstrates a shared commitment to advancing healthcare standards and providing support systems for patients with skin conditions.

The MoU was signed in a formal ceremony by Dr Atlal Allafi, President of the Kuwait Society of Dermatologists, and Jean-Paul Scheuer, MCO Lead and General Manager for Specialty Care at Sanofi Greater Gulf.

Under the terms of the agreement, Sanofi and KSD will col-



Dr. Atlal Allafi and Jean-Paul Scheuer at the MoU signing ceremony.

laborate on several initiatives designed to elevate the standard of dermatological care in Kuwait:

Training Programs: Implement training programs for primary care physicians based on curricula developed by leading dermatological associations. These programs aim to enhance the skills and knowledge of healthcare professionals in managing various skin conditions.

Pharmacist Knowledge Enhancement: Upgrade pharmacists' knowledge regarding recent trends in dermatological care, ensuring they are well-equipped to support patients with the latest information and treatments.

Educational Sessions: Conduct educational sessions for nurses and educators, led by local and international dermatology experts, to keep them informed about the latest advancements in dermatological disease management.

Patient Empowerment: Develop

and distribute awareness materials designed to provide patients with the necessary tools to prevent and manage skin conditions effectively.

Digital Solutions: Launch digital tools tailored for better management of dermatological diseases. These tools will facilitate remote patient monitoring and personalized treatment plans, enhancing patient care and outcomes.

Dr Atlal Allafi, President of the Kuwait Society of Dermatologists: "Our cooperation with Sanofi has the potential to improve the quality of care provided to patients with skin conditions in Kuwait. The MoU covers several vital areas, including training programs, educational sessions, and digital health tools. Over the years, Sanofi has played an active role in supporting Kuwait's public health agenda, and we look forward to more cooperation in the future."

Jean-Paul Scheuer, MCO Lead and General Manager for Specialty Care at Sanofi Greater Gulf: "Our collaboration with the Kuwait Society of Dermatologists is a testament to our shared commitment to advancing dermatological care in Kuwait. By enhancing awareness, education, and digital solutions, we aim to improve patients' quality of life. This partnership aligns with our mission to foster innovation and excellence in healthcare."

Disorder fatal for pregnant people, babies

New blood tests show promise in identifying preeclampsia risk

NEW YORK, June 25, (AP): When you're expecting a baby, you hope nothing goes wrong. But at least one in 20 people who are pregnant develop a scary complication catlled preeclampsia, a high blood pressure disorder that kills 70,000 women and 500,000 babies worldwide

There was no way to know when it might strike - until now. New blood tests may help doctors predict and man-

age this dangerous condition.

"When something bad happens in pregnancy, you want to catch it early so you can avoid adverse outcomes for the mom and the baby," said Dr. S. Ananth Karumanchi with Cedars-Sinai in Los Angeles.

The condition affects both the mother and baby and can occur in the second half of pregnancy or the postpartum period. The exact causes aren't known.

Preterm

Besides high blood pressure, other signs of preeclampsia include protein in the urine, severe headaches, changes in vision, nausea and sudden swelling in your face and hands. It's generally diagnosed by checking for protein in the urine, measuring blood pressure and following up with other tests if warranted.

Once you have preeclampsia, it can progress rapidly and cause organ damage, stroke, preterm birth, slow growth in the baby and other problems.

To prevent the condition, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists recommends pregnant patients get low-dose aspirin if they have one or more particular risk factors, such as chronic high blood pressure, Type 1 or 2 diabetes before pregnancy or kidney disease.

The primary treatment for preeclampsia is to deliver the baby or manage the condition until the baby can be delivered. People with severe preeclampsia are usually hospitalized and may be given medicines to lower blood pressure, prevent seizures and help the fetus' lungs de-

The tests measure "biomarkers" for preeclampsia in the blood, objective measures that show what's happening in an organism at any given moment.

At this point, there are only a few tests on the mar-

One, by Labcorp, is designed to be performed bepatient. It measures four early pregnancy biomarkers that, combined with other factors, help determine the risk of developing preeclampsia before 34 weeks of pregnancy.

Two other tests - another by Labcorp and one from Thermo Fisher Scientific - are used in the second and third trimesters on hospitalized patients to assess whether they are at risk of progressing to severe preeclampsia within a couple of weeks. More tests by other companies are in the pipeline.

"They absolutely represent an exciting advancement, especially when you look at the field of preeclampsia and the fact that there's been very little new introduced to the field in decades," said Eleni Tsigas, CEO of the nonprofit Preeclampsia Foundation. She lost one baby and also nearly died because of undiagnosed preeclampsia about two decades ago, and developed it again in her second pregnancy and gave birth to a son who spent time in neonatal intensive care.

The new blood tests augment but don't replace a doc-

Premature births

Climate change poses threats to pregnancy

JAKARTA, June 25, (Xinhua): Indonesia, the fourth most populous country in the world, is confronting threats associated with pregnancy and childbirth complications due to the physical impacts of climate change, according to authorities on Monday.

The country's Nationavl Family Planning Coordinating Board (BKKBN) revealed that in Indonesia, global warming can cause premature birth and increase the rate of low birth weight

"This is because the situation caused by global warming, such as flooding, for example, can cause stress to pregnant women and therefore can automatically trigger pregnancy complications," said Hasto Wardoyo, head of the BKKBN in Jakarta.

He said that the report of preeclampsia had also increased along with the amount of environmental pollution. Preeclampsia is a pregnancy problem in which the blood pressures of pregnant women, which are usually normal, rise very high and cause dangerous threats to their health. It usually happens during 20 weeks of preg-

Wardoyo referenced national statistics indicating that Indonesia's maternal mortality rate stands at 189 per 100,000 live births, a figure significantly higher than the target rate of 70 per 100,000 live births.

Data from Indonesia's Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection demonstrates that over 50 percent of infants whose mothers die in childbirth do not survive past their first year. Consequently, maternal mortality is a significant risk factor for infant mortality.

tor's judgment, she added, "basically giving them insight that they haven't had before. And that's particularly useful in cases where things are in the gray zone," such as when you have preexisting health problems such as chronic high blood pressure or obesity.

"If I were pregnant today then I absolutely would," Tsigas said.

Though "there's no therapy right at the moment," Karumanchi said, doctors can closely watch those at higher risk and do more follow-ups with them. For patients shown to be at low risk, the tests offer reas-

The tests could also help speed up the development of new treatments, he said, because researchers can identify patients at risk who might be willing to join

Still, some OB-GYNs may not offer the tests immediately because they are so new, Tsigas said. But she figures: Why wait?

"You just have to look at the mortality and morbidity rates related to preeclampsia to know that clearly we have work to do," she said. "So I don't think there's a downside to adding tools to a nearly empty toolbox.'

'Mission achieves complete success' **Chinese lunar probe returns**

with historic moon samples

BANGKOK, June 25, (AP): China's Chang'e 6 probe returned on Earth with rock and soil samples from the little-explored far side of the moon in a global first.

The probe landed in the Inner Mongolian region in northern China on Tuesday afternoon.

"I now declare that the Chang'e 6 Lunar Exploration Mission achieved complete success," Zhang Kejian, Director of the China National Space Administration, said in a televised news conference after the landing.

Chinese scientists anticipate the returned samples will include 2.5 million-year-old volcanic rock and other material that scientists hope will answer questions about geographic differences on the moon's two sides.

The near side is what is seen from Earth, and the far side faces outer space. The far side is also known to have mountains and impact craters, contrasting with the relatively flat expanses visible on the near side.

Impact

The probe had landed in the moon's South Pole-Aitken Basin, an impact crater created more than 4 billion years ago. The samples scientists are expecting will likely come from different layers of the basin, which will bear traces of the different geological events across its long chronology, such as when the moon was younger and had an active inside that could produce

While past U.S. and Soviet missions have collected samples from the moon's near side, the Chinese mission was the first that has collected samples from the far side.

"This is a global first in the sense that it's the first time anyone has been able to take off from the far side of the moon and bring back samples," said Richard de Grijs, a professor of as-



The Chang'e-6 return capsule lands in Siziwang Banner, Inner Mongolia, on June 25, bringing back the first-ever samples from the moon's far side. This marks a significant milestone in China's space exploration efforts. (Xi-

trophysics at Macquarie University in Australia.

The moon program is part of a growing rivalry with the U.S. - still the leader in space exploration - and others, including Japan and India. China has put its own space station in orbit and regularly sends crews there. China's leader Xi Jinping sent a

Chang'e team, saying that it was a "landmark achievement in our country's efforts at becoming a space and technological power.' The probe left earth on May 3, and

message of congratulations to the

its journey lasted 53 days. The probe has drilled into the core and scooped rocks from the surface.

research: what geologic activity is re-

sponsible for the differences between

The samples "are expected to answer one of the most fundamental scientific questions in lunar science the two sides?" said Zongyu Yue, a geologist at the Chinese Academy of Sciences, in a statement issued in the Innovation Monday, a journal published in partnership with the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

China in recent years has launched multiple successful missions to the moon, collecting samples from the moon's near side with the Chang'e 5 probe previously.

They are also hoping that the probe will return with material that bear traces of meteorite strikes from the moon's past. That material could shed light on the solar system's early days. There's a theory that the moon acted as a vaccum cleaner of sorts, attracting all the meteorites and debris in the system's earlier era so that they didn't hit Earth, said de Grijs, who is also executive director at the International Space Science

Electricity made from heat of the Earth

NEW YORK, June 25, (AP): One method of making electricity cleanly to address climate change has been quietly advancing and on Tuesday it hit a milestone.

A California utility is backing the largest new geothermal power development in the U.S. - 400 megawatts of clean electricity from the Earth's heat - enough for some 400,000 homes.

Southern California Edison will purchase the electricity from Fervo Energy, a Houston-based geothermal company, Fervo announced.

The company is drilling up to 125 wells in southwest Utah. Clean electricity like this reduces the need for traditional power plants that cause climate change. The boost could go a long way toward bringing down the cost of a new generation of geothermal energy, said Wilson Ricks, an energy systems

researcher at Princeton University.

"If these purchases help to get this technology off the ground, it could be massively impactful for global decarbonization," he said. Decarbonization refers to switching out things that produce carbon dioxide and methane, which cause the climate to change, in favor of machines and methods that don't.

Today the world still relies mainly on fossil fuels for round-the-clock power. This new deal shows that clean power can meet a growing demand for electricity, said Sarah Jewett, vice president of strategy at Fervo.

"I think that's why it's so exciting. This isn't a niche energy resource going to a niche use," she said. "And that is something we have not had, you know, readily available' and able to be scaled up.



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have news for you.'

Player made six trips to the NBA Finals

Warriors GM remains hopeful that Thompson will return

been a pillar of the Golden State Warriors dynasty that won four NBA titles the past decade. Whether he will be part of the franchise as the team looks to rebound after missing the playoffs remains unknown.

Thompson is set to become a free agent on July 1 as the

two sides have been unable to agree on an extension to keep Stephen Curry's Splash Brothers running mate on the team. "We want him back," general manager Mike Dunleavy Jr. said Monday. "We've said that all along. Hopefully he'll come back. But as far as the specifics and discussions and those types of things, I think it's important to keep in-house and that stuff. When we figure out a solution to all that, we'll

The 34-year-old Thompson just finished the final season of a five-year contract worth nearly \$190 million. He lost his starting job during the season and struggled to match the form he had before two serious injuries forced him to miss two entire seasons.

Thompson has been a major part of a franchise that won four championships and made six trips to the NBA Finals from 2015-22. Thompson's 2,481 made 3-pointers in the regular season are the sixth most in NBA history and the 501 he has made in the playoffs are more than anyone other

But his scoring average dropped to 17.9 points per game this past season - his lowest since his second season in the NBA - and he no longer had the athleticism that made him one of the top perimeter defenders at his peak.

BASKETBALL

Thompson ended his season by missing all 10 shots in a play-in loss to Sacramento, leading to the first time the Warriors missed the playoffs in a season when they had the trio of Curry, Thompson and Draymond Green healthy.

But Dunleavy acknowledges that there is sentimental value in keeping Thompson for the long term.

"I think I'm reasonable, I'm rational. That's how I'm always going to operate," Dunleavy said. "But to say a guy like Klay Thompson, who has meant so much to this franchise, to completely strip the emotion away from it, I think that's almost impossible. But this is a business. We'll talk through things and continue to talk through things. Like I said, we are hopeful but you know, we'll see. We've got to figure things out.'

Dunleavy said he would be very hesitant to trade key young players like Jonathan Kuminga, Brandin Podziemski, Trayce Jackson-Davis and Moses Moody, believing they will continue to develop and complement the veteran core with the 36-year-old Curry, the 34-year-old Green and possibly Thompson.

"We really value those guys. We've drafted them. We've grown them. They have played really well," Dunleavy said. "We are excited about them. A scenario to move them would take a lot. It's important for us to be good now and then be good also in the future. But like the main thing is, we think those guys can contribute and help our group now. If that was not the case, we would be more open to stuff but it is.

The Warriors have a more immediate decision to make on the status of guard Chris Paul, with a deadline Friday of whether to exercise a \$30 million team option for next season or waive him.

Paul played mostly off the bench in his first season with Golden State, averaging 9.2 points, 6.8 assists and 3.9 rebounds in 26.4 minutes per game. Dunleavy said all options are open with Paul, including

a potential trade in July if Golden State picks up the option. The Warriors also made the decision to guarantee Kevon Looney's \$8 million contract for next season instead of waiving him and paying him only \$3 million guaranteed. Looney averaged 4.5 points and 5.7 rebounds in 74 games last season, playing mostly as a backup to rookie Trayce Jackson-Davis.

The move gives the Warriors the option to keep Looney or use him as a part of a trade in July.

"I just think we value him so much as a player, as a teammate, as a core piece of this organization," Dunleavy said. "So to move on without him, without anything in return or to move on without him and just not be able to fill that void iust didn't make a ton of sense for us. So we were good with picking up his contract."

Mu stumbles, falls in 800m and will not have chance to defend Oly title



Quincy Hall wins the men's 400-meter final during the U.S. Track and Field Olympic Team Trials in Eugene, Ore. (AP)

Nia Akins wins race

EUGENE, June 25, (AP): Athing Mu got tangled up in the middle of the track and started falling. One hand hit the ground, then the other. As she rolled onto her back, her bright pink shoes started pointing toward the sky.

With that, one of America's most promising runners saw her hopes of back-to-back Olympic titles in the 800 meters go down the drain, while sports fans got a refresher on just how unforgiving these U.S. track trials really are.

The 22-year-old from New Jersey became the first big-name casualty of the trials, victimized by a bunched-up pack in the backstretch of the first lap, to say nothing of the long-standing rule in the U.S. that only the top three finishers at trials make the Olympics, regardless of their resume.

ATHLETICS

"I've coached it, I've preached it, I've watched it," Mu's coach, Bobby Kersee, told The Associated Press. "And here's another indication that regardless of how good we are, we can leave some better athletes home than other countries have. It's part of our American way.

Kersee said Mu got clipped from behind and that a protest had been lodged. USA Track and Field did not immediately respond to queries about the status of the protest. The coach said Mu got spiked, had track burns and hurt her ankle.

"She's going to be licking her wounds for a couple of days," Kersee said. Mu got back to her feet and finished.

but was more than 22 seconds behind the winner, Nia Akins, who ran 1 minute, 57.36 seconds. Mu was choking back tears as she headed quickly off the track and through the tunnel after the

race. She did not do interviews. She was racing on the outside in a tightly bunched pack and looked to be veering to her left toward the eventual third-place finisher, Juliette Whitaker, when she tripped and went tumbling, leaving three runners behind her flailing as they jumped over and around her.

Mu is hardly the first athlete to have this happen. One of the more memorable and heartbreaking moments on this track came eight years ago in the same event, when Alysia Montano, looking to return to the Olympics, got tripped up in the homestretch and stayed down on the track crying.

"I have a little mama bear feeling," said Montano, who is at the track this week doing in-house interviews over the PA system. "But the race is brutal sometimes. It's two laps, a tight race and everyone's feeling scrappy to try to figure out what position they want to get

The Olympic trials marked Mu's first meet of the year after dealing with injuries all season. She looked to be in good form in her first two rounds, and Kersee

But in the 800 final, she barely made it half a lap Despite the fall, Mu could still go to

said her season was coming together.

Paris as part of the U.S. relay pool; she was a key part of America's goldmedal win in the 4x400 three years ago in Tokyo.

After winning NCAA, national, world and Olympic championships all before turning 21, Mu won a bronze medal at worlds last year and, afterward, conceded she needed a break from all the pressure, social media and other demands that came along with being

tagged as one of track's great new stars. In interviews leading into this week's meet in Eugene, she said she had rediscovered her love for the sport and was looking forward to the quest to become a back-to-back champion.

She has dominated this distance thanks, in part, to a long, loping stride, and that might be what cost her in a race where she came in as the favorite.



Nia Akins wins the women's 800-meter final during the U.S. Track and Field Olympic Team Trials in Eugene, Ore. (AP)

"I heard it and I was just like 'OK, keep running, it wasn't you," secondplace finisher Allie Wilson said of the commotion that resulted in Mu's tumble. "That, unfortunately, is part of racing. Things like that can happen.'

Mu's 800 was a stark contrast to that run by heptathlete Anna Hall less than a half-hour earlier.

Hall won her 800 - the seventh and final event in the two-day heptathlon to win the title and make the Olympics. It came three years after a stumble over the hurdles cost her a spot at the Tokyo Games, and a mere six months after knee surgery made her question if she could get back in time for Paris.

She, too, was crying after her race as she headed to the stands to hug the greatest American in that event, twotime Olympic champion Jackie Joyner-

"I'm almost in shock," Hall said. "This year has been so hard. And falling in 2021. The journey to get here has

been so much harder than I imagined." There was drama elsewhere on a busy night that included six finals.

The women's 5,000-meter race came down to a .02-second difference with Elle St. Pierre finishing in 14:40.34 to barely beat Elise Cranny. Both are going to the Olympics.

Also, Vashti Cunningham, who had a combined 13 straight U.S. indoor and outdoor titles coming into the week, needed to win a jump-off for third to make her third Olympic team. Quincy Wilson, 16, finished sixth in

the 400-meter final with a time of 44.94, his third sub-45 race in three tries at the trials.

Now, he will wait to see if the U.S. track team calls on him to be part of the relay pool.

"All I know is I gave everything I had," he said. "I can't be too disappointed. I'm 16, and I'm running grown-man times.

Pondered retirement

Eichfeld seeks 1st Olympic podium on record '4th try'

WASHINGTON, June 25, (AP): Three years ago, Casey Eichfeld pondered retirement.

The American slalom canoeist competed at the Summer Olympics in 2008, 2012 and 2016. After failing to qualify for the Tokyo Games in 2021, doubt crept in.

"This far into my career, I'm missing an Olympics," he recalled. "It definitely makes you wonder if that's it for you. Is it time to be done? Is it time to move on?"

He stuck with it, and now he has qualified for the Paris Olympics in canoe singles. At age 34, he's the first American to qualify for four Olympics in slalom.

"To be able to make the Olympic team again just kind of proves to me that that's just a state of mind," he said. "When I'm ready to be done, I'll be done. But for now, you know, I've got a lot of fire left and a lot of

OLYMPICS

Eichfeld made his Olympic debut as an 18-year-old at the 2008 Beijing Games. He won gold at the Pan American Games in canoe singles and canoe doubles in 2015 and has three World Cup podiums in his ca-

That level of success has not carried over to the Olympic stage. His best finish at the Games was seventh in canoe singles in 2016.

Experience could work in Eichfeld's favor, as others have succeeded at his age. Slovenia's Benjamin Savsek won canoe singles gold in Tokyo at age 34 and will be back to try again. France's Tony Estanguet won his third canoe singles gold medal in 2012 before retiring later that year.

The United States has not won an Olympic gold medal in canoe slalom since the 1992 Games in Barcelona, when Joe Jacobi and Scott Strausbaugh teamed for a canoe doubles victory. The last American Olympic slalom medalist, male or female, was Rebecca Giddens. She earned silver in kayak singles at the 2004 Games

Eichfeld thinks he might be the one to change things. He had a good performance in the Olympic Trials in Oklahoma City in April, allowing him to defeat Zachary Lokken to earn the spot.

"My last run at team trials in Oklahoma City was one of those really good days where I think that fighting for the podium is absolutely an option and a possibility," he said.

USA slalom coach Rafal Smolen agrees. He said Eichfeld's conditioning is strong and his experience gives him a chance. "I think potential is there," Smolen

said "He just needs to get his stuff in order on the race day and then do it. Like, definitely potentially there for definitely final and potentially medal performance." Eichfeld embraced the challenge

in Oklahoma City, where he had to make his final push in stormy condi-"When the pressure rises and there

are more things to focus on, it almost

makes it easier for me to zone in and

kind of find that flow state a bit more efficiently," he said. Lokken, 30, earned the Olympic spot in canoe singles in 2021 and finished seventh. He also is a former

Pan American Games gold medalist in canoe singles.

Smolen has coached Eichfeld and Lokken for more than 15 years and said Lokken has been a key to Eichfeld's success. Lokken was ahead through most of the qualifying process for the Paris Games until the end, when Eichfeld passed him up at the trials in Oklahoma City.

"It's been between these two guys for quite some time, and they've been pushing each other," Smolen said. "And I think that is helping to maintain a high level, and it's helping them to be motivated to work harder than the other one."

Regardless of how things turn out in Paris, Eichfeld said he'll be fine. He has a daughter, 2-year-old Emilia, and his wife, Sarah, to focus on when the Olympics are over.

"I get a better perspective now," he said. "Racing's a little different now because it's not my everything. It's

Ex-Brighton coach De Zerbi to join French club Marseille

MARSEILLE, France, June 25, (AP): Roberto De Zerbi is poised to become Marseille's new coach after the French league club announced it had reached an "agreement in principle.

De Zerbi, who left Brighton after two seasons in charge, led the Premier League club to its highest ever topflight finish of sixth, then to the last 16 of the UEFA Europa League.

Marseille said in a statement it is "currently working with all parties involved to formalize the arrival of the Italian coach and his staff on the OM bench, and to prepare for his arrival in Marseille in the coming

De Zerbi will replace Jean-Louis Gasset, who retired at the end of the French league season.

Since American owner Frank Mc-

Court bought Marseille in 2016, the former powerhouse of French soccer has failed to find any form of stability, with a succession of coaches and crises that sometimes turned violent.

The club has changed coach 30 times since the beginning of the century, the highest total of any top-flight

SOCCER

team in France in that period. The 1993 Champions League winner missed out on European qualification after finishing eighth in the French league.

Marseille dominated domestic soccer in the late 1980s and early 1990s. It was the only French team to win the Champions League. It hasn't won its own league since 2010.

British cycling vet to miss Paris

LONDON, June 25, (Xinhua): Former Tour de France winner and two time Olympic gold medalist, Geraint Thomas, has been left out of Britain's cycling team for the forthcoming Par-

impressive ride to finish third in this year's Giro d'Italia in May and his forthcoming role in the INEOS-Grenadiers team for the Tour de France, which begins on Saturday.

The performance director of British Cycling, Stephen Park explained that Thomas had "not been in great form" in his time trialing and adding: "there is some incredible competition and in the road race, and we have only four riders we can pick."

"We decided that the younger riders would be in better form getting to the end of the Tour, physically and mentally. It's different and Geraint will be at the end of a very long season by the time he gets there," Park continued. Thomas won his gold medals on the

track as part of the successful Team GB pursuit team in Beijing 2008 and London 2012, while last year he finished 10th in the time trial at the UCI World Championships.

Earlier this year, he said in an interview that if he went to Paris it would be to compete for medals and not just to "collect a new tracksuit."

The British men's cycling team contains recently crowned national road race champions Ethan Hayter and Josh Tarling, who won the national time-trial title, along with Tom Pidcock, who won mountain bike gold in Tokyo and will compete in both the mountain bike

The women's road racing team will be confirmed on July 4.

Must-win game for Czechs vs Turkey, which can afford draw to progress Ronaldo. Schick scored against Georthe Czechs drew against Georgia in

HAMBURG, June 25, (AP): Turkey needs a point from its final group match against the Czech Republic in Hamburg to be sure of reaching the knockout stage of the European Championship. The Czechs need a win and a favor from group-winner Portugal against Georgia in the other game at the same time.

Turkey has three points in Group F, two more than the Czech Republic, after opening with a 3-1 win over Georgia before losing to Portugal 3-0. The Czechs lost to Portugal 2-1 before

drawing with Georgia 1-1 in Hamburg. Turkey will be eliminated if it loses and Georgia beats Portugal in the other game. Georgia has a point from its draw with the Czechs.

If the Czech Republic and Georgia both win, second and third place will be decided on goal difference, then goals scored, then disciplinary points, then qualifier rankings. The Czech Republic will finish third with two points if it draws with Turkey and Georgia doesn't win. A defeat means certain elimination.

SOCCER

Turkey won when the teams met at Euro 2008 and 2016, both times in the final group game, and it has won the

It will be Turkey's first game at Hamburg's Volksparkstadion, where

their previous match. Turkey players Arda Guler and Ir-

fan Kahveci trained fully with the team after light exercises the day before. Goalkeeper Mert Gunok and midfielder Orkun Kokcu skipped the session with knee and ankle problems, respectfully.

Czech Republic on Tuesday.

The teams have met 11 times since the Czech Republic became a separate country, with five wins each and a draw. Czechoslovakia won seven of its 10 games against Turkey, with two

with five goals, level with Cristiano

Czech forward Patrik Schick was the joint top scorer in the last Euro

gia for his sixth goal overall. 'We will all need to stick to our tac-

tics, be solid, focused, have the will to win every ball. We will have to cope with a loud atmosphere created by the Turkish fans - I know that from following the Turkish league." - Czech Republic defender Robin Hranac. "We have three points after two games. The Georgia game was a good

start. Portugal was one we might have won on a good day with an exceptional performance, but Portugal were very strong on the day. We still have one more game ahead of us. We want to get six points and finish second in the group." - Turkey defender Kaan

is Olympic Games. The decision means the Welshman will not appear at the fifth Olympic Games of his career in spite of his

and road races in Paris.

Al-Hazeem commends Kuwait Fencing Association

Japanese dominate Asian Fencing Championship in Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, June 25, (Agencies): The Asian Fencing Championship, hosted in Kuwait, progressed with Japanese athletes claiming victories in the foil and saber competitions. A total of 350 players from 36 countries participated in the individual events. In the men's foil competition, Kyosuke Matsuyama of Japan secured the gold medal by defeating his compatriot Kazuki Imura. Meanwhile, Zoe Mo from China earned the bronze medal.

In the women's saber category, Misaki Imura of Japan clinched the gold medal by defeating South Korea's Yeosu Yoon, who settled for silver. The focus now shifts to the team competitions scheduled for the remaining three days of the tournament.

Japan leads the medal rankings with 8 medals (2 gold, 2 silver, 4 bronze), followed by South Korea with 6 medals (2 gold, 1 silver, 3 bronze), and China in third place with 5 medals (1 gold, 2 silver, 2 bronze).

Hamed Al-Hazeem, Deputy Director General of the Public Authority for Sports, commended the Kuwaiti Fencing Association for their efforts in organizing the Asian Championship, emphasizing the authority's commitment to supporting Kuwaiti sports federations and enhancing the sports system to elevate Kuwait's reputation on the global sports stage.

Al-Hazeem expressed delight in Kuwaiti champion Yousef Al-Shamlan's bronze medal win and wished him success in future Olympic Games. Hamad Al-Awadhi, Secretary of the Fencing Federation, expressed satisfaction with the tournament's organi-

FENCING

zation, technical aspects, and arbitration standards. Al-Awadhi highlighted the tournament's high

level, achieved through collaborative efforts with various committees to ensure it reflected Kuwait's standards. He noted the significant public turnout at the event, which featured 350 participants from 36 countries, and was held under the patronage of Kuwait's Minister of Social Affairs, Family and Child Affairs, and Minister of State for Youth Affairs, Dr. Amthal Hawilah.



A file photo of Kuwait Olympic Committee general meeting.

Brazil held by Costa Rica



Brazil's Vinicius Junior, (left), and Costa Rica's Orlando Galo battle for the ball during a Copa America Group D soccer match in Inglewood, Calif. (AP)

Colombia edge Paraguay extend winning streak

INGLEWOOD, June 25, (AP): Brazil was held to a 0-0 draw by Costa Rica with the international powerhouse inauspiciously failing to break through in its Copa America opener.

Although Brazil controlled play and outshot Costa Rica 18-2, the Seleção was held scoreless by a defense led by goalkeeper Patrick Sequeira, who made three saves while recording the team's fourth consecutive clean sheet.

Brazil had an apparent goal by Marquinhos disallowed in the first half after a lengthy VAR check, but the team known for decades of sublime offensive play never got closer to a score and never got a break on several questionable refereeing calls - in front of a lively crowd of 67,158 dominated by their yellow-clad fans at SoFi Stadium.

The result left Colombia on top of Group D after its 2-1 victory over Paraguay. Brazil has won the Copa America nine times, but its current transitional squad led by Real Madrid stars Vinícius Júnior and Rodrygo got off to a discouraging start.

Brazil coach Dorival Júnior said the result wasn't thoroughly poor, noting his team's wide advantages in posses-

SOCCER

sion and chances.

The draw was a monumental achievement for Costa Rica, an undermanned CONCACAF team with the youngest roster in the tournament but a reputation for overachievement and sturdy defending led by Sequeira, who plays for Ibiza in Spain's third divi-

Costa Rica head coach Gustavo Alfaro, the Argentine veteran leading his first major tournament since his hiring last November, was pleased by his team's tenacity.

Los Ticos had lost nine straight meetings with Brazil, but Alfaro's young group capably handled a night that could have left them starstruck.

Brazil controlled from the start with 75% possession in the first half, but couldn't break through.

Vinícius was taken down in the box in the 22nd minute by a big hit from Haxzel Quirós, but got no whistle.

In the 30th minute, Rodrygo went low to head on Raphinha's free kick to Marquinhos, who banged it home at the far post. A 3 1/2-minute VAR

Timberwolves sign Finch to 4-year contract extension

MINNEAPOLIS, June 25, (AP): The Minnesota Timberwolves signed head coach Chris Finch to a fouryear contract extension on Monday, coming off the franchise's best finish in 20 seasons.

Finch steered the Timberwolves to a 56-26 regular-season record, their second-best ever, before they reached the Western Conference finals and lost in five games to Dallas. The only other time in 35 years since the franchise joined the NBA that the Wolves advanced past the first round of the playoffs was 2004.

With a .557 winning percentage over 3 1/2 seasons, Finch (160-127) is the all-time Timberwolves leader. The late Flip Saunders (427-392), who led the 2004 team to the Western Conference finals, had a .521 winning percentage over 11 seasons. Saunders and Finch are the only two Wolves coaches with 100-plus

"I'm proud of the way we've been able to establish a great culture here with the Timberwolves, and I look forward to continuing to lead this organization and make our fans proud," Finch said in a statement distributed by the team.

The Wolves led the league with 37 wins against Western Conference opponents and had the NBA's best defense, posting a 108.4 defensive rating. Finch and his staff were also selected to coach the Western Conference team in the All-Star game.

"Chris is a wonderful coach, and an even better person," president of basketball operations Tim Connelly said in the statement. "We are thrilled that he is being rewarded with a well-earned extension. Under his guidance the team has improved every year. He's the perfect leader for our organization.

Finch was hired by Connelly's predecessor, Gersson Rosas, on Feb. 21, 2021, to replace the fired Ryan Saunders. He was previously given an extension on April 11, 2022. The 54-year-old Finch was an assistant with Houston, Denver, New Orleans and Toronto before getting his big break in Minnesota.

The two-time NCAA Division III All-American at Franklin & Marshall College in Pennsylvania played for the Sheffield Sharks in the British Basketball League and later coached the same team from 1997-2003. Finch also coached Britain's national team in the 2012 Olympics.

review followed, and Mexican referee César Ramos eventually agreed with the assistant's decision to wave it off for offside by a minuscule margin.

In the 39th minute, a kick by Lucas Paquetá appeared to go off the hand of Juan Pablo Vargas in the penalty area, but Ramos made no call.

Paquetá ripped a shot off the post in the 63rd minute. Costa Rica then survived when Quirós nearly headed the ball into his own net before Sequeira smothered it. Sequeira then made a Guilherme Arana ripped a shot on net. Costa Rica survived a few more moments of chaos beginning in the 86th minute, with Rodrygo failing to capitalize on a pair of scoring chances and not getting a foul call against Jeyland

Mitchell in the box. Bruno Guimarães then had a clean look at the net in the first minute of injury time, but pushed it just wide.

Dorival said he wants to see more "dirty movement" in Brazil's next



Colombia's Daniel Munoz, (left), attempts to block Paraguay's Julio Enciso cross during a Copa America Group D soccer match in Houston, Monday, June 24, 2024. (AP)

minute and Jefferson Lerma in the 42nd as Colombia opened the Copa America with a 2-1 victory over Paraguay on Monday night that extended its winning streak to nine.

Colombia, which had 66% possession, is unbeaten in 24 games since a 1-0 loss at Argentina in a World Cup qualifier on Feb. 1, 2022, winning 19 and drawing five.

James Rodríguez set up both Colombia goals in his 101st international match, which drew a pro-Colombia crowd of 67,059 to NRG Stadium; Julio Enciso scored Paraguay's goal in the 69th minute.

Colombia plays Costa Rica on Friday at Glendale, Arizona, and Brazil on July 2 at Santa Clara, California. Paraguay finishes Group D against Brazil on Friday at Las Vegas and Costa Rica on July 2 in Austin, Texas.

Colombia won the title in 2001 and lost to Argentina on penalty kicks in a 2021 semifinal. Paraguay won in 1953 and 1979 and was eliminated in the quarterfinals of the last

Rodríguez picked out a long cross to Muñoz for an open 8-yard header, Muñoz's second goal in 28 international appearances. Lerma scored on a glancing header from the middle of the penalty area on Rodríguez's free

Rodrigo Morínigo, a 25-year-old goalkeeper, made his national team debut after Carlos Coronel started in June friendlies against Chile and Panama.

Kuwait Olympic Committee to restructure Ethics Committee

By Khaled El Anzi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Time Staff

KUWAIT CITY, June 25: The General Assembly of the Kuwait Olympic Committee will hold its regular meeting today at 7:30 pm in the conference hall at the committee's headquarters in Hawalli. The agenda includes several important items, with a primary focus on restructuring the Ethics Committee, previously chaired by the late Dr. Rashid Al-Enezi.

Additional agenda items include approving the previously distributed agenda, appointing three members to review the meeting minutes, approving the report on the activities of Sheikh Fahad Al-Nasser, presenting the consolidated and audited budget and profit and loss statement, approving the audited financial statements, approving the proposed budget, and considering membership requests from the Marine Club, Diving, Rescue, Padel, and E-Sports Club, among other new business.

Federations and specialized clubs, members of the Kuwait Olympic Committee, have the right to nominate two candidates to attend the ordinary general assembly today according to the committee's statute, with voting rights granted to only one of them.

It is noteworthy that the Ethics Committee previously chaired by the late Dr. Rashid Al-Enezi, a professor of international law at Kuwait University, included Professor of Commercial Law Dr. Fahd Al-Zumai, Professor of International Law Dr. Shaheen Al-Shaheen, Professor of International Law Dr. Dima Al-Waqyan, and Professor of Commercial Law Dr. Muhammad Al-Wasmi. This committee's term expired at the end of the 2020-2024 sessions.

Lukaku yet to score

Belgium play Ukraine in a **Group E too 'close' to call**

STUTTGART, Germany, June 25, (AP): Belgium plays Ukraine on Wednesday with all to play for in Group E at the European Championship. With all teams in the group on three points after two games, only goal difference separates top to

Belgium got its campaign up and running with a 2-0 win against Romania after being shocked by Slovakia in its opening game.

The No. 3-ranked team in the world is second in the group on goal difference going into the last round of fixtures.

SOCCER

Ukraine suffered a 3-0 defeat to Romania in its opening game, but responded by beating Slovakia

Both teams know a win will be enough to guarantee their place in the round of 16.

Axel Witsel has missed both of Belgium's games so far and didn't even travel with the team for the game against Romania.

This is the first time Belgium and Ukraine have met in international soccer.

Romelu Lukaku is Belgium's all-time leading scorer with 85, but he is still to get off the mark at these Euros after having three goals ruled out by VAR.

Ukraine has advanced to the knockout stage of a Euros once in



Belgium's Kevin De Bruyne, (left), celebrates with Belgium's Yannick Carrasco after scoring his side's second goal during a Group E match between Belgium and Romanic at the Euro 2024 conserved. mania at the Euro 2024 soccer tournament in Cologne, Germany. (AP)

three previous attempts, reaching

the quarterfinals three years ago.
Ukraine's Andriy Yarmolenko is playing in his fourth Euros at the age of 34.

"For Andriy Yarmolenko, it's his fourth Euro, and he knows absolutely everything about this tournament, about football. What he has to say to us is priceless." -Ukraine defender Illia Zabarnyi.

"(Ukraine) have a situation in their country which isn't easy. They have their hearts set on making their fans and their nation very happy. They will give their all, just like we will." - Belgium defender Arthur Theate.

Best of the Rest

Reims hire Elsner: French club Reims hired Luka Elsner as its new coach on Tuesday.

The club announced the 41-year-old Slovenian's arrival in a video on X without immediately giving further details.

Reims finished ninth in the top flight last season while Elsner kept Le Havre up having guided the club to promotion the previous season as second division champion.

"The teams has its trademark, the developing of young talents and playing attractive football," Elsner said. "I hope to bring my great passion, my desire to im-

prove. Reims was looking for a new coach after Will Still left with three games remaining last season. (AP)

Bliss leaves Sporting: Sporting

Kansas City technical director Brian Bliss has left the team after nine years with the club.

The team said Monday the decision was mutual.

Bliss, a 58-year-old former defender who played for the U.S. at the 1990 World Cup and 1988 Olympics, was hired as director of player personnel in 2016 and promoted to technical director in

After a playing career that included stints at Energie Cottbus, Chemnitz and Carl Zeiss Jena, Bliss moved to Major League Soccer with Columbus, New York/New Jersey and Kansas

He became a Kansas City assistant coach from 2000-06, then was technical director at Columbus and Chicago.

He served as interim coach for short spells with Columbus, Chicago and Kansas City. (AP)



Afghanistan's captain Rashid Khan, centre, embraces teammate Gulbadin Naib as they celebrate after defeating Bangladesh by eight runs in their men's T20 World Cup cricket match at Arnos Vale Ground, Kingstown, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. (AP)

Sports

Latest sports scores at — http://sports.arabtimesonline.com

India, Afghanistan into T20 World Cup semis after dramatic Super Eight finale

Australia eliminated

GROS ISLET, St. Lucia, June 25, (AP): Afghanistan edged Bangladesh to reach the Twenty20 World Cup semifinals for the first time and followed India into the last four following a combination of results that eliminated 2021 champion Australia.

Captain Rohit Sharma bludgeoned 92 off 41 balls to lead India to a 24-run win over Australia in St. Lucia.

Afghanistan advanced when it beat Bangladesh by eight runs with seven balls remaining in a thrilling, rainaffected match at Kingstown, St. Vincent, to conclude the Super Eight stage.

At times in the match the fate of the Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Australia teams all hung in the balance, with all three in semifinals contention depend-

But it was finally Afghanistan that went through to a semifinal Wednesday against South Africa. Unbeaten India will play defending champion England on Thursday.

Sharma posted this tournament's fastest half-century - off 19 deliveries and finished with eight sixes and seven boundaries as India plundered 205-5. Travis Head kept Australia in the

chase with a blistering 76 off 43 balls, but his teammates choked against spinners Kuldeep Yadav (2-24) and Axar Patel (1-21) to be restricted at 181-7.

"It's quite satisfying, especially when you play like that," Sharma said. "We don't want to do anything different (in the semifinals), we want to play the same way, understand what the individuals need to do in a given situation, and play freely.'

Sharma set the tone when he smashed Mitchell Starc's second over for 29 runs, including three sixes. Virat Kohli was out for his second duck in the tournament, caught at midwicket off a Josh Hazlewood short ball. Kohli has just 66 runs in six games but fellow veteran Sharma was held back

only by a five-minute rain delay. "The 50s and 100s don't matter, I wanted to bat with the same tempo and carry on," Sharma said. "You want to make the bowlers think where the next shot is coming, and I think I managed



India's captain Rohit Sharma bats against Australia during an ICC Men's T20 World Cup cricket match at Darren Sammy National Cricket Stadium in Gros Islet, Saint Lucia. (AP)

In total, 76 of his runs came from boundaries and sixes. He became the first batter to hit 200 sixes in T20 internationals, and he also passed Kohli (4,103) and Pakistan's Babar Azam (4,145) as the leading scorer in international cricket's shortest format.

Sharma had the first century of this tournament in sight before he was undone by Starc's yorker in the 12th over. But middle-order batters Suryakumar Yadav (31), Shivam Dube (28) and Hardik Pandya (27) ensured India of the joint highest total against Aus-

CRICKET

tralia in men's T20 World Cup history. Only Hazlewood (1-14) bowled at the right lengths in his four overs.

Australia lost David Warner in Arshdeep Singh's (3-37) first over, but Head and captain Mitchell Marsh (37) counterpunched with a brisk 81-run, second-wicket stand.

Patel's brilliant one-handed catch removed Marsh, and Yadav bowled Glenn Maxwell on 20 in the 14th over. After Head was deceived by Jasprit Bumrah's slower ball, Australia's challenge fizzled out.

"It's disappointing," Marsh said.
"India got the better of us ... we've seen for 15 years what Rohit Sharma can do in that kind of mood, and he got off to an absolute flier.

Afghanistan batted first and made what seemed an inadequate 115-5 in a match it had to win to reach the semifinals for the first time.

Then in a dramatic second innings with rain hovering and three nations gripped by the action, Bangladesh fell short in a hectic effort to surpass Afghanistan's total in 12.1 overs - which would have sent it into the semifinals.

Afghanistan's victory was finally sealed when the last Bangladesh wicket fell with the total 105 at 1:10 a.m. local time. Few dared leave the ground as they were gripped until the end by the action and the kaleidoscope of changing fortunes.

Rain interrupted the match on four occasions, adding more drama and bringing revised targets into play.

In an breath-taking finish to the Super Eight stage, there were four main scenarios. If Afghanistan won it would go through. If it rained and the match ended without a result, Afghanistan also would progress.

A Bangladesh win would end Afghanistan's campaign and send Australia through. But if Bangladesh won within 12.1 overs it would go through on net run-rate and both Afghanistan and Australia would go home.



Jasprit Bumrah against Australia during an ICC Men's T20 World Cup cricket match at Darren Sammy National Cricket Stadium in Gros Islet, Saint Lucia.



A pitch invader stands next to Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo during a Group F match between Turkey and Portugal at the Euro 2024 soc-cer tournament in Dortmund, Ger-

Ronaldo likely to be rested

Portugal chase third victory Much-changed Spain advance with perfect record against newcomers Georgia Zaccagni's late goal sends Italy through against Croatia

LEIPZIG, Germany, June 25, (AP): Italy substitute Mattia Zaccagni scored in the last minute of stoppage time for Italy to advance to the knockout stage of the European Championship after drawing Croatia

Luka Modric's second-half strike looked like sending Croatia through as the Group B runner-up, but Zaccagni swept a brilliant shot inside the far post in the eighth minute of added time to cap a furious finale from

Croatia coach Zlatko Dalic was unhappy so much time was added after a battling performance from his side.

Italy needed a point to progress, while Croatia realistically needed a win to stay in the tournament. The Croatians have two points from their three games and were at the mercy of other results to see if it's enough to scrape through as one of the best third-place finishers.

Dalic made no mention of waiting. He already believes his side is out.

Italy will face Switzerland in the round of 16 on Saturday in Berlin's Olympiastadion, where the final is on July 14.

But Spalletti bristled at a question asking if he was concerned about his team trailing going into stoppage

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Modric scored 33 seconds after having a penalty saved by Italy goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma to become the oldest goal-scorer ever at the tournament.

Modric, at 38 years, 289 days on Monday, broke the record held by Ivica Vastic, who was 38 years, 257 days, when he scored for Austria against Poland at Euro 2008.

After Modric's penalty miss, Croatia immediately attacked again and Donnarumma had to save a shot by Ante Budimir. Modric pounced on the rebound in the 55th minute.

Spain changed almost its entire lineup and still kept up its victorious start to the European Championship with a 1-0 win over Albania, which was eliminated.

With his team already assured of winning Group B, coach Luis de la Fuente changed 10 of his starters and Spain won all three group games at a Euros for the first time since 2008, when it went on to win the tourna-

A 13th-minute goal from Ferran Torres and goalkeeper David Raya's stoppage-time save from Armando Broja ensured Spain completed the group stage without conceding a



Croatia's Marcelo Brozovic, (left), challenges for the ball with Italy's Nicolo Fagioli during a Group B match between Croatia and Italy at the Euro 2024 soccer tournament in Leipzig, Germany. (AP)

Torres scored with a deflection off the post from Dani OImo's pass, and put his fingers to his ears in his goal celebration. He said the gesture meant he was listening to the fans, not blocking anything out. "I don't have anything to prove out there,' Torres added.

Italy was the second qualifier from Group B after drawing with Croatia

Albania needed at least a draw to have any hope of qualifying for the knockout stages for the first time, even as one of the best third-place teams. The loss meant it placed last.

Albania's failure to beat Spain meant England, France and the Netherlands were all assured of qualifying for the knockout stages, regardless of what happens in their last group games.

All of those teams were on four points from two games and would qualify at least as one of the best third-placed teams.

Spain got the job done, but this 1-0 win was far less convincing than the victory by the same margin over Italy in its last game. Defender Aymeric Laporte was the only player to

For much of the first half, Spain seemed on course for a big win, but Olmo and Mikel Merino in particular missed good chances. Albania didn't record a shot until the 45th minute.

Albania finally started to put pressure on Spain midway through the second half. Forward Broja came off the bench and forced a good save from Raya.

MADRID, June 25, (AP): Real Madrid captain Nacho Fernández is ending his

Nacho leaving Real Madrid

sion on Tuesday, about three weeks

after the club defeated Borussia

Dortmund at Wembley for the club's

record-extending 14th European Cup

triumph. It was the sixth time Nacho

won the Champions League with

Madrid, a record he shares with Luka

and express our appreciation to Nacho,

one of the club's biggest legends," the

The 34-year-old Nacho, who is

playing with Spain at the European

Championship, has been with Madrid

for more than two decades, since

joining the club's youth academy in

grown as a person and as a player,"

Nacho said in a letter to fans on social

media. "For almost 25 years I've been

coming every day to practice in the

same place, learning the values of

Madrid and giving my life and fighting

for this shield. I've given everything I

"I arrived as a 10-year-old and I've

Nacho has won 26 trophies with

"Real Madrid would like to thank

Madrid, and first as captain.

club said.

career with the club less than a month after lifting the Champions League trophy in London.

Madrid announced Nacho's deci-



Spain's goalkeeper David Raya saves a shot during a Group B match between Albania and Spain at the Euro 2024 soccer tournament in Duesseldorf, Germany. (AP)

June 25, (AP): Portugal is already qualified for the European Championship knockout stages and can sign off from Group F in style with a third win when it plays newcomer Georgia on Wednesday. A draw might give Georgia a chance at qualifying, depending on results elsewhere, but it's likely to need a shock win. The kickoff in Gelsenkirchen - at the same time as group rivals the Czech Republic and Turkey meet in Hamburg There will be scrutiny

GELSENKIRCHEN,

2024 security after no fewer than six different fans invaded the field or tried to seek selfies with Cristiano Ronaldo at Portugal's 3-0 win over Turkey. Four of them reached Ronaldo. UEFA said on Sunday it increased security but there was another fan on the field on Monday as Spain beat Albania 1-0.

On its major tournament debut, Georgia has won praise for its battling style of play and nearly beat the Czech Republic in its second game

SOCCER

if not for a last-second miss. Beating Portugal would be a huge upset and would guarantee Georgia a spot in the round of 16.

Georgia will know before kickoff if a draw will potentially be enough to qualify as one of the four best third-place teams, or if only a win will do. If Georgia draws, it would still require the Czech Republic to lose against Turkey, though.

Ronaldo has yet to score at Euro 2024 and could potentially be rested against Georgia, since Portugal has won Group F no matter what.

midfielder Georgia Kiteishvili missed the first two matches amid fitness concerns but is available to face Portugal, coach Willy Sagnol said.

One of the records the 39-year-old Ronaldo can break is that of oldest ever goal-scorer at the European Championships. Croatia's Luka Modric scored on Monday at age 38 against Italy to set a new record. Two more milestones for experienced Portuguese players: Ronaldo can play his 210th international game and 41-year-old Pepe can play his 140th.

It's 18 years since Ronaldo and Sagnol last faced off at a major tournament in Germany. Sagnol was the right back on the France team which beat Ronaldo's Portugal 1-0 in the 2006 World Cup semifinals.

"It's clearly an annoying situation, both for us and for our opponents. It worries us, we've already made the statement and let's hope that the situation improves in the next games. so that the football is richer." -

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