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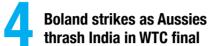
THULQADAH 23, 1444 AH MONDAY, JUNE 12, 2023



\$10,000 trade-in support



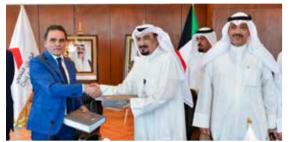
DGCA signs KD 6.68m deal to boost airport's air navigation







Rodri strike gives Man City Champions League victory









New Silk Road to link Arab world and China

China is Arab world's key partner with trade reaching \$430bn



RIYADH: Saudi Investment Minister Khaled Al-Falih on Sunday announced the launch of a new modern Silk Road connecting the Arab world and China. Falih, speaking at the Arab-China Business Conference held in Riyadh, said it is time for China to become an essential strategic partner of development in the region. The Saudi minister spoke of the growth in trade exchange with China, saying it creates promising opportunities for investments.

On behalf of Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman, Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan inaugurated the 10th edition of the conference earlier on Sunday, held under the slogan "Cooperation for Prosperity", with the participation of 23 countries, including Kuwait. In his opening speech, Prince Faisal mentioned China's role as the region's largest economic partner with bilateral trade exchange having reached \$430 billion in 2022.

Prince Faisal underlined the joint willingness of Arab countries and China to develop their partnership and cooperation, based on the outcomes of the forum since it was created. The Saudi minister added that the gathering's theme "Cooperation for Prosperity" reflected the paramount significance, great potential and joint visions regarding Arab-Sino investment and trade relations. He commended the conference as an opportunity to promote shared consensus, share expertise and realize growth that could contribute to achieving the prosperity, development and welfare of the people of the region and the world.

"Oil demand in China is still growing so of course we have to capture some of that demand," Saudi Energy Minister Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman said. "Instead of competing with China, collaborate with China." The two nations' momentum has also raised prospects for a successful conclusion to negotiations for a free trade deal between China and the Saudi Arabia-dominated Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), ongoing since 2004.

Falih said any agreement would have to protect emerging Gulf industries as the region starts to diversify towards non-oil economic sectors. "We need to enable and empower our industries to export, so we hope all countries that negotiate with us for free trade deals know we need to protect our new, emerging industries," Falih said, adding he hoped a deal would soon be struck.

The two-day conference is the largest Arab-China gathering for business and investment with participation of more than 2,000 government representatives, CEOs, investors and entrepreneurs. The event is neit under the auspices of Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman and is scheduled to discuss many topics, including investment and financing through the Belt and Road Initiative, the role of mega projects in reimagining future cities, innovative ways to produce clean energy, renewable energy and reduce carbon emissions. The conference also deals with the role of tourism and entertainment in diversifying the economy, food security and agriculture as key to unlock development capabilities. — Agencies

KUWAIT: Education Minister Hamad AI-Adwani visits an examination center as around 43,000 grade 12 students in public and Arabic private schools around Kuwait started their final exams on June 11, 2023. — KUNA (See Page 2)

MPs hold informal meeting on priorities; roadmap proposed

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: Forty-seven MPs of the new 50-member National Assembly held their first informal meeting on Sunday to discuss coordination on priority issues and the election of Assembly panels to be held on the inaugural day on June 20. MP Abdullah Fahhad said after the meeting that there was a consensus on priority issues that should be debated, adding that the meeting did not discuss election of posts.

MP Mohannad Al-Sayer said the meeting discussed coordination in electing committees and drawing up priority issues, adding that the main object of the lawmakers is to approve reform laws. He called on the prime minister to form a Cabinet that is capable of implementing priority issues for the people and also capable of coordinating with MPs.

Two MPs have announced they will contest the deputy speaker's post, Mohammad Al-Mutair, who was deputy speaker of the 2022 Assembly which was annulled by the court, and Marzouq Al-Hubaini. Several MPs have proposed that the same people who held posts in the scrapped Assembly should be unanimously elected because they did not get enough time in the previous Assembly.

But MP Hubaini said while entering the meeting that "this issue should be decided inside the Assembly hall", a reference to voting. The meeting, hosted by MP Mohammad Hayef, was held hours after 14 lawmakers signed a joint statement proposing a broad roadmap to

Continued on Page 6



Rains kill 27 in Pak; Amir sends condolences

PESHAWAR: Heavy rains followed by strong winds killed at least 27 people, including eight children, in northwest Pakistan, officials said Sunday. The storms hit four districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province late Saturday, with five siblings aged between two and 11 among the dead. "At least 12 people were buried alive after the roofs and walls of their houses collapsed," Taimur Ali Khan, a spokesman for the provincial disaster management authority, told AFP.

Trump rallies

'Unabomber'

dies in prison

indictment

supporters after

COLUMBUS, Georgia: Donald Trump addressed

his supporters Saturday for the first time since his

indictment on multiple federal charges propelled

the 2024 presidential election race into unchart-

ed and potentially destabilizing territory. The 37

counts of the indictment - released on Friday and

focused on his alleged mishandling of classified

WASHINGTON: Ted Kaczynski, known as the

"Unabomber", who terrorized Americans from 1978

to 1995 with his sporadic, anonymous bombing cam-

paign, died in prison Saturday, US authorities said.

Kaczynski, 81, whose attacks killed three people and

injured two dozen, was found unresponsive at 00:25

am (0425 GMT) at a federal prison medical center

in Butner, North Carolina, said the Federal Bureau of

More than 140 people were injured and more than 200 livestock died, he said. Authorities have declared an emergency in all four districts.

HH the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent on Sunday a cable to Pakistani President Arif Alvi expressing his sincere condolences over the victims of the floods. HH the Amir expressed condolences to the victims' families, wishing speedy recovery for those injured. HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Al-Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah also sent cables of condolences to Alvi.

Meanwhile, a cyclone is making its way across the Arabian Sea towards the coastlines of Pakistan

Continued on Page 6

materials — set the former president up for a far more severe legal reckoning than the charges of personal, political and commercial misconduct he has largely ridden out in the past.

And it also sets the stage for a White House race like no other before it, with President Joe Biden's Department of Justice pursuing the prosecution of the clear frontrunner for the Republican nomination. Trump, who has already denounced what he insists is a politically-motivated witch hunt, is talking at two state Republican conventions in Georgia and then North Carolina, and was widely expected to use both platforms to attack the FBI and accuse federal prosecutors of unfairly targeting him.

Continued on Page 6

GREENSBORO, North Carolina: Former US President

KARACHI: Fishing boats are anchored at a fishing harbor on June 11, 2023. –

and 2024 presidential hopeful Donald Trump gestures as he speaks at the North Carolina Republican Party Convention on June 10, 2023. — AFP

Prisons. He was taken to the hospital, where he was officially pronounced dead later in the morning.

The reclusive Harvard-educated mathematician, whose targets ranged from academics to random civilians, had a self-professed goal of halting the advance of modern technology and society, mounting his campaign of violence from a shack in rural Montana. His bombs were either hand delivered or mailed over nearly two decades, confounding investigators

looking to bring him to justice.

It was only after Kaczynski's capture and the revelation of his identity that the FBI uncovered his previous life — one where he scored 167 on an IQ test and entered university at just 16. The nickname of "Unabomber" came from his targeting of a university and an airline company, leading the FBI to dub him the "University and Airline Bomber". The seemingly random nature of Kaczynski's Continued on Page 6



Ted Kaczynski



Local

Armenian Embassy announces launch of direct flights between Kuwait and Armenia

No visas for Kuwaitis, visa on arrival for expats: Ambassador

By Majd Othman

KUWAIT: Armenian Ambassador Sarmen Baghdasaryan announced at a press conference on Sunday the launch of direct flights between Armenia and Kuwait from June 22, with two weekly flights by Armenian national carrier Fly Arna. He also announced exempting Kuwaiti citizens from visas and e-visas (or visa on arrival) for foreigners residing in Kuwait (depending on their nationality). The launch of the direct flights coincides with the Eid Al-Adha holiday. Baghdasaryan pointed out this is another example

of the developing relationship between Armenia and

Kuwait, which are built on mutual trust and respect. He added the direct flights will enhance existing relations and enrich them, especially when it comes to economic ties and people-to-people contacts.

"Armenia has many advantages to offer to holiday travelers. It is a nearby destination, with a 2-hour flight. It is a family-friendly destination with activities suitable for all the members of the family, especially children. The capital Yerevan is considered one of the top 20 safest and secure cities in the world," he said. "Armenia has also turned into a destination for foodies, given the sensational tastes and variety of cuisines and fusions offered. Young people can also enjoy adventure tourism like mountain climbing, diving, surfing and skiing," Baghdasarvan added.

The ambassador also mentioned the social values and culture are very similar between Arabs and Armenians, saying Armenia is looking forward to welcoming Kuwaitis to the country. He added the number of foreign tourists who visited Armenia between January to April 2023 increased by more than 700,000 compared to the same period in 2019. Baghdasaryan concluded by pointing out that the number of visitors from the UAE to Armenia is around 10,000, with 36 daily flights between GCC countries and Armenia.



Armenian Ambassador Sarmen Baghdasaryan



Kuwait FM takes part in 156th GCC ministerial meeting

RIYADH: Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah headed Kuwait's delegation participating in the 156th GCC foreign ministerial meeting, held in Rivadh, Saudi Arabia. The meeting discussed supporting and strengthening the historical march of joint Gulf action in various fields. It also touched on mechanisms of developing various fields of cooperation between the Gulf States, friendly countries, and regional and international organizations. — KUNA



Kuwait university announces application dates for coming year

KUWAIT: Kuwait University announced Sunday that applications for the 2023-2024 academic year will be open from July 15-26. The announcement was made during a press conference held at the university to publicize the university's summer term plan in addition to the 'Future Makers' forum, held starting Tuesday for three days, to review the educational system's outcomes in Kuwait.

Acting Admissions Registration Dean Dr Rawaa Al-Jarallah said an unprecedented achievement was made by Kuwait University for the current summer term by providing 180,000 seats for students, constituting a 20 percent increase compared to last year.

Registrations have also jumped by 24 percent compared to last year, with 26,000 students having registered so far. Jarallah said no additional costs were incurred as a result of the increase.

Acting Assistant Dean of Admissions, Registration and Graduates Affairs Dr Mohammad Al-Failakawi said applications for Kuwait University will be online, meaning there will be no need to visit the admissions and registration hall to complete the process.

Failakawi said applications by Kuwaitis, children of Kuwaiti women, GCC nationals and bedoon students will be accepted from July 15-26, provided these students have graduated from unified system schools, religious institutions, American high schools and English secondary schools in Kuwait.

Transfer students coming from other universities, the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training, Saad Al-Abdallah Academy or the Army and National Guard can submit their applications from July 16 until September 7.

Prospective students who completed their high school education outside Kuwait can apply for admission at the admissions and registration hall at Sabah Al-Salem University City in Shadadiya starting from July 18 until July 26. This is under the condition that these students are one of the following: Kuwaiti children of Kuwaiti women, non-Kuwaiti children of Martyrs, children and spouses of diplomats, children of teaching faculty and allied academic staff, languages teachers and workers at the university. Member of the Higher Committee for (Future Makers) Forum Dr Reem Al-Baghly said the forum which will start Tuesday with participation from various academic entities in the university is the first of its kind in the country and aims at achieving Kuwait 2035 vision and university strategy. She said the forum encourages competition among students and increase production competency to achieve economic prosperity for the country. Faculty members and experts in different literary and scientific fields have been chosen to give workshops at the forum. The forum will also include a job fair promoting employment opportunities for students in more than 30 entities in the public and private sectors. — KUNA

RIYADH: Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah is seen with other officials during the meeting. — KUNA photos



n proctors examine the final exam papers before distributing them to students



Students line up for a security check before entering the exam hall.



KUWAIT: Education Minister Dr Hamad Al-Adwani checks on a student taking his final exam during an inspection tour he took to a number of schools on Sunday. — KUNA photos

Grade 12 finals underway as MoE battles cheating

KUWAIT: Around 43,000 grade 12 students in public and Arabic private schools started their final exams on Sunday. Education Minister Dr Hamad Al-Adwani toured a number of schools to oversee the process and preparations put in place to facilitate the test-taking process for students, as well as efforts to prevent cheating.

Schools opened their doors for 26,576 students in the scientific stream and 17,314 in the literary stream who are taking their end-of-year exams for



A proctor hands out exam papers to a student sitting for his first final exam for the 2023-2024 academi year on Sunday.

their last stage of high school.

"The ministry made sure to provide a positive atmosphere for students," Minister Dr Adwani told reporters, adding that ministry personnel are achieving balance between ensuring a stress-free environment for students while tackling "negative aspects that may happen at examination halls", such as cheating.

The Interior Ministry announced Thursday that police arrested three people accused of leaking high school final exams for all grades. The suspects operated WhatsApp groups where they gave the tests papers to subscribers in exchange for money, the ministry explained.

"This operation is a testimony to the great efforts exerted by state departments to fight this problem," Dr Adwani said. He noted that the interior and education ministries had decided to work together in fighting groups that promote cheating and "put an



Students read through their notes ahead of Sunday's final exams.

end to the activities of these networks which tarnish the education process and outcomes."

Dr Adwani, who doubles as Minister of Higher Education, indicated that high school graduates should have seats waiting for them either in Kuwait University, Abdullah Al-Salem University, Public Authority for Applied Education and Training or in the state's scholarship program for local and international universities.

"Higher education institutions have put a plan to absorb high school graduates and provide seats for every graduate who meets the minimum GPA requirements," he said. Furthermore, he urged students who will choose to study abroad on their own expense to select universities "that meet quality education standard requirements" and avoid colleges which do not meet those standards "because their degrees will not be accredited by the higher education ministry."



KUWAIT: Speakers at the Kuwait University press conference held Sunday pose for a photo. ---- KUNA

Kuwait, Pakistan sign military deal

KUWAIT: Kuwait Armed Forces and its Pakistani counterpart signed on Sunday an agreement to boost military cooperation between the two countries. In a press release, Kuwait Ministry of Defense said that this agreement aims to strengthen bilateral ties on all levels, especially on the military and defensive fields. Several senior officials from both sides attended the meeting. --- KUNA



KUWAIT: Officials from the Kuwait Armed Forces and their Pakistani counterpart sign an agreement to boost military cooperation Sunday. — KUNA

Kuwait is Times

Local

Environment authority to combat plastic pollution through circular economy: Official

Research paper in the works to study model's feasibility: Report

KUWAIT: The Environment Public Authority is planning to concentrate its efforts in transitioning Kuwait's economy to a circular model to protect the environment, said the authority's Acting Director General Samira Al-Kandari. "We must recycle plastic waste and reduce the use of plastic due to its dangerous effects on people's health, the environment, ecological systems and world economy," Kandari told reporters during an event held to mark World Environment Day.

In a circular economy, markets give incentives for reusing products, rather than scrapping them and then extracting new resources, according to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. "In such an economy, all forms of waste, such as clothes, scrap metal and obsolete electronics, are returned to the economy or used more efficiently. This can provide a way to not only protect the environment, but use natural resources more wisely, develop new sectors, create jobs and develop new capabilities," reads the organization's website.

According to the authority, the amount of plastic waste produced annually is estimated at 314 tons, 13 percent of which is solid waste. Kandari said eight percent of solid waste in the country gets recycled. She said the authority will focus on supporting "technology, reusing, manufacturing and recycling, along with longterm behavioral change that must be taken to

eradicate plastic pollution effectively".

As part of its efforts to promote recycling, said Kandari, the authority launched a media campaign in February to raise awareness of the importance of moving away from consuming single-use plastic products in coordination with NGOs and the public and private sectors.

Idea long in the works

The idea of a circular economy has been on the government's agenda for some time. A report published by Kuwait Public Policy Center in 2019 outlines a plan to prepare a research paper identifying "key barriers and enablers" to adopting circular economy business practices. The paper will use input from literature, discussions and an analysis of circular business models used by small and medium enterprises.

"Applying circular economy principles to waste management in Kuwait requires change across all stages, from production, use and reuse, recycling and disposal. It is a whole-of-system approach that requires accounting of the full cost and lifecycle of materials," the report reads. The report cites creating new industries and markets and leading to new revenue streams and the creation of jobs as some of the model's benefits.

"Less waste, more recycling and recovery means less use of landfills, and consequently, reduced environmental impacts and lower landfill operation costs including reduced re-



KUWAIT: Samira AI-Kandari, the Environment Public Authority's acting director general, interacts at one of the booths at the event held to mark World Environment Day. — KUNA

habilitation costs including reduced rehabilitation costs," says the report. The center gave the research paper "medium" priority and said

it would be ready by 2024 through partnership between Kuwait Municipality and "a leading global economic institution".



Zain Jordan provides phone subscriptions

company is also committed to adopting harnessing technology tools for persons with disabilities, thereby reducing inequalities as stated in the UN's 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

DEI initiatives under the 'We Able' program across Zain's operations include the following: the creation of a sign language digital library for four countries specific sign language, Kuwait, Jordan, Bahrain, and Iraq, aiming to create more sign languages to cover other Zain operations. This library provides high-quality educational materials offering employee contracts in sign language, while continually training its staff in sign language, thus facilitating their bonding and communication with fellow hearing-impaired colleagues. The library also contains video lessons provided by sign language trainers and experts and includes a detailed explanation of the vocabulary and basic expressions in sign language. Zain also provided training of 300 employees Groupwide on sign language. Zain Kuwait added accessible evacuation chair for all its offices while Zain Jordan added handrails for all ramps and added a new restroom with an automatic door and hosted an inclusive accessible excel training course. Zain Jordan was the first telco in the world with a virtual translator for the deaf on its website and social media channels, using a plugin that adds sign language using interpreting 3D smart Avatars. In 2015, Zain Jordan launched the Basma+ line, providing complimentary minutes for video calls, as well as technical

support services to the deaf and hearing impaired, responding to inquiries. Zain launched the GROW program and trained fresh graduates with disability to prepare them for the workplace that has seen 14 graduates join Zain since the program's launch. Zain Bahrain launched a hotline for People with Disabilities to provide exclusive communication access and have made four retail stores wheelchair friendly, with more in progress.

MoH issues Hajj guidelines as COVID restrictions lifted

KUWAIT: The Kuwaiti Ministry of Health issued Saturday guidelines for pilgrims going to Makkah for the upcoming Hajj season.

The Hajj season, expected to begin on June 26, will likely see millions of pilgrims flock to the holy city of Makkah. This is the first Hajj season since the COVID-19 pandemic to see restrictions lifted on the number of people allowed to perform the pilgrimage. In its guidelines, the ministry said that pilgrims must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19, meningitis, bacterial pneumonia and seasonal influenza at least 10 days before heading for hajj, urging them to carry their vaccination certificates during their trip.

The ministry called on pilgrims, who suffer from chronic diseases such as diabetes and heart disease, to consult their doctors before traveling. The ministry also urged them to bring a sufficient amount of the medications they use as well as detailed and upto-date reports of their health condition, including information about their health problems, medicines and their prescribed doses. It advised pilgrims to don facemasks, use tissues when coughing or sneezing and wash their hands with soap, water and disinfectants during their spiritual journey to prevent respiratory infection. Pilgrims are also asked to avoid touching their eyes, mouths, or noses with their hands, and avoid direct contact with those who show symptoms of illness. The ministry encouraged pilgrims to drink large quantities of water, liquids, and juices and to eat water-rich foods such as fruits and vegetables in order to avoid dehydration as well as avoid direct exposure to the sun, heat and crowding. It called on the pilgrims to adhere to the precautionary measures and instructions issued by the relevant Saudi authorities to preserve their health and safety. Saudi Arabia has unveiled the largest ever Hajj operational plan ahead of the upcoming pilgrimage season, according to news reports. A record-breaking 14,000 staff members, as well as more than 8,000 volunteers, will be deployed on the ground to help the millions of pilgrims who will take part in Hajj this year. — Agencies

in sign language

AMMAN: Zain's operation in Jordan has made mobile phone subscriptions accessible via sign language for customers with hearing and visual impairments, in a step that is the first of its kind in the region to provide this service.

Zain customers in Jordan who may be visually impaired, blind, hearing impaired, or deaf, will be able to view contracts and understand their terms through an audio-visual video available by scanning a QR Code located in Zain showrooms across the Kingdom. In the near future, this service will make it easier for customers to identify all the terms and conditions translated into sign language at any time.

Zain has decided to position the introduction and development of disability issues for its customers and within the workplace as a priority task that is part of its Diversification, Equity & Inclusion (DEI) vision, by creating the 'We Able' disability inclusive program to meet the needs of all segments of society and is working with organizations and partners who are experts in this field to further strengthen this new strategy. The

More on Zain's Disability Inclusion vision

Zain's influential role in society means the company must maintain its pioneering outlook with respect to creating positive change in the workplace and in all other areas of its activities. The company is proud to stand as an example for other corporates to follow and the implementation of the WE ABLE initiative reflects its commitment to develop and implement a sustainable Disability Inclusion program. Zain believes it is time that the contributions that people with disabilities can make in our workforces and in society in general be recognized and is pleased to have the opportunity to raise awareness in this area through its words and more importantly through its actions.

As one of the first institutions across the region launching a dedicated department for the areas of DEI and notably its 'We Able' initiative, Zain has entered partnerships with notable entities such as The Valuable 500, as well as being a signatory into the International Labor Organization (ILO) Global Business and Disability Network Charter.



KUWAIT: A woman speaks with a dermatologist at the vitiligo awareness campaign organized by Kuwait Medical Association on Saturday.





Campaign spreads awareness, acceptance of people with vitiligo

By Ghadeer Ghloum

KUWAIT: Vitiligo is a skin condition characterized by loss of skin pigmentation, which results in white patches of skin. It occurs when the immune system attacks and destroys melanocytes, the cells responsible for producing pigment in the skin. According to dermatologists, there is no cure for vitiligo, but there are treatments that can help improve the appearance of the affected skin and reduce the spread of white patches.

Kuwait Medical Association (KMA) organized a program on June 10, 2023 to raise awareness about vitiligo through a booth at The Avenues mall, where a number of dermatologists specialized in vitiligo were present to educate people and encourage social acceptance of people with this condition. Kuwait Times visited KMA's booth at The Avenues mall and interviewed Dr Sneha Mariam, a registered dermatologist at Adan Hospital.

"Vitiligo is an autoimmune disease, where our body does not recognize a body cell to be its own but as a foreign object and starts to fight it. The cells that are involved in this are melanocytes, which are responsible for pigmentation in the body. When melanocytes are fought, the pigmentation that is present in our body gets reduced, which causes vitiligo in an individual. There are over 30 genes responsible for this condition. It is also hereditary — if a family member is affected, there will be an almost 5 to 10 percent risk factor of getting vitiligo," Dr Mariam told Kuwait Times.

Dr Mariam also said vitiligo is not contagious, as it is the body's own cells that are fighting, which means it is not an infectious disease. Like diabetes or any other chronic disease, vitiligo is a lifelong condition that cannot be completely cured. However, the goal of treatment is to reduce the spread of the disease to other parts of the body and induce pigmentation for some of the pigment to return. This happens in some people but cannot be generalized.

Dr Mariam also shed light on the most common misunderstandings people have about this condition. She said that the most common misconceptions are related to food, such as going on a gluten-free diet or drinking milk soon after eating fish triggers vitiligo, which is not true. Dr Mariam said vitiligo is not dangerous or life-threatening, and people with this condition learn to live with it. She also emphasized the main message of the program — to spread acceptance of people with this condition, as it is not contagious and not dangerous.







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News in Brief

Health institutions closed for violating license

KUWAIT: Two health institutions in Abu Halaifa were closed by Ahmadi Municipality branch inspectors for activities contrary to their license. The shutdown happened during an inspection campaign organized by the municipality in collaboration with the Ministry of Interior. A spokesperson with the municipality said officials will continue their inspection tours to find violators and take legal action against them.

Kuwait to sign new labor deals with Nepal, Vietnam

KUWAIT: Informed sources said Kuwait is communicating separately with Nepal and Vietnam with the purpose of signing two labor agreements. The agreements are meant to organize bringing in labor from those two countries, including domestic help, in a deal similar to that signed with Ethiopia. The new agreements go in line with the instructions of First Deputy Premier and Interior Minister, who is also in charge of the Manpower Authority, Sheikh Talal Al-Khaled Al-Sabah. Sheikh Talal had called for allowing in labor from new countries as a solution to Kuwait's demographic imbalance and prevent the disproportionate growth of certain communities. Sources said completing the two agreements with Nepal and Vietnam will reduce the need for domestic help from countries such as India, Philippines and Sri Lanka. The move will also keep prices low and prevent labor offices from imposing extra fees to bring in new labor. If things were to go according to plan, the agreements would be complete at the start of next year and go in effect immediately.

Vaccine certificates now available on Sahel app

KUWAIT: Health Ministry Assistant Undersecretary for Digital Health Affairs Dr Ahmad Al-Ghareeb said preventive vaccine certificates have been added to the services of the ministry that are accessible through the government app Sahel. Ghareeb said the new service will show details of preventive and rou-

DGCA, Italy's Leonardo ink KD 6.68m deal to boost airport navigation system

Deal among several made with company over last decade

KUWAIT: The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) signed a KD 6.68 million (around \$21.4 million) deal with Italy's Leonardo Aerospace, Defense and Security company to develop the air navigation system at Kuwait international airport.

The agreement, inked Sunday, involves installing two advanced radar systems, according to KUNA. This is not the first airport-related venture for the Italian company, which has been present in Kuwait since 2010. The first two projects for Leonardo in Kuwait involved upgrading the airport — the company installed and provided complex hardware and software systems for the management of data traffic between multiple airport systems in 2013. It also set up a primary radar for air traffic control in 2010. Leonardo has also done some work in the new T4 terminal, having supplied the baggage handling system, which has been in operation since 2018.

Deputy DGCA Director for planning and projects Saad Al-Otaibi told KUNA that the new radar system would help improve and smooth out the process of air navigation at Kuwait International Airport.

The deal, signed by Director General of DGCA Emad Al-Juluwi and representatives from Leonardo, includes the designing, manufacturing, importing and operation of the new radars. Training, maintenance and technical support services were also included in the deal, said Otaibi.

The Eurofighter deal

Leonardo, an Italian multinational company, is one of the largest defense contractors in the world. It's partially owned by the Italian government, which holds 30.2 percent of the company's shares and is its largest shareholder. It has operations in 118 countries, including Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain.

The company's Kuwaiti branch, founded in 2014, is one of the first-foreign owned Kuwaiti companies



KUWAIT: Director General of DGCA Emad Al-Juluwi and a representative from Leonardo exchange copies of the contract signed Sunday. — KUNA

in the country, according to Leonardo's website. The company was established through agreement with the National Offset Company, launched in 2007 to pave the way for foreign companies to enter joint ventures with Kuwait's private sector, and the Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority, a government entity promoting direct investment in the country.

The company's activities in Kuwait include supplying the Ministry of Defense with 28 Eurofighter Typhoon aircrafts, an \$8.7 billion deal which raised eyebrows when compared with similar purchases of the combat planes across the Middle East.

It led Kuwait's government to launch an investi-

gation into the jets' inflated price in January 2022, after which several senior officials were referred for prosecution in a major corruption case.

The Kuwaiti Anti-Corruption Authority's investigations into the deal revealed that the officers "caused grave damage to public money by issuing inflated bills to the manufacturer that exceeded the total value agreed upon in the main contract," KUNA reported at the time. However, the special tribunal for trying ministers acquitted a former defense minister and four senior ministry officials of the charges earlier this year. The final few Eurofighter jets are expected to be delivered by Leonardo in 2024, according to local media.





tine vaccinations for children, as well as Hajj vaccines. Users can also request a certificate for themselves or any of their children under 16 through the app. KUWAIT: British Ambassador Belinda Lewis cuts a cake during the launching ceremony of the festival in the presence of top management of LuLu Hypermarket in Kuwait.



British Ambassador Belinda Lewis cuts the ribbon during the launching ceremony of the festival in the presence of top management of LuLu Hypermarket in Kuwait.

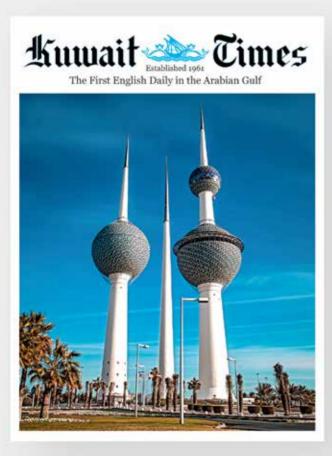
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Festival of British Foods at LuLu Hypermarket

KUWAIT: A week-long celebration of the best of British foods is being held at all outlets of LuLu Hypermarket from June 10-17. The 'LuLu British Food Week' was inaugurated on June 10 at the Al-Qurain branch of the hypermarket by British Ambassador Belinda Lewis along with top management of LuLu Hypermarket in Kuwait, and in the presence of a large gathering of shoppers and well-wishers of the brand.

Adding to the lively vibe of the inauguration was a high-energy performance by a special British band that delighted guests and shoppers alike. Another major draw was an exhibition of classic vintage cars from the UK that had many classic-car enthusiasts swooning over the

gleaming vehicles.

A major attraction of the seven-day food festival, which showcases the finest food products from the United Kingdom, is the amazing offers on all UK-branded products, as well as special promotions on select items. Shoppers appear spoilt for choice with hundreds of well-known British food brands being made available at oneoff prices during the promotion period.

The festive and exciting backdrop to the LuLu British Food Week continued indoors at all LuLu outlets with UK-themed decorations.

Kiosks offering free food samplings and replicas of traditional British street-food stalls offering popular items such as fish, chips, cheese and gravy, are other singular attractions drawing shoppers in large numbers. The LuLu British Food Week is part of the hypermarket's continued commitment to bring high-quality food products from around the world to shoppers in Kuwait, and to offer customers the widest selection of best of the world products at exceptional value through extremely competitive prices.



Ambassador Belinda Lewis browses a variety of British products at the market.



British products are on display at LuLu Hypermarket





Thousands evacuated as Philippine volcano spews ash, rocks

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French town to pay tribute to those who chased off knife attacker

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Ukraine announces retaking village in southeast, first gain of offensive

Thirty-five people, including seven children missing in southern Ukraine flood



KHERSON: Rescuers from the State Emergency Service help evacuate a local resident from a flooded area in the town of Kherson on June 11, 2023. The flood, triggered by damage to the Kakhovka dam in the early hours of June 6, 2023, forced thousands to flee, disrupted water supplies and sparked fears of an environmental and humanitarian disaster. — AFP

KYIV: Kyiv announced on Sunday that Ukrainian forces have retaken a village in the war-torn country's southeast, the first reported gain of the offensive. Ukraine's ground forces said in a statement that soldiers of the 68th separate ranger brigade had "liberated the settlement of Blagodatne" in the eastern region of Donetsk. The ground forces released a video showing soldiers carrying a Ukrainian flag into a destroyed building.

Another military spokesman, Valeriy Shershen, said in televised remarks that the retaken village was located on the border of the region of Donetsk and the southern region of Zaporizhzhia where Moscow has reported heavy Ukrainian assaults

He said Ukraine's forces captured several Russian and pro-Russian troops, adding that the Ukrainian flag was hoisted over Blagodatne. On Saturday, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said that a counteroffensive against Russian forces was underway but refused to provide any details. Russian President Vladimir Putin said this week Kyiv's offensive had already begun but was already failing.

Meanwhile, thirty-five people, including seven children, were missing in southern Ukraine on Sunday following a devastating flood prosecutors called the "worst environmental catastrophe since Chernobyl."

The Russian-controlled Kakhovka dam along the

June 6, forcing thousands to flee and sparking fears of humanitarian as well as environmental disasters.

Ukraine accuses Russia of blowing up the dam on the Dnipro River, while Moscow says Kyiv fired upon the structure. Ukrainian interior minister Igor Klymenko said that 77 towns and villages had been flooded in the southern regions of Kherson and Mykolaiv. Klymenko said that in the Kherson region 35 people were missing, including seven children.

As a result of the flood, five people died in the region of Kherson and one person was dead in the region of Mykolaiv. A total of 3,700 people have been evacuated from their homes in the two regions, the minister added in a statement. Separately, Ukrainian tives of the International Criminal Court visited the flooded territory, his office said.

"This is the worst environmental catastrophe since Chernobyl so we are investigating not only a war crime but also an ecocide," Kostin said in a statement. "The situation is very complicated," he added. He noted that a number of "dangerous" facilities including at least three cemeteries, oil storage terminals and garbage dumps have been flooded.

A total of 450 tonnes of turbine oil have spilled into the waters of the Dnipro and the Black Sea, he said. More than 170 prosecutors have been investigating the breach of the dam. "Our colleagues from the International Criminal Court are also with

Clashes resume in Sudan as 24-hour ceasefire ends

KHARTOUM: Shelling and gunfire resumed Sunday in the Sudanese capital, witnesses said, after the end of a 24-hour ceasefire that had given civilians rare respite from nearly two months of war. Deadly fighting has raged in the northeast African country since mid-April, when army chief Abdel Fattah al-Burhan and his former deputy Mohamed Hamdan Daglo, who commands the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF), turned on each other.

The latest in a series of ceasefire agreements enabled civilians trapped in the capital Khartoum to venture outside and stock up on food and other essential supplies. But only 10 minutes after it ended at 6:00 am (0400 GMT) on Sunday the capital was rocked again by shelling and clashes, witnesses told AFP. Heavy artillery fire was heard in Khartoum and its twin city Omdurman to the north, and fighting also erupted on Al-Hawa Street, a major artery in the south of the capital, they said. Multiple truces have been agreed and broken, including even after the United States had slapped sanctions on both rival generals after the previous attempt collapsed at the end of May.

Both Burhan and Daglo amassed considerable wealth during the rule of longtime Sudanese dicta-

UK oppn demands election amid Johnson 'farce'

LONDON: UK opposition leader Keir Starmer on Sunday demanded a general election as three MPs from the ruling Conservative Party, including Boris Johnson, quit parliament following a probe into COVID lockdown-breaking parties.

Labour leader Starmer tweeted that Prime Minister Rishi Sunak "must finally find a backbone, call an election, and let the public have their say on 13 years of Tory failure. "This farce must stop. People have had enough of a shambolic Tory government and a weak prime minister no one voted for."

Johnson announced on Friday he was leaving as a member of parliament, claiming he had been forced out in a stitch-up by his political opponents. The 58-year-old Johnson has been under investigation by a cross-party committee about whether he deliberately lied to parliament over parties when he was in office.



KHARTOUM: Mourners gather to bury the victims killed by an artillery shell strike in southern Khartoum on June 11, 2023. Shelling and gunfire resumed in the Sudanese capital, witnesses said, after the end of a 24-hour ceasefire that had given civilians rare respite from nearly two months of war. — AFP

tor Omar al-Bashir, whose government was subjected to decades of international sanctions before his overthrow in 2019. The 24-hour ceasefire that ended on Sunday morning had been announced by US and Saudi mediators who warned that if it failed they may break off mediation efforts.

The two warring sides had "agreed to allow the unimpeded movement and delivery of humanitarian assistance throughout the country", the Saudi foreign ministry said on Saturday. "Should the parties

As the committee prepares to make public its findings, Johnson said they had contacted him "making it clear... they are determined to use the proceedings against me to drive me out of parliament". By quitting, Johnson avoids the consequences of a humiliating fight to remain an MP in his Uxbridge and South Ruislip constituency in northwest London

where he holds a slim majority of just over 7,000. He denounced the committee, chaired by veteran opposition Labour MP Harriet Harman, as a "kangaroo court". "It is very sad to be leaving Parliament — at least for now — but above all I am bewildered and appalled that I can be forced out, anti-democratically... with such egregious bias," he said.

Nadine Dorries, one of Johnson's allies quit on Friday, while another, Nigel Adams, resigned on Saturday, triggering three by-elections for a government languishing in the polls. Speculation is rife about Johnson's next move, and whether he will attempt to run to become an MP again at the next general election, due next year.

Influential Johnson supporter Jacob Rees-Mogg wrote in the Mail on Sunday that said the former Tory leader could "easily get back into parliament at the next election." He also warned party officials against blocking such a bid, saying it would "shatter fail to observe the 24-hour ceasefire, facilitators will be compelled to consider adjourning" talks in the Saudi city of Jeddah which have been suspended since late last month, it added. The mediators said they "share the frustration of the Sudanese people about the uneven implementation of previous ceasefires". The fighting has gripped Khartoum and the western region of Darfur, killing upwards of 1,800 people, according to the Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project. — AFP



LONDON: File photo taken on May 9, 2022 shows then Britain's prime minister Boris Johnson looks up as he delivers a speech in front of 10 Downing Street in central London for the launching of the street market Downing street Spring Showcase. — AFP

our fragile party unity and plunge the Conservatives into civil war."

Sunak was finance minister under Johnson, and it was his resignation that ultimately triggered his then boss's demise. The party is still divided as a result, but had recently arrived at an uneasy truce that now looks to be under serious threat. — AFP

Fires intensify in Canada, could last 'all summer'

MONTREAL: New and intensifying fires are forcing the evacuation of thousands across Canada as the country battled out-of-control blazes that a provincial minister warned on Saturday could last "all summer." Nearly 17,800 square miles have burned since the beginning of the year, well above previous averages as the country warms quicker than the rest of the world amid climate change.

The country's west has been particularly hit. After several days of respite, fires intensified in Alberta, where Friday night the town of Edson saw its second evacuation since May. "The fire is so out of control that some forestry crews have had to back off," said Luc Mercier, chief administrative officer of Yellowhead County, where Edson is located. "They can't fight this fire."

Speaking to broadcaster CBC, resident Hayley Waites said the evacuation of Edson took place in the form of an "enormous convoy" of people fleeing the town. "When you're panicking to go all out, all you think about is running away," she said. "But as soon as you leave in the car, you ask: 'What if my house is no longer there when I come back?"

In British Columbia, the 2,400 person town of Tumbler Ridge was largely evacuated as a fire approached within a couple miles of the city. In the country's east, Quebec Minister of Public Security Francois Bonnardel said Saturday morning that the situation in the central and northwestern parts of the province remained difficult, with several towns threatened.

Fires in northeast Quebec were considered "stable." "This is a first in the history of Quebec to fight so many fires, to evacuate so many people," he said. "We are going to have a fight that we think will last all summer."

Some 14,000 people are under evacuation orders in the province, with Bonnardel having declared that "we haven't yet won the battle." Environmental authorities currently list 416 active fires in the country, 203 of which are classified as out of control. — AFP



International

French town to pay tribute to those who chased off knife attacker

Attack left the normally peaceful lakeside town in shock

ANNECY: Residents of the Alpine town of Annecy will gather Sunday to honor the people who rushed to stop a Syrian refugee who stabbed six people, including four young children, last week. The city's mayor, Francois Astorg, will pay homage to those who "acted with courage and professionalism" in confronting the attacker before police arrested him.

They include two municipal agents who tried to stop the attacker with a shovel, a young man renting out pedal boats and a maths teacher who both tried to step in, and a tourist who chased the attacker. A childminder also rushed in to rescue two wounded children.

On Friday, French President Emmanuel Macron met the civilians being hailed as heroes for chasing the attacker from the playground where the stabbings took place. On Saturday, public prosecutor Line Bonnet-Mathis paid tribute to those who, "by their action, were able to preserve human lives". She also acknowledged the work of the emergency services.

She also announced that the Syrian refugee detained over the stabbings, named as Abdalmasih H, had been charged with "attempted murder". The attack left the normally peaceful lakeside town in shock. Hundreds of people have laid flowers, soft toys and heart-shaped balloons at the site of the attack.

Abdalmasih H. "did not wish to speak" during his 48 hours in police custody nor before the magistrates leading the investigation, Bonnet-Mathis told reporters on Saturday. After two psychiatric evaluations, he was deemed "compatible with police custody", and doctors had determined he did not suffer from delusions. However, she added, it was too early to diagnose or rule out other psychological pathologies.

Victims out of danger

Bonnet-Mathis also said that the victims of the attack were no longer in a life-threatening condition. The children, aged between 22 months and three years, were initially hospitalized in a serious condition, while one adult was also seriously wounded and another lightly hurt.

Recently divorced from a Swedish national and in his early 30s, the suspect had previously lived for 10 years in Sweden where he was granted refugee status in April, security sources and his ex-wife told AFP.



ANNECY: Annecy's residents gather to support the victims and their families in Annecy on June 11, 2023, following the attack by a Syrian refugee who stabbed six people, including four young children. — AFP

He left the country because he had been unable to get Swedish nationality, she added. French Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin told broadcaster TF1 that "for reasons not well explained he had

also sought asylum in Switzerland, Italy and France". It emerged that his application in France was rejected last Sunday as he already had refugee status in Sweden. France has been the target of a series of traumatic Islamist attacks over the last decade. According to video taken by a bystander however, the attacker could be heard shouting "in the name of Jesus Christ" during the attack. — AFP

Khamenei urges cooperation with UN nuke watchdog

TEHRAN: Iran's supreme leader on Sunday urged continued cooperation with the UN nuclear watchdog, while warning against succumbing to "bullying" based on "unfounded claims". "Cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) within the framework of safeguards regulations should be maintained," Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said during a meeting with Iranian nuclear scientists, experts and officials.

In his Sunday speech, the supreme leader said agreements could be reached in certain fields, but stressed that "the existing infrastructure of the nuclear industry should not be touched". Iran's Atomic Energy Organization "need not succumb to the pressure of unfounded claims and demands based on bullying", Khamenei said, without specifying the demands or claims.

Iran's nuclear programme has long been the subect of scrutiny from Western powers, resulting in sanctions that have crippled the country's economy. A 2015 nuclear accord between Iran and world powers gave the Islamic republic relief from international sanctions in return for curbs on its atomic programme. But in 2018 the United States unilaterally withdrew from the deal and reimposed sanctions, prompting Tehran to walk back its own commitments to restrict nuclear activity including uranium enrichment. Efforts to revive the deal have so far failed to yield results. In late May, after months of wrangling over the question of traces of nuclear material found in previously undeclared sites, the UN agency announced progress and declared the file closed. However, the watchdog also noted that Iran has significantly increased its stockpile of enriched uranium in recent months.



TEHRAN: Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei (centre) visits an exhibition of the country's nuclear industry achievements in Tehran, on June 11, 2023, accompanied by the head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran Mohammad Eslami (right). — AFP

nuclear weapons capability, insisting that its activities are entirely peaceful. Khamenei on Sunday reiterated the denial of moves towards acquiring a nuclear weapon, in keeping with "our Islamic prin-

Jihadists kill three Iraqi soldiers: Army

KIRKUK: Three Iraqi soldiers were killed and four others wounded Sunday in a pre-dawn attack in the country's north blamed on the Islamic State group, a military official said. The assailants used automatic weapons in the attack on their barracks in Wadi al-Naft, about 25 kilometres (15 miles) west of the city of Kirkuk, the official said on condition of anonymity.

"Three soldiers, including two officers, were killed, and four other soldiers were wounded," the official told AFP. There was no immediate claim of responsibility. The attack occurred in an area disputed between Iraq's federal government, which holds Kirkuk, and the country's autonomous northern region of Kurdistan.

IS jihadists seized swathes of Iraq and neighboring Syria in 2014, declaring a "caliphate" which they ruled with brutality before their defeat in late 2017 by Iraqi forces backed by a US-led military coalition.

Despite the setbacks, the extremist group can still call on an underground network of fighters to carry out attacks on both sides of the porous border, the United Nations says. In April, the international coalition set up to fight the Sunni Muslim extremists said there had been a reduction in IS attacks in both Iraq and Syria. In March, a senior Iraqi military official said IS had between 400 and 500 active fighters in the Shiite-majority country. — AFP



Iran has always denied any ambition to develop

ciples". "Otherwise they would not have been able to stop it," he continued, "just as they have not been able to stop our nuclear progress until now."

Last week President Ebrahim Raisi hailed the new missile's hypersonic capability, saying it would boost Iran's "power of deterrence" and "bring peace and stability to the countries of the region".

Like slower ballistic missiles, hypersonic missiles can be equipped with nuclear warheads and Iran's announcement it was producing one in November prompted International Atomic Energy Agency chief Rafael Grossi to express concern.

But Grossi added he did not see the new missile "having any influence" on negotiations with Iran over its nuclear activities. Talks between Tehran and major powers on reviving a 2015 nuclear deal that was left in tatters when Washington unilaterally abandoned it in 2018 and imposed renewed sanctions are currently stalled. — AFP

KIRKUK: The bodies of three Iraqi soldiers who were killed in a pre-dawn attack blamed on the Islamic State group, are repatriated from Kirkuk airport in northern Iraq. — AFP

MPs hold informal meeting on priorities...

Continued from Page 1

reforms, development and fighting corruption. The statement said "based on the popular mandate, it is imperative to launch a new political era to be centered around reforms and development, focus on the diversification of sources of income and encourage fighting corruption and holding the forces of corruption accountable".

The snap polls were called after HH the Amir dissolved the previous 2020 Assembly for the second time. It was first dissolved in August 2022 and parliamentary polls were held in Sept 2022. But the constitutional court annulled the elections, scrapped the parliament and reinstated the dissolved 2020 Assembly. However, HH the Amir again dissolved the 2020 Assembly in May and called for fresh polls.

Kuwait has been rocked by a series of political disputes for most of the past two decades that resulted in dissolving the Assembly about a dozen times and the government on more occasions, resulting in an atmosphere of instability that has stalled development in the oil-rich country. The statement by the 14 MPs said that political stability should be achieved to guarantee meeting the aspirations of the Kuwaiti people.

The statement called for approving legislation to achieve political reforms, like amending the Assembly's internal charter, establishing an independent election commission and amending the election law. They also called for approving laws to expand freedoms and launch long-delayed mega development projects. They called for amending the law governing the constitutional court.

Trump rallies supporters after...

Continued from Page 1

In Columbus, Georgia, Trump railed against Biden and the Department of Justice and what he called a "fake indictment", telling the crowd he was being pursued in court because of his bid for a second term in the White House. "That's why they're doing it, if I wasn't, there would be no witch hunt, there would be no indictment," he told supporters.

The two events come just days before Trump is due to appear in federal court in Miami to answer the explosive charges he put US national security "at risk" by willfully retaining classified defense information, conspiring to obstruct justice, corruptly concealing documents, and making false statements. The charges, brought by Justice Department Special Counsel Jack Smith, carry up to 20 years in prison each. Trump has already responded to the indictment with a string of posts on his Truth Social platform and a video statement, calling Smith "deranged" and a "Trump hater" and framing the prosecution as election interference orchestrated by Biden and his campaign. "They come after me because now we're leading in the polls again by a lot against Biden," he said. So far, the response of many Republicans — including some of Trump's party nomination rivals — has been to rally behind the former president and amplify his sense of outrage.

The Speaker of the House of Representatives Kevin McCarthy, who has had a rollercoaster relationship with Trump, said the indictment marked a "dark day" for the United States. "I, and every American who believes in the rule of law, stand with President Trump," McCarthy said. And Florida Governor Ron DeSantis, seen as Trump's most viable challenger for the Republican nomination, echoed the claims of a "weaponized" Justice Department. — AFP

Rains kill 27 in Pak; Amir sends...

Continued from Page 1

and India, expected to make landfall at the end of the week. Pakistani authorities said they would begin evacuating between 8,000 and 9,000 families from along the coastline of Sindh province, including in the mega port city of Karachi, home to around 20 million people. The army will be deployed from Monday to assist.

The cyclone could bring winds, storm surges and urban flooding from Tuesday evening as it approaches, the disaster management agency said Sunday. "Fishermen are advised not to venture into the open sea until the (weather) system is over by June 17," the agency said. In neighboring India, the Meteoro-

'Unabomber' dies in prison...

Continued from Page 1

bombings put the nation on edge, and at one point brought a halt to air travel on the West Coast in July 1995. But it would turn out that while Kaczynski picked his victims without knowing them, he selected them using extreme anti-technology views to justify the attacks. Targets included an advertising executive, an airline president and a computer scientist. But in some cases, his bombs ended up injuring those unlucky enough to accidentally be on the receiving end of a concealed explosive.

In September 1995, The Washington Post published his 35,000-word anti-modernity manifesto, part of a joint effort with the New York Times, based on a promise that he would stop his bombing campaign if it were printed. Federal authorities at the time urged the papers to go through with the move. Upon reading it, his estranged brother David thought he might know the aulogical Department reported Sunday that the storm would likely cross the Saurashtra and Kutch areas of western Gujarat state as well as adjacent Pakistani coasts around noon on Thursday. It warned it would likely make landfall as a "very severe cyclonic storm with a maximum sustained wind speed of 125-135 kmph, gusting to 150 kmph".

Scientists say climate change is making seasonal rains heavier and more unpredictable. Pakistan, which has the world's fifth largest population, is responsible for only 0.8 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions but is one of the most vulnerable nations to extreme weather caused by global warming. Last summer, unprecedented monsoon rains put a third of the country under water, damaging two million homes and killing more than 1,700 people. In India, natural catastrophes are forecast to cause more misery as the planet's climate warms and makes weather more volatile. — AFP

thor, and alerted the FBI to his suspicions.

After his 1996 arrest, Kaczynski was convicted to life in prison in 1998. When his lawyers tried to enter a plea of insanity, Kaczynski asked the court to dismiss them, and rejected a diagnosis that he was a paranoid schizophrenic. Kaczynski pleaded guilty, which helped him avoid the death penalty — and put a stop to any insanity plea. He was given four life sentences, plus 30 years in a case prosecuted by Merrick Garland, who now serves as the US attorney general.

Kaczynski was long held in a high-security prison in Colorado nicknamed the "Alcatraz of the Rockies" one that has also held the likes of drug kingpin Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman and would-be Al-Qaeda suicide pilot Zacarias Moussaoui. He was transferred in 2021 to the health center in North Carolina. Born in Chicago and raised in a bookish household, the fact that Kaczynski was a loner was not surprising to those who knew him. But his revelation as a killer shocked his family. "What could I have done to keep him out of the wilderness?" his mother, Wanda Kaczynski, said in an interview with The Post in June 1996. "What could I have done to give him a happier life?... I just don't know." – AFP

Kuwait 🚵 Times

International

Indigenous upbringing helped children survive Amazon ordeal

Families clung to hope that siblings' familiarity with the jungle would see them through

BOGOTA: Lost for 40 days in the Colombian Amazon, four Indigenous children survived eating seeds, roots and plants they knew were edible thanks to their upbringing. And it was in part down to the local knowledge of Indigenous adults involved in the search alongside Colombian troops that they were ultimately found alive. "The survival of the children is a sign of the knowledge and relationship with the natural environment that is taught starting in the mother's womb," according to the National Organization of Indigenous Peoples of Colombia (OPIAC). The four siblings survived a small plane crash on May 1 that took the lives of the pilot, their mother and a third adult. The family of the children clung to hope that the siblings' familiarity with the jungle would see them through.

The "children of the bush," as their grandfather called them, survived eating yucca flour that was aboard the doomed plane, and scavenging from relief parcels dropped by search helicopters. But they also ate seeds, fruits, roots and plants that they identified as edible from their upbringing in the Amazon region, Luis Acosta of the National Indigenous Organization of Colombia (ONIC), told AFP.

'Spiritual force'

Acosta, who took part in search operations, said the children were imbued with "spiritual force." That is a shared perception among Indigenous leaders, and Acosta noted that a guardian was to be posted outside the military hospital where doctors were attending to the children to help accompany them "spiritually."

"We have a particular connection to nature," Javier Betancourt, another ONIC leader, told AFP. "The

Honduras opens

China embassy

considers self-ruled Taiwan as part

of its territory and has vowed to take

world needs this kind of special relation with nature, to favor those like the Indigenous who live in the jungle and take care of it.'

During the search, soldiers worked side by side with Indigenous trackers for 20 days. President Gustavo Petro praised what he called a "meeting of Indigenous and military knowledge" that he said showed respect for the jungle.

Army helicopters broadcast recordings of the children's grandmother telling them in the Indigenous Huitoto language to stay put in one spot until rescuers reached them. "It was President Petro who brought us together," Acosta told local media, referring to soldiers and Indigenous experts. "In an initial meeting, eight days before our search began, the president told us we needed to go with the army because the army couldn't do it alone," he added.

A winning combo

More than 80 volunteers from Indigenous territories in the departments of Caqueta, Putumayo, Meta and Amazonas joined around 100 soldiers in what was dubbed "Operation Hope." It was an unusual union of forces. In many of Colombia's Indigenous territories, armed outlaw groups roam and easily coerce native peoples, who protect their lands with rudimentary weapons. Relations between Indigenous communities and the armed forces are also strained.

But in the Guaviare department, rescuers from separate groups set their differences aside to work together. While soldiers planned operational details, native searchers held rituals to communicate with jungle "spirits," using mambe, a paste made of coca leaf

ing a plaque for the new embassy.

Honduran President Xiomara Castro arrived in Shanghai on Friday for a five-day visit to cement the relationship and will meet with Chinese President Xi Jinping in Beijing. Castro is expected to sign a host of agreements

China had already opened the door to imports of melons, shrimp, bananas and other Honduran products. Chinese Foreign Minister Qin Gang attended the ceremony on Sunday, the official Xinhua news agency said, shaking hands with Reina in front of a row of Chinese and Honduran flags.

splinters, insect bites, exhaustion and physical pain.

In March, Honduras cut diplomatic ties with Taiwan in flavor of Beijing. The switch reduced the number of countries that diplomatically recognize Taipei to just 13. China opened an embassy in the Honduran capital Tegucigalpa this week. — AFP

The indigenous people have "worked in the rain, in storms and in many difficult situations, but always with the hope and spiritual faith that (the children) could be found," Acosta said. It all led to the discovery of the siblings by an Indigenous tracker in an area that hadn't yet been explored. - AFP

News in Brief

Two Yemen soldiers killed

DUBAI: Suspected Al-Qaeda militants on Sunday killed two Yemeni soldiers during an attack in the south of the country, officials said. The dawn attack targeted a military checkpoint in the oil-producing province of Shabwa, a Yemeni government security official told AFP on condition of anonymity. "Two jihadist fighters were also injured but they managed to escape," another Yemeni official said. Yemen erupted into conflict in 2014 when Iranbacked Huthi rebels seized the capital Sanaa, before a Saudi-led military coalition intervened the following year on the side of the country's internationally recognized government. The impoverished country is also a hotbed for jihadists like Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, considered by the United States to be the jihadist group's most dangerous offshoot. AQAP attacks on both government and rebel forces have declined in recent years. A leading member of the group, Hamad bin Hamoud al-Tamimi, was killed in late February in the south of Yemen in a suspected US air strike. — AFI

BEIJING: Honduras officially opened an embassy in China on Sunday, months after the Central American country switched its diplomatic allegiance from Taipei to Beijing. China

control of the island one day.

It does not allow countries to rec-

ognize both Beijing and Taipei and

has in recent years lured away many

of Taiwan's allies using economic

Thousands evacuated as Philippine volcano spews ash, rocks

MANILA: Thousands of people living near a Philippine volcano have taken shelter in evacuation cen-

incentives. "The relations between Honduras and China will open new opportunities and capabilities to during her visit. strengthen the cooperation between Reina said earlier this month that both countries," Honduran Foreign Minister Enrique Reina told Chinese state media after a ceremony unveil-

who were found alive after being lost for 40 days in the Colombian Amazon rainforest following a plane crash, at the Military Hospital in Bogota. — AFP and ash, as well as chirrinchi, a fermented drink. Using machetes, rescuers felled trees and marked them with spray paint to guide the children. Indigenous medicinal knowledge was also used to adapt to the difficult jungle conditions, treating scratches,



tres as officials warned Sunday of health risks from ash and toxic gases spewing from the rumbling crater. Seismology researchers said they had recorded at least one volcanic earthquake in the past 24 hours and red-hot rocks were falling from Mount Mayon in the central province of Albay.

More than 12,800 people have been moved to evacuation centres, the Philippine civil defence office said, most from farming villages at or near the foot of the volcano. "There is a concomitant health risk while being close to the eruption because of inhaling sulphur dioxide gas or the particulate matter of ashfalls," Health Secretary Teodoro Herbosa told a press briefing Sunday. Mayon, about 330 kilometres (205 miles) southeast of the capital Manila, is considered one of the most volatile of the country's 24 active volcanoes. The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology said rocks were falling from a disintegrating lava dome being pushed out of the crater by molten material below the earth.

The rocks were raining down on areas up to two kilometres away and sulphur dioxide emissions had tripled on Saturday, state volcanologists said. A fivestep alert system for the volcano was raised from two to three on Thursday, with authorities warning

Men in Germany find violence against women 'acceptable'

FRANKFURT: More than a third of men in Germany find violence against women "acceptable", according to survey results that campaigners described as "shocking" on Sunday.

A total of 33 percent of men aged 18-35 said they found it "acceptable"



DARAGA: People rest in the compounds of the Gabawan elementary school, used as an evacuation centre following increased seismic activity from nearby Mayon volcano, in Daraga, Albay province. — AFP

of possible respiratory illnesses from inhaling fumes.

"With Albay in a state of calamity due to Mayon's activity, we remind people to follow the recommendations and evacuation instructions of your local governments," Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos said Saturday.

Earthquakes and volcanic activity are common in the Philippines due to its position on the Pacific "Ring of Fire" where tectonic plates collide. Five years ago, Mayon displaced tens of thousands of people after spewing millions of tonnes of ash, rocks and lava.

The country's most powerful eruption in recent decades was Mount Pinatubo in 1991 that killed more than 800 people. That disaster produced an ash cloud that travelled thousands of kilometres. — AFP

> expressed a dislike for seeing public displays of homosexuality, saying they felt "disturbed" by it.

"Traditional gender roles are still deeply ingrained in people's minds,' Alexandra Tschacher, a spokeswoman for Plan International Germany, told the Funke newspaper group. More than 115,000 women were victims of partner violence in 2021, according to federal police data - or 13 women each hour. A total of 369 women were killed by their current or former partner in 2021. — AFP

reached for comment. The Central Highlands, home to a number of ethnic minorities, is considered a sensitive area for Vietnam's authoritarian government and has long been a hotbed of discontent over issues that include land rights.

Some tribes in the area — collectively known as Montagnards — sided with the US-backed south during Vietnam's decades-long war. Some are calling for more autonomy, while others abroad advocate independence for the region.

Several state media outlets withdrew their reports about the incident earlier on Sunday before republishing them hours later. Gun violence is extremely uncommon in Vietnam, where it is illegal for citizens to own firearms and the black market for weapons is limited.

Four people were shot dead at an illegal cockfighting betting ring on the outskirts of Ho Chi Minh city in January 2020. In another rare shooting in 2016, two senior officials in northern Yen Bai province were killed by a colleague at their office before the gunman shot himself. — AFP

Former US paratrooper detained

MOSCOW: A Russian court has detained a US citizen on drugs charges that could see him jailed for several years. Moscow's Khamovnitchesky court said Travis Leake, a "former paratrooper and musician" had "organized the sale of drugs to young people". He will be remanded in custody "until August 6, 2023" pending a possible trial. The detention period could be extended, the court said on Telegram. US broadcaster CNN said Leake was a musician and music producer who has lived in Russia for many years. Arrests of US citizens in Russia have increased in recent years, against a backdrop of deteriorating relations between Moscow and Washington, which have hit new lows since Russia sent troops into Ukraine. Washington has accused Moscow of arbitrarily detaining US citizens for use as bargaining chips to secure the release of Russians jailed in the United States. In March, Russian security services arrested US journalist Evan Gershkovich on accusations of "espionage", which he denies. - AFP

Somalia hotel siege

NAIROBI: An employee with the World Health Organization was among those killed in the weekend siege of a beachside hotel in Somalia's capital Mogadishu, the head of the UN health agency said on Sunday. The siege left six civilians dead and another 10 wounded, according to police. "I'm heartbroken that we have lost a WHO staff member in the recent attack in #Mogadishu, #Somalia," Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO director general, tweeted on Sunday. "My heartfelt condolences to their families and to everyone who lost a loved one," he said. "We condemn all attacks on civilians and humanitarian workers." The Al-Qaeda-linked Al-Shabaab have been waging an insurgency against the internationally backed federal government in Somalia for more than 15 years and have often targeted hotels, which tend to host high-ranking Somali and foreign officials. — AFP

Quake hits S Africa

JOHANNESBURG: A 5.0-magnitude earthquake on Sunday struck near Johannesburg, shaking buildings across South Africa's most populous province, the Unites States Geological Survey reported. The tremor struck at 2:38 am (0038 GMT) around 10 kilometres (six miles) below the surface, the USGS said. Buildings shook across the province of Gauteng, where Johannesburg, the country's largest city and commercial hub, is located. Residents across the province felt the tremor and some posted pictures on social media showing minor structural damages of walls. In August 2014, a 5.3 magnitude earthquake hit a gold mining town near Johannesburg. The last major quake to hit South Africa was a 6.3-magnitude tremor that struck the Western Cape province in 1969. — AFP

if "their hand slipped" occasionally during an argument with their female partner, according to the survey set to be published by the Funke newspaper group on Monday. Thirty-four percent of respondents admitted that they had been violent towards women in the past. The results are "shocking", said Karsten Kassner from the Federal Forum Men, an umbrella group that advocates for gender equality.

"It's problematic that a third of the surveyed men trivialize physical vi-

olence against women. This urgently needs to change," he told the Funke newspapers. The nationwide survey, which questioned 1,000 men and 1,000 women aged 18-35, was commissioned by children's aid organization Plan International Germany and carried out online from March 9-21.

It further found that 52 percent of men said they believed their role was to be the main provider in a relationship, and that that their partner should mostly run the household. Just under half of respondents (48 percent) also

Morocco building collapse kills five

RABAT: The partial collapse of a textile factory near Morocco's commercial capital of Casablanca has killed five people, a labor union said on Saturday in a revised toll. Local authorities had initially reported two fatalities and five "seriously injured" in the incident early on Thursday in the town of Tit Mellil. "The tragedy has claimed the lives of five workers," the textile and clothing branch of the Democratic Confederation of Labor said in a statement on Saturday. The statement said they had been working on the construction of "four additional floors above the factory, in conditions that do not meet basic safety regulations". The labor union called for those responsible to be brought to justice, including any officials who had approved the construction. Citing local authorities, state news agency MAP reported on Thursday that an investigation has begun into what caused the collapse. — AFP

Several dead, hurt in Vietnam police station attacks

HANOI: Several people were killed and wounded in shootings at two police headquarters in Vietnam's Central Highlands on Sunday, authorities said. Six people were arrested in connection with the shootings in Cu Kuin district of Dak Lak province, according to the ministry of public security's website.

Investigators were searching for more suspects, t said. The attacks on the police headquarters of both Ea Tieu and Ea Ktur communes occurred in the early hours of Sunday according to the site. It said a number of people, including police, local officials and civilians were killed and wounded but did not provide exact figures.

Police could not be reached immediately be

MONDAY, JUNE 12, 2023

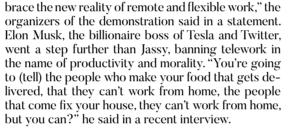
BUSINESS **Commute no more: Employees** embrace telework in America

Companies struggling to bring staff back to the office



NEW YORK: People walk through a Manhattan subway station in New York City. — AFP photos

WASHINGTON: Commuting to and from the office five times a week? "It's just not what I want for my life," said Claire, a consultant in her thirties living in Washington. Like Claire, millions of employees across the United States have grown fond of telework since the COVID-19 lockdown and now companies are struggling to bring them back to the office. Before COVID-19, Americans workers had grown used to less-than-friendly job conditions, such as short vacations and little or no maternity leave, but the experience of working from home left them wanting more.



Half-empty offices



Gold prices stand at **\$1,960** per ounce

KUWAIT: Gold prices stood at \$1,960 an ounce by the end of last week's trading due to diverging expectations about the decisions of the US Federal Reserve (US Central Bank) as to whether it will raise or keep interest on the US currency. Most investors and analysts in the gold markets are await ing the next meeting of the Federal Reserve, which will be held the day after tomorrow, Tuesday, in which it will decide its future directions regarding monetary policy, as this will directly affect the gold prices to go up or down, the Kuwaiti-based company Dar Al-Sabaek said in a report Sunday.

"All of these practices that workers had become accustomed to in the US before have now then kind of disrupted by the pandemic," chief economist Nela Richardson with the ADP Research Institute told AFP. American offices are still half-empty compared to February 2020, according to a weekly average calculated by Kastle, which manages the entry badges of 40,000 companies around the country.

'The world is changing'

There are also wide disparities between different regions and cities: offices in California's Silicon Valley, for example, have only recovered a third of their pre-pandemic occupants, compared with around half in New York and Washington, and as much as two-thirds in the Texas cities of Austin and Houston. "Collaborating and inventing is easier and more effective when we're in person," Amazon CEO Andy Jassy wrote in a memo to the company's vast workforce back in February, ordering them to return to the office for at least three days a week. Many Amazon employees disagreed so strongly with the in-person working requirements that they took to the streets in front of the company's Seattle headquarters last month to protest the move.

"The world is changing, and Amazon needs to em-

Tanger Med a portal connecting Africa to the world

RABAT: The port of Tanger Med, strategically located at the intersection of the Mediterranean Sea and the Atlantic Ocean on the strait of Gibraltar, has become a portal connecting the African continent to the whole world, as some 2.5 million containers pass through to reach the continent's nations. Tanger Med, serving as a logistic, commercial, industrial and touristic port, is perhaps the largest economic Moroccan project, established with the highest of international standards and with contributions from Kuwait.

Since its inauguration in 2007, the port has been steadily climbing ranks, most recently, it has been ranked fourth most efficient port in the world and most efficient port of the Mediterranean sea. Tanger Med has surpassed longstanding international ports

A third of employees in the United States current ly have complete freedom about where they work, compared with just 18 percent in France, according to a recent ADP study of 17 countries. "If I worked for an employer that required five days a week, I just don't think that would be on the table for me," Claire, the Washington-based consultant, told AFP.

Claire, who requested anonymity to discuss her employment, goes to the office irregularly, usually once every two weeks, sometimes more often. And, given the upsides, she can't see herself going back full-time. She has replaced the metro to work with a walk around the block, no longer wastes time dressing for the office, and sits outside with her laptop whenever the sun shines. Claire said she sometimes misses conversations with colleagues, but she also realizes the small talk led her to be less productive.

A challenge Despite the headlines made by chief executives like Elon Musk, not all managers are opposed to telework. Questions about "quality and lifestyle efficiency" have emerged, said Gayle Smith, chief executive of the Washington-based anti-poverty NGO One, which has offices in cities around the world. "Raising kids became a bit easier if you didn't have to com-

of Guangzhou, China or Japanese Yokohama port, Egyptian Port Said and American ports of Virginia and Miami.

The ranking, issued by the World Bank in cooperation with Standard and Poor's Global Market Intelligence, aims to identify improvement opportunities that could ultimately benefit all stakeholders. General Director of Port Authority Hasan Abqari attributed Tanger Med's high ranking to the cooperation and coordination between all those concerned, adding that such results should serve as a stimulant for continuous improvements whether in infrastructure or digitalizing and automating operations.

The Director commented to the press saying that the port not only greatly benefits Morocco but it also benefits the whole of Africa as 36 percent of its total marine traffic is directed to the rest of the African nations. Data from the port authority show that Tanger Med is connected to more than 196 international ports, with handling capacity of nine million containers and seven million passengers as well as 700,000 trucks and the export of one million vehicles. Tanger ARLINGTON: Danny Crouch pets his dog as he sits in his basement working from home in Arlington, Virginia. The pandemic forced Americans to work from home. And now, more than three years on, employers are struggling to bring them back to the office.

mute every morning," she told AFP.

Since the onset of the pandemic, some of her employees have left the Washington area in order to be closer to their aging parents, or to follow a spouse who relocates for work. Gayle has seen no decline in efficiency but regrets the loss of the positive dynamic that comes from face-to-face work. The question now, she says, is how to replicate this dynamic while preserving the lifestyle improvements for her employees. "If we can regain that, at least in part, it'll put us in a very good place," she said. Teleworking has become "part of a cluster of benefits and options that companies can choose to offer workers," said Nela Richardson from ADP. For potential employees, "it's a choice of whether or not you are willing to negotiate that or look for that in your job search," she added. — AFP



The port of Tanger Med

Med, covering over one million square meters, is a project that altered the face of Moroccan economy becoming an attractive hub for investments and an ample platform for trade exchange. --- KUNA

the digitalization process, which will help realize the

"The digitalization strategy aims to make the in-"KOC will announce a roadmap for digitalization and and various forms of digitalization and IT. - KUNA

This upcoming meeting coincides with similar meetings of the European Central Bank and the Bank of Japan, as they are scheduled to take similar decisions about

interest rates and any cessation of raising interest rates will be immediately followed by a rise in gold price and vice versa, it added. Head of Dar Al-Sabaek's strategic plan-ning Adel Al-Fadhli said, according to the report, that investors were cautious in trading last week after the issuance of the International Monetary



Adel Al-Fadhli

Fund report, in which it urged major central banks to continue their monetary policy and monitor inflation closely.

The Bank of Canada unexpectedly raised interest rates last week by 25 basis points to reach 4.75 percent, which is the highest level of Canadian interest since 2001, he mentioned, indicating that this step was shocking to the gold markets, which were expecting Canadian interest rates to remain stable at their previous levels. Although the global economy was not affected by the decision of Bank of Canada, it increased the fears of investors in precious metals that other economies and central banks would follow the same step and raise interest rates, which would negatively affect gold's price, he stated.

Gold futures for next August delivery fell by 0.1 percent, or the equivalent of \$1.4, to reach \$1,977.2 an ounce, reducing its weekly gains by half a percent, while the dollar index, which measures the performance of the US currency against major currencies, recorded a decline of 0.2 percent with 103.5 points, he noted. Regarding the local market, Al-Fadhli said that the price of a 24-carat gram gold amounted to KD 19.55, while a 21-carat gram was KD 17.1, whereas the silver price reached KD 286 per kilogram. The ounce is one of the units of measurement of mass, which is equal to 28.349 grams, while a troy ounce of gold equals 31.103 grams.

Euro rises by 0.33%

Meanwhile, the US dollar on Sunday stood at KD 0.307 while the Euro rose by 0.33 percent to KD 0.330, compared with Thursday's rates. The Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) said in its daily bulletin that the British sterling pound and the Swiss franc rose 0.95 and 0.59 to stand at KD 0.386 and KD 0.339, while the Japanese Yen stood at KD 0.002. The CBK publishes daily average exchange rates that do not necessarily reflect actual prices of the currencies' trade for the day. - KUNA

KOC: Digitalization contributes to economic growth

KUWAIT: Kuwait Oil Co announced on Saturday that it managed to upgrade its five-year digitalization strategy, noting that the process will contrib-

ute to reducing the operating expenses, increasing production and realizing sustainable growth. The upgrading of the strategy will also enhance safety and security, and help manage risks in a better way, Deputy CEO for gas and innovation at KOC Bader Ahmad Al-Munaifi said in a press release.

"The Company works relentlessly to advance innovation at all sectors, upgrade the operating systems at all facilities and build the capacity of its human resources," he noted. Under the supervision of CEO Ahmad Jaber Al-Eidan, the company pursues

strategic goals, improve the national cadres and address the new challenges, Al-Munaifi went on.

formation technology mainstream in the quest for increased productivity and sustainable development. launch a massive database during a conference on June 18," he pointed out, adding that the conference will focus on the applications of artificial intelligence

Kuwait is Times

Business

EU offers aid to Tunisia to boost economy, reduce migrant flows

Crisis-hit Tunisia highly indebted, in talks for IMF bailout loan

TUNIS: The European Union on Sunday offered major financial support to crisis-hit Tunisia, to boost its economy and reduce the flow of irregular migrants across the Mediterranean Sea. The North African country, highly indebted and in talks for an IMF bailout loan, is a gateway for migrants and asylum-seekers attempting the dangerous voyages to Europe. The EU is ready to offer Tunisia a 900 million euro package plus 150 million euros in immediate support, European Commission head Ursula von der Leyen said on a joint visit with the Italian and Dutch prime ministers.

Aside from trade and investment, it would help Tunisia with border management and to combat human trafficking, with support worth 100 million euros this year, she said. "We both have a vast interest in breaking the cynical business model of smugglers and traffickers," said von der Leyen. "It is horrible to see how they deliberately risk human lives for profit." She said other EU projects would help Tunisia export clean renewable energy to the bloc, and deliver high speed broadband, all with the aim of creating "jobs

and boost growth here in Tunisia". Von migrants, mostly from sub-Saharan Afder Leyen, after talks with President Kais Saied, said she hoped an EU-Tunisia agreement could be signed at the next European summit later this month.

'Long and difficult road'

She stressed that the EU is Tunisia's top trade and investment partner and had "supported Tunisia's path to democracy" since it became the birthplace of the Arab Spring revolts in 2011, "a long and difficult road". Von der Leven visited Tunisia with Italy's Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni and her Dutch counterpart Mark Rutte, for talks with Saied, who has assumed near total governing powers over the country since 2021. EU governments, under pressure to reduce migrant arrivals, last week agreed on steps to fast-track migrant returns to their countries of origin or transit countries deemed "safe", including Tunisia.

Italy's far-right premier, Meloni, was on her second Tunisia visit within a week, after meeting Saied on Tuesday. Tunisia lies less than 150 kilometers from the Italian island of Lampedusa, and has long been a stepping stone for

rican countries, seeking a better life in Europe. An increasing number of the migrants hail from Tunisia, whose tourism-based economy was hit hard by the COVID pandemic and which is now in a serious economic crisis marked by high inflation and unemployment.

Not Europe's 'border guard'

The country reached an in-principle deal last year for an IMF bailout loan of around \$2 billion. But talks have since stalled over the reforms demanded by the fund, especially on state-run enterprises and state subsidies on basic products. Saied, who has seized almost total power since a dramatic July 2021 move against parliament, on Tuesday again slammed what he has termed the "diktats" of the Washington-based IMF. On the migration issue, Saied has in the past vowed "urgent measures" to tackle arrivals in Tunisia. Tunisian rights groups accused him of hate speech after he charged in February that "hordes" of sub-Saharan African migrants were responsible for rising crime and posed a "demographic" threat.

Attacks on migrants rose sharply



LAMPEDUSA: A general view shows the harbor of Lampedusa on the island of Lampedusa south of Sicily. — AFP

after his speech, and thousands fled the country. Saied on Saturday also said he rejected turning Tunisia into Europe's "border guard", speaking in Sfax, a coastal city in a region from where many migrants leave. The Tunisian Forum for Economic and Social Rights denounced the visit by the three European leaders as an attempt to "blackmail" Tunisia with an offer of financial support in return for stepped up border vigilance. — AFP

Mastercard, NBK transform online checkout experience

KUWAIT: National Bank of Kuwait (NBK), one of the leading banks in the country, and Mastercard have partnered to introduce an embedded Click to Pay solution, built on the highest industry standards and intelligent security. The launch will enable more than 2,000 local merchants to benefit from revolutionary online hosted checkout technology, powered by Mastercard Payment Gateway Services (MPGS), with minimum effort.

Click to Pay is a seamless payment option that offers e-commerce customers a simple, secure and consistent way to check out online across any device and participating merchants with no manual card and password entry. Once registered, shoppers can simply start the checkout process, and intelligent user recognition will retrieve cards securely stored in their profile to complete the payment, thereby eliminating the need to remember passwords, and resulting in faster checkouts without compromising security.

At the same time, the solution allows merchants to improve their approval rates by using sophisticated tokenization technology, in addition to increasing conversion rates due to the improved user experience. Businesses can also add payment links to invoices and share them with customers via multiple channels, including SMS, email and WhatsApp. According to Juniper Research, global e-commerce sales are projected to grow by 55%, exceeding \$7.5 trillion by 2026. Innovations like Click to Pay will be the driving force of the future of commerce, enabling shoppers to benefit from faster and more secure digital payments.

"At Mastercard, we are committed to working with our strategic partners across the region to create a robust and sustainable digital payments ecosystem that makes transactions easily accessible to everyone, everywhere. We are pleased to build on our longstanding partnership with NBK as we mark this new milestone and further enhance the payment experience for people across Kuwait," said Erdem Çakar, Country Manager, Kuwait and Qatar, Mastercard.

customers have always been at the core of our business at NBK, which is why we are collaborating with Mastercard to offer and new payment options, n mon such as Click to Pay. The launch of this seamless checkout solution is part of our endeavors to leverage the latest technologies in the banking sector to meet the increasing consumer demand for



safer and more convenient banking services," Mani Kant Verma, Senior Manager, Consumer Banking Group at National Bank of Kuwait commented.



شركة الصفاة للاستثمار AL SAFAT INVESTMENT COMPANY



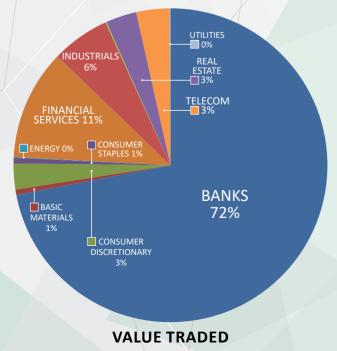
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WEEK ENDED ON 8 JUNE 2023

research@alsafatinvest.com alsafatinvestment in al-safat-investment-company

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Adustrials 3,372 972.26 1.0% 0.5% -9.9% 31,987,509 14,067,809 4,419 16.9 0.9 8.13' Issurance 867 2,108.63 -2.0% -1.3% 36.0% 1,020,258 299,912 193 10.2 0.8 2.08 2.09 eal Estate 2,414 1,124.76 1.3% 0.9% -6.9% 66,263,736 7,430,469 3,171 12.2 0.5 5.82 echnology 9 625.65 -7.4% -9.4% -10.1% 11,000 986 12 NM 0.8 0.02' elecommunications 3,330 1,089.87 -0.7% -0.6% -7.8% 15,616,206 8,043,386 2,587 10.9 1.3 8.03' titlities 199 476.32 0.0% -1.6% -3.7% 1,148,607 208,052 143 14.8 1.8 0.48' Stock last Close Change % Volume Value Trades Stock last Close Change % Volume Value Trades KUWAITRE 315	inancial Services	4,194	1,180.95	-0.2%	-0.3%	-6.1%	222,606,881	26,622,180	8,877	21.1	0.7	10.11%
Adustrials 3,372 972.26 1.0% 0.5% -9.9% 31,987,509 14,067,809 4,419 16.9 0.9 8.13'surance Issurance 867 2,108.63 -2.0% -1.3% 36.0% 1,020,258 299,912 193 10.2 0.8 2.09 eal Estate 2,414 1,124.76 1.3% 0.9% -6.9% 66,263,736 7,430,469 3,171 12.2 0.5 5.822 echnology 9 625.65 -7.4% -9.4% -10.1% 11,000 986 12 NM 0.8 0.022 elecommunications 3,330 1,089.87 -0.7% -0.6% -7.8% 15,616,206 8,043,386 2,587 10.9 1.3 8.037 tillities 199 476.32 0.0% -1.6% -3.7% 1,148,607 208,052 143 14.8 1.8 0.48 tillities 199 476.32 0.0% 1,000 3 GFC 69 -1.82% 15,175 1,126 KUWAITRE 313.3% 1,500 1,000 3 <td>ealth Care</td> <td>238</td> <td>448.23</td> <td>-0.7%</td> <td>-2.3%</td> <td>-2.9%</td> <td>61,184</td> <td>28,825.15</td> <td>32</td> <td>9.9</td> <td>0.9</td> <td>0.57%</td>	ealth Care	238	448.23	-0.7%	-2.3%	-2.9%	61,184	28,825.15	32	9.9	0.9	0.57%
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INTEGRATED 400 7.53% 4,519,259 1,754,738 447 ABK 256 -14.38% 7,651,887 2,064,948 SECH 63 7.51% 5,216,179 318,789 241 SANAM 70 -8.50% 388,858 28,546 AREEC 249 7.33% 116,263 27,102 24 ASC 86 -7.43% 11,000 986 Top Volume Top Volume Value Trades Stock Last Change % Volume Value Trades KFH 726 2.25% 147,249,135 106,846,811 6,450 KFH 726 2.25% 147,249,135 106,846,811 6,450		315	9.38%			2		96.5		723,094		106
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	Stock	Last	Change %	Volume	Value	Trades	Stock	Last	Change %	Volume	Value	Trades
	KFH	726	2.25%	147,249,135	106,846,811	6,450	KFH	726	2.25%	147,249,135	106,846,811	6,450
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Market Summary:

 Premier market volume and value increased by 5% and 32%, while Main Market dropped 8% and 35%, respectively.

 While the Premier index showed strength and stability, the Main index retreated to previous resistance levels.

 Technically, the All Share index closed at 6858, with support levels at 6830 and 6787, while resistance at 6862. The Premier index closed at 7604, with support levels at 7581 and 7554, and resistance at 7612. The Main index closed at 5371, with support levels at 5339 and 5308, and resistance at 5393.



NBK Weekly Market Report

US jobless claims rise; Canada, Australia surprise the market

KUWAIT: The Reserve Bank of Australia and the Bank of Canada surprised the market by raising rates last week signaling that the next phase of global central banks tightening is underway. Investors will turn their focus this week toward meetings by the Federal Reserve, the European Central Bank (ECB) and the Bank of Japan (BoJ) for further clues on the path of global interest rates.

Ahead of these meetings, The US debt ceiling has been extended, and fears about the US banking sector have subsided. While global economic data has softened, inflation remains high which is expected to keep major central banks in a hawkish stance. The Fed is expected to 'skip' a rate hike in June and raise rates by 25 bps in July. Investors will be closely watching the Fed's press conference, updated forecasts and dot plot for clues about the bank's plans for future rate hikes. While the ECB is expected to hike by 25 bps in its meeting, the BoJ is expected to maintain its wait and see stance as wage growth in Japan remains stagnant despite GDP surprising to the upside.

FX markets remained range bound in a quiet week in terms of economic indicators. The Dollar index reached a high of 104.36 at the start of the week but lost its gains amid higher than expected jobless claims to close at 103.553. This week the outcome of the Fed's meeting and the upcoming US CPI data will dictate the Dollar's path going forward. The euro and pound recovered and closed the week at 1.0747 and 1.2569 respectively. The Japanese yen closed at 139.34 after testing the high of 140.45 twice during last week's session.

US jobless claims increase

Applications for US unemployment benefits jumped last week, reaching the highest level since October 2021. Initial jobless claims rose by 28K to 261K in the week ending June 3according to the Labor Department report released on Thursday. The increase was the biggest since July 2021 and exceeded market forecasts. Meanwhile continuing claims, which include people who have received unemployment benefits for a week or more and are a good indicator of how hard it is for people to find work after losing their jobs, fell to 1.76 million in the week ended May 27, the lowest level since mid-February. The report highlights that the resilient labor market may be showing signs of cooling as US companies announced more layoffs in the first 5 months of 2023 than in all of 2022.

US services nearly stagnates

Last week, the Institute for Supply Management announced its non-manufacturing PMI fell to 50.3 last month, from 51.9 in April. The above-50 level indicates growth in the services industry that accounts for more than two-thirds of the economy. Economists had forecast the non-manufacturing PMI would edge up to 52.2. The services sector benefited largely from consumers shifting away from goods during the height of the coronavirus pandemic. However, following the 500 bps worth of interest rate hikes delivered by the Federal Reserve since March 2022, consumers appear to be focusing more on basic needs. Switching to manufacturing, the ISM reported last week that its PMI was stuck below the 50 threshold for the seventh straight month, representing the longest stretch of contraction since the Great Recession.

BoC hikes rate to 22-year high

The Bank of Canada hiked its overnight rate to a 22-year high of 4.75% after staying on hold since January to reassess the impact of previous hikes. The central bank hiked rates eight times since March 2022, representing the fastest tightening cycle in the bank's history. Shockingly robust consumer spending and a rebound in demand for services illustrates excess demand is more persistent than anticipated, according to a statement by the BoC.

Highlighting an uptick in inflation in April and the fact that three-month measures of core inflation remained high, the central bank said that "concerns have increased that CPI inflation could get stuck materially above the 2% target." Annual inflation accelerated for the first time in 10 months to 4.4% in April, while first-quarter GDP rose 3.1% versus the 2.3% forecast by the BoC. Money markets are now pricing in a 65% probability of a 25 bps hike at the bank's July meeting.

Swiss core inflation below 2%

Swiss National Bank Chairman Thomas Jordan reiterated his commitment to bring down inflation after data revealed annual inflation dipped to 2.2% in May. "Inflation is above our threshold for price stability," Jordan said on Thursday in Switzerland. "We have second-round effects, thirdround effects, so inflation is more persistent than we initially thought." Meanwhile, a measure of underlying inflation slowed more than expected to below the central bank's target, providing comfort to

Rates - 11th June, 2023

		Previous W	eek Levels	This Week's Ran	3-Month		
Currencies	Open	Low	High	Close	Minimum	Maximum	Forward
EUR	1.0710	1.0665	1.0786	1.0747	1.0500	1.0900	1.0806
GBP	1.2436	1.2366	1.2590	1.2569	1.2300	1.2700	1.2592
JPY	139.97	138.74	140.45	139.34	138.00	141.00	137.385
CHF	0.9080	0.8982	0.9119	0.9038	0.8800	0.9200	0.8949

officials aiming to ensure consumer prices stay under control. The core gauge, which strips out volatile elements like energy and food, fell to 1.9% in May, down from 2.2% the previous month.

So far, the SNB has lifted borrowing costs by 225 basis points in nine months, and officials have consistently voiced the need for another hike despite the country registering the lowest inflation in the developed world. In contrast, other central banks such as the Fed are reassessing their path as inflation slows globally and economies head to weaker growth. The current Swiss interest rate of 1.5% "is relatively low, and it's not a really good idea to wait and then have higher inflation later," Jordan said. The Swiss franc jumped on the Chairman's comments, ending the week 0.90% higher against the USD.

RBA defies expectations

Australia's central bank raised interest rates to an 11-year high, while warning that further tightening might be required to ensure that inflation returns to target. Markets had been leaning towards a pause for the June policy meeting, however priced in a sizeable 40% probability of a 25 bps hike. The hawkish message that accompanied the decision sent the Aussie and bond vields spiking as markets moved to overwhelmingly price in a further rate increase next month. Ending its June policy meeting, the central bank hiked the cash rate to 4.1%, saying inflation is still too high and removed a reference that stated, "medium-term inflation expectations remain well anchored," which had been in policy statements since July of 2022. Although the RBA increased interest rates by 400 bps since last May, headline inflation was last seen at 7% in Q1 of 2023. Markets are now pricing in a 67% probability of a 25 bps hike in July.

Australia's economy expands

First quarter gross domestic product expanded by 2.3% year-on-year in Australia, slightly below analyst expectations. The figure represented the weakest pace in 1-1.5 years as high prices and rising interest rates exhausted consumer spending. Data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics showed real gross domestic product rose 0.2% in the first quarter, easing from 0.5% in the previous quarter and under forecasts of 0.3%.



from Dr Saeeda Jaffar.

Visa recognizes Boubyan with award for launching

Huawei concludes 6th edition of ICT competition

KUWAIT: In partnership with the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Science (KFAS) and in cooperation with the Communication and Information Technology Regulatory Authority (CITRA), Huawei concluded its flagship annual Huawei ICT Competition 2022-2023 award ceremony in Kuwait. The initiative aims at bolstering the overall ICT ecosystem through stimulate local talent who will be the



DazzahVisa Prepaid Card

KUWAIT: Visa has recognized Boubyan Bank with an award for launching the DazzahVisa Prepaid Card, issued for the first time in Kuwait, being a unique and outstanding product in the region. This makes the bank stand out as a leading bank in offering innovative solutions to all customers, especially the youths, since the card is considered a practical solution for intending spouses to help with spending in a proper manner.

Abdullah Al-Tuwaijri, CEO - Private, Consumer & Digital Banking, and Abdullah Al-Mejhem, Chief Consumer & Private Banking Officer, from Boubyan Bank accepted the award in the presence of Dr Saeeda Jaffar, Senior VP & Country Manager for GCC at Visa, in the attendance of many officials from the bank and the company. On this occasion, Al-Mejhem said: "This award is a new achievement for Boubyan's products, which represent innovative solutions through which we offer the highest levels of quality service, which meet customers' requirements and exceed their expectations.

We take pride in this award which serves as a recognition, especially since it comes from an institution that is renowned for its fairness and professionalism." "The award by Visa is a message that confirms the success we achieved in launching the DazzahVisa Card. By introducing this card, we succeeded in further reinforcing our leadership, and showed that we are the closest bank to its customers, especially as this card fulfills the needs of the intending spouses' segment," he added. He went on to add: "We have a strategic relationship with Visa, which has positively influenced our services and products to customers across various sectors. We are certain that the future holds more for this important relationship." Shashank Singh, Visa's VP for Kuwait and Qatar, said: "We are delighted to present this special award to Boubyan Bank and join them in celebrating our special partnership. We are excited about what's ahead and look forward to further driving digital commerce in Kuwait by supporting Boubyan Bank in introducing more innovative, secure and rewarding payment experiences for the country's customers and businesses."

Card with many benefits

Al-Mejhem added: "The issuance of DazzahVisa Prepaid Card is part of the bank's efforts to minimize reliance on cash payments and to lean more towards digital payments, which can be used with all modern digital payment applications. Using this card, the groom will be able to deposit the dowry "Mahr" instead of presenting it in cash or by a cheque, beside discounts from local and international companies to cover her wedding's preparations."

He went on to add: "Using Dazzah card, intending spouses among our customers can have access to a full spectrum of benefits. Additionally, with its unique and prestigious design, the card can be personalized by engraving the names of the groom and bride on it." "The most unique things about Boubyan Bank's products are its ease and convenience, especially upon obtaining the same via the bank's digital channels. Issuance of the Dazzah Card is available through Msa3ed (Digital Assistant) in Boubyan App by following simple and easy steps, or through any Boubyan Bank branch", he concluded. future Kuwaiti generation achieving the national development plans and ambitious in line with Kuwait Vision 2035.

This year's competition was concluded during a ceremony held at Huawei Head office, senior executives from CITRA, KFAS, Huawei and universities. From October to December, hundreds of undergraduate students have participated in the competition, which is being held virtually. Winners of the regional competitions have received a certification, future learning opportunities, trophy and an internship.

Shaymaa Al-Turkait board member of CITRA said: "We are glad to partner with Huawei on a prestigious program such as the Huawei Middle East ICT Competition. The ICT sector is currently playing a significant part in strengthening Kuwait's global competitiveness and overall economic growth. Collaborating with a global technology company recon-

Gulf Bank supports job inclusivity, hires people with disabilities

KUWAIT: As part of its continuous efforts to support people with disabilities, Gulf Bank participated in the Disability Employment Forum, organized by the Youth Public Authority, in cooperation with the Human Construction Institute. Believing in their talents, and aiming to provide equal opportunities for Kuwaiti youth, Gulf Bank recruited a group of graduates

ith, Salma Al Hajjaj, GM of Human Resources

to join the Gulf Bank's family in support of the "Partners in their Employment" campaign – noting that the fourth batch of graduates reached around 74 trainees.

On this occasion, Gulf Bank's General Manager of Human Resources, Salma Al Hajjaj, said: "We are keen to annually participate in the "Partners in Their Employment" campaign, to provide training and development programs for people with disabilities." Al Hajjaj further indicated that Gulf Bank is one of the largest private sector entities participating in the campaign and providing job opportunities for people with disabilities annually.

This is part of the bank's belief in their capabilities, and its continuous efforts to achieve sustainable development across all segments of society. She added: "Gulf Bank's participation in the Disability Employment Forum, comes as part of a comprehensive strategy to support young Kuwaiti



firms our commitment to empower our nation's youth and prepare a future generation for Kuwait's digital transformation journey."

Victor Liu Vice President of Huawei Carrier Business Group, Gulf North, said: "As we known, ICT is one of the most important sectors in today's society, The ICT industry is leading the development of various new areas, such as AI, 5G and cloud, these innovative technologies are bringing unlimited possibilities to our society." The competition further promotes creativity amongst students by acting as a bridge between the classroom and the workforce, enhancing students' future employment opportunities.

The training courses and competition program this year focus on modern technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI), cloud computing, data storage, big data, Security, Datacom, WLAN and enhancing communication between talented youth in the region. The competition is considered one of the auxiliary channels for the current efforts made by governments, universities, and educational institutions in the field of talent discovery and support to prepare future leaders who will be responsible for leading the development process by relying on technology.



talents, and to continuously work on developing their potential. This is also a key part of the bank's 2025 strategy and Kuwait Vision 2023."

She continued: "During the forum, we were pleased to receive a large number of job applications from people with disabilities, who have distinguished talents and capabilities. We are keen to help them integrate into society and be part of the banking sector." Al Hajjaj also indicated that Gulf Bank has come a long way in achieving its human resources sustainability goals, and that it is constantly aiming to benefit from the capabilities and talents of youth, and to provide them with suitable job opportunities.

Gulf Bank's vision is to be the leading Kuwaiti Bank of the Future. The Bank is constantly engaging and empowering its employees as part of an inclusive and diversified workplace in recognition of every employee's role in delivering customer excellence and serving the community at large. With its extensive network of branches and innovative digital services, Gulf Bank is able to give its customers the choice of how and where to conduct their banking transactions, all while ensuring a simple and seamless banking experience.

Gulf Bank is committed to maintaining robust developments in sustainability at environmental, social and governance levels through diverse sustainability initiatives, strategically selected to benefit the Bank both internally and externally. Gulf Bank supports Kuwait Vision 2035 "New Kuwait" and works with various parties to achieve it. Kuwait 🚵 Times

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Lifestyle

Paws and popcorn: Thai cinema goes pet-friendly



fluffy white cat in a yellow dress perched on the top of a Bangkok cinema seat while, nearby, a Chihuahua in a Sebastian the Crab costume geared up to watch Disney's 'The Little Mermaid' with their owner. One terrier even channeled Ariel in a red wig and mermaid's tail. They were among dozens of four-legged film-goers that arrived in strollers Saturday for the opening of Thailand's first pet-friendly cinema on the fringes of the capital.

The country's pet industry is considered the second-biggest in Asia, behind China's, with some 8.3 million dogs and 3.7 million cats in 2021, according to industry data. Pet ownership grew further during the coronavirus pandemic, and now some businesses are trying to cash in. Mano, 37, had brought his rescue cat, Kati, to the cinema. "We take him to work sometimes... today is like an experiment," he told AFP. "We are seeing 'The Little Mermaid'. He will enjoy seeing all the fish on the screen."

The animals had to wear diapers and sit in bags while the sound and lighting were adjusted for their comfort, Major Cineplex spokesman Narute Jiensnong said. "Bangkok is not a very pet-friendly city," Narute told AFP, adding that the concept built on their child-friendly theatres. Narute noted some pets acquired during the pandemic suffer separation anxiety now that owners are no longer working from home or in lockdown. "In the kid cinemas, kids will be running around screaming or shouting... I think pet cinema will be the same. Everyone who comes will own a pet and be understanding (if dogs bark)," he said.

It is not the only business opening its doors to furry visitors. Earlier this month, Swedish furniture giant Ikea announced that small dogs and cats were welcome to visit its Thailand stores, as long as they sit in



A pet dog and owner wait to see a screening of Disney's "The Little Mermaid" on the opening day of the pet-friendly i-Tail Pet Cinema.

prams. Outside the cinema, there were howls of disappointment as a 62-kg Alaskan Malamute named Tungchae — who arrived in a 1.5-sq-m dog trolley equipped with a fan — was considered too big to enter.

Despite the cinemas' animal welfare safeguards, not all pet owners were thrilled about the idea. One long-time Bangkok expat said that, while her cat frequently falls asleep beside her on the couch watching TV at home, she would never take her pet to the cinema and thinks the concept is "unnatural" and "torture". "Being zipped up in this cage, I don't know if that's enjoyable for the animal," she told AFP. — AFP





Pets and their owners sit inside i-Tail Pet Cinema.

Massive 'chirping' egg sculpture hatches in Warsaw



People interact with the acoustic sculpture. — AFP photos



People listen to "The Hatchling. Song Thrush".

n a square in central Warsaw, a couple of people are bent over a huge sculpture of a blue egg, their heads turned and pressed against the shell. As they listen to the soft sounds of a baby bird hatching, a hooded crow cocks his head and sips from a shallow pool of water installed nearby. "This chick and the mini-pond next to it speak to a sensitivity to Warsaw's non-human residents," Warsaw deputy mayor Aldona Machnowska-Gora said at the unveiling. "Don't hesitate to walk up to the egg and hug it. It makes for an incredible experience," she said.

Located at Five Corners Square – once home

to an arena where animals would fight to the death — the acoustic installation titled The Hatchling is a call for empathy with other lifeforms in the era of climate change. "The idea was to bend people's bodies over something other than themselves," said Joanna Rajkowska, the artist behind the sculpture. "We care about our well-being so much. It's like a complete obsession... It's time to think about other species," she told AFP.

'The Hatchling speaks'

At around two meters high and three meters long, The Hatchling is a larger than life version



Polish artist Joanna Rajkowska listens to her acoustic sculpture "The Hatchling. Song Thrush" which is a scaled-up egg that make chick sounds like just before it hatches, at five corners square in Warsaw on June 8, 2023.

of a song thrush's blue spotted egg. The color is more intense than the real blue because the sculpture will inevitably fade in the sun. "Inside, instead of a bird, we have a lot of electronics, a lot of circuits and sound transducers... So The Hatchling speaks," said Rajkowska. "Literally, like pecking the shell. But also the heartbeat, which is three times faster than the human heart. You can also hear all the movements and the chirping," she added. "So it's a whole spectrum of sounds. Basically the desperate life that is trying to get out of the egg."

She teamed up with her musician partner for the recordings, though they do not come from a song thrush, as the stress of the process would have been enormous for a wild bird. "An ornithologist told me that if I take an egg from the nest and then return it, the parents will not accept it... So I decided to find safe conditions," Rajkowska said. They came across "this crazy guy who is trying to revive old species of chickens" who allowed them to record in his lab as long as they kept the eggs warm. "So we had to really rush to do the recording and put it back in the incubator," Rajkowska said.

'Surreal, unexpected'

The artist is also the creator of a massive fake palm tree that has for years added a tropical note to the Polish capital and even become a popular postcard landmark. Similarly, the egg — whose top is already speckled with bird droppings, to Rajkowska's amusement — is meant to be "surreal, unexpected and slightly out of touch with reality". Piotr Nowacki, a life-long Warsaw resident, is a fan of the project, which he has visited several times and calls "a break from routine, somewhat abstract, surprising". "It also educates (and) draws your attention to nature... It's cool that it's dynamic, that it's alive, right?" the 36-year-old software engineer told AFP.

Rajkowska has also exhibited a series of collages juxtaposing old and new magazine clippings, old photographs of the plaza — and birds, of course. "I love that they evolved from the dinosaur and they have such a long, long history... And we make their habitats smaller and smaller and smaller. We concrete every-thing," Rajkowska said. "The Hatchling is actually a sad project. It is tinged with disappointment but also with hope that we mature enough to see beyond ourselves." — AFP





Monday, June 12, 2023

With bows and spears, indigenous 'warriors' defend the Amazon



Members of the 'Warriors of Forest', a vigilante group from the Kanamari ethnic group, gather in Sao Luis village, in the Javari Valley, in the northwest Amazonas state of Brazil, on May 18, 2023. — AFP photos

n a remote pocket of the Brazilian Amazon under siege from illegal fishermen, poachers, loggers and drug traffickers, Indigenous people have taken it upon themselves to defend the land and its resources. With bows, arrows and spears, young men of the Sao Luis village patrol the Javari River in the Javari Valley which holds Brazil's second largest protected Indigenous reservation. Like many others who live here, he takes his surname from his tribe which lives in a part of the rainforest the size of Portugal that contains many of the world's last uncontacted Indigenous groups.





A member of the Brazilian security forces stands guard in the Javari River Valley.



by motorboat in the valley of the same name.

They call themselves the "Warriors of the Forest," the self-styled heirs of Indigenous rights defender Bruno Pereira, who was murdered in the Javari Valley one year ago along with British journalist Dom Phillips. "We must always be prepared for the worst. But we do not want violence," said Lucinho Kanamari, his face painted red, insisting the traditional weapons are merely a "precaution".

"When we spot intruders, one of us will talk to them. The others stay back, ready to react if things go wrong," he told AFP. "We are there to teach, to act as a peaceful deterrent. We talk, we explain." Lucinho is a member of the Kanamari Indigenous group, one of six

'Invasions exploded'

The patrolling warriors particularly fear the illegal fishermen in search of pirarucu – one of the world's largest freshwater fish, its flesh considered a delicacy worth a small fortune. Such poachers are believed to have killed Pereira and Phillips on June 5, 2022, hacking up their bodies and hiding the remains in the jungle. For a while, the crime brought international attention to this threatened corner of the planet long-abandoned under former far-right President Jair Bolsonaro and his pro-industrial agenda.

"With Bolsonaro, and then Covid, the invasions exploded," said Varney Todah da Silva Kanamari, vice president of the Union of Indigenous Peoples of the Javari Valley (Univaja). "As the state abandoned us, we had to assume our responsibilities... We defend what belongs to us: our lakes and forests," he said.

It is not only fishermen the watchmen fear. There are also narco groups growing coca crops on the Peruvian side of the river, and in April, loggers threatened to kill a Kanamari chief, forcing him exile. The into warriors have built two floating woodobservation en posts on the river near their village of Sao Luis. One of the structures has come under fire. Their task is immense and dangerous, their means lacking. The team has only two motorboats and little fuel. The "warriors" avoid violent conflict, and in tense situations, withdraw back into the forest.

'Under threat of death'

With government forces absent from the area, the Sao Luis warriors work with another Indigenous group known by its acronym EVU – a sort of commando unit attached to Univaja. Pereira helped set up the EVU before his death. EVU members – about 30 in total – are equipped with motorized barges, GPS, drones, phones and satellite Internet, much of it made possible by private donors. They carry no weapons.

EVU volunteers from different Javari Valley communities undergo

training by NGOs and security specialists in "how to intervene, make surveys, confiscate equipment or boats," explained EVU co-founder Cristobal Negredo Espisango, known as Tatako. According to Univaja coordinator Bushe Matis, the EVU does not "replace the state." "We monitor, we collect information and evidence, and we pass it on to the relevant authorities. Then let the state do its job."

EVU leader Orlando de Moraes Possuelo said a key goal is "to occupy terrain" in areas with an abundance of sought-after fish and animals. "We arrive as soon as possible to catch the intruders in the act, before they disappear or return to Peru." Legally, they cannot detain anyone. Many

of the group's members have received threats. "I am under threat of death. I am afraid of course, but there is no other option," said Tatako. "The EVU is the only organization that really fights organized crime in the Javari Valley," he added.

With the return of leftist Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva to the presidency, many in the Amazon hope help will soon be coming. Last week, as Brazil marked the anniversary of the murders of Pereira and Phillips, Lula vowed that "we will not abandon this struggle for the planet." "We are fighting to revive policies to protect Indigenous peoples and the Amazon," he said in a statement to The Guardian newspaper, to which Phillips was a contributor.

> But just last week, Brazil's Congress passed bills cutting the powers of Lula's environment and Indigenous affairs ministries and dramatically curbing the protection of Indig-

enous lands. Univaja's Matis fears for the future. "There can be a tragedy at any moment. The invaders will never back down: They will always want to lay claim to the Javari," he said. — AFP

Mauro da Silva Kanamary, leader (Cacique) of the Kanamari community of Sao Luis, poses for a picture in the Javari Valley.



Lifestyle

Lithuania capital turns pink for love of beetroot soup

ithuania's capital was flooded with pink food, decor, and colorful outfits on Saturday, as residents celebrated the Baltic nation's love for a cold beetroot dish commonly known as "pink soup". While beetroot soup is beloved in many eastern European nations, Lithuania lays claim to Saltibarsciai - made of kefir, cucumbers, beetroot, and dill - eaten cold and a favorite on a hot summer's day.

"It's not just soup - it's a way of life," said the city's tourism agency Go Vilnius, which organized the first-ever festival in its honor. French student Victor Delcroix came dressed as a bowl of "Pink Soup". "I fell in love with Saltibarsciai and I felt obliged to wear this to honor it," he said before jumping on a giant pink slip-and-slide covered in foam.

Elsewhere some festivalgoers prepared to set a record with the largest-ever bowl of Saltibarsciai. Topped with sour cream and boiled eggs and served with boiled or fried potatoes, "pink soup" is a summer staple in Lithuania. "There are bars ... that prepare them in interesting ways, like a sushi place that makes it with wasabi," said Ricardas Andrijauskas, at the festival. "We usually make it more traditionally." He was not entirely convinced by all the innovations, he confessed. "Not with wasabi," he said, shaking his head.

'Instagrammable' soup

Elsewhere at the festival vendors were selling pink ice cream, coffee, cocktails and perfumes. Go Vilnius wants the soup to boost food tourism to the city. "Our city's gastro scene has skyrocketed in the past years," Inga Romanovskiene, director of Go Vilnius, told AFP. "Historical cuisine recipes from the 700 years of the capital's multicultural heritage, which celebrate a unique local fusion of Lithuanian, Jewish, Polish cuisine, have also settled in the menus of the city's restaurants."

According to Lithuanians, the dish originated in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, which existed until 1795 and included swathes of territory in present-day Belarus, Russia and Ukraine. However, Poland and Belarus are among those who contest its heritage. Pink soup has also become a star on social media. "It's called one of the most 'Instagrammable' soups," said Dovile Seliuke, spokeswoman of the country's tourism promotion agency, Travel Lithuania.

The Pink Soup Fest is taking place against the backdrop of hundreds of Ukrainian flags fluttering around the capital. Over 80,000 Ukrainians have now sought asylum in Lithuania, a Baltic country of 2.7 million people. "The celebration helps take your mind off [...] the war in Ukraine," said Rasa Kasitiene, who with her daughter was dressed up all in pink. - AFP





Participants dressed as Saltibarsciai soup take part in the Saltibarsciai Slip and Slide competition during the Pink Soup Fest.



A participant poses for a photo.



A cook serves Saltibarsciai soup.



pants move down a water slide during the Saltibarsciai Slip and Slide competition during the Pink Soup Fest in Vilnius on



Pixar returns with immigrant LINIAL fable 'Elemental'

ixar is seeking to rediscover its box office fortunes with timely immigrant fable "Elemental," the animation studio's first totally original new film to hit theaters since the start of the pandemic. The movie, out next Friday in the United States, is set in the fantastical Element City - where residents made out of fire, water, earth and air must learn to live in close proximity, despite their highly combustible differences.

It follows a dangerous romance between Ember, the fiery daughter of a hard-working immigrant, and Wade, the

del Carmen - who voices Ember's dad Bernie – emigrated from the Philippines.

Several stars noted the importance of the film's themes, at a moment when immigration dominates political debate. Just last week, Florida's governor, Ron DeSantis, flew planeloads of immigrants across the country to California, in a bid to tout his tough stance on the issue ahead of next year's presidential election. "It is very timely in our world today... If everybody can watch this movie, please, we need it," del Carmen told AFP. The message is "a very prescient





Actress Meg Donnelly

go-with-the-flow son of a wealthy water family. Their relationship tests the divided city's mantra that "elements don't mix", a not-so-subtle metaphor for racism and prejudice in real-life society.

"Oh, my goodness, it's so forbidden! The fact that their very lives are at stake if Wade and Ember get close together - it's like Romeo and Juliet," said Leah Lewis, who plays Ember. "This film talks a lot about family loyalty, cultural identity, falling in love for the first time," she told AFP at the film's US premiere in Los Angeles last week.

Like many involved with the film. Lewis has her own immigrant story. She was adopted as a baby from a Shanghai orphanage by Floridian parents. Mamoudou Athie, who voices Wade, was born in Mauritania and obtained US citizenship just over a year ago, while Ronnie



Singer/songwriter Lauv

one for the times we're in," said co-star Wendi McLendon-Covey.

Pixar pressure

The film also comes at a critical time for Pixar, a subsidiary of entertainment behemoth Disney since 2006. By its own high standards, the all-conquering studio behind classics like "Toy Story", "Finding Nemo" and "Up" has had a rough few years. Its last original, non-franchise movie to hit big screens, 2020's "Onward", launched and swiftly vanished as COVID shuttered theaters. Its next few titles were sent straight to the Disney+ streaming platform.

Pixar returned to cinemas last summer with "Lightyear", but the "Toy Story" spin-off flopped, and its director was among 75 Pixar employees laid off last week amid wider Disney job cuts. Mean-



Actress Wendi McLendon-Covey



US actor Mamoudou Athie arrives for the US premiere of "Elemental" at the Academy Museum of Motion Pictures in Los Angeles, California, on June 8, 2023. — AFP photos



Executive producer and Pixar chief creative officer Pete Docter arrives for the US premiere of "Elemental".

while, rival animation studios are flourishing in the post-pandemic era. Sony's "Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse" is currently atop the box office charts, while Universal's Super Mario video game adaptation is this year's biggest film to date, grossing \$1.3 billion.

Even last year's best animation Oscar, traditionally dominated by Pixar, went to Netflix and Guillermo del Toro's dark version of Pinocchio. So it is no surprise that the Disney-owned studio is throwing everything at "Elemental". "I think it's important... if you have any reason at all, to step out of your house, to go to a theater, and be entertained, it would be this Pixar movie," said del Carmen, who previously co-directed "Inside Out".

The film even received a glitzy world premiere in Cannes, where it closed last month's festival. Based on early reviews from the festival, the movie scored just 68 percent on Rotten Tomatoes - the joint-lowest for any Pixar movie except "Cars 2". But Pixar executives will be hoping audiences warm to the film, which has drawn praise for its innovative rendering of water and fire characters.

And for its director Peter Sohn, "Elemental" is also a deeper, personal story about the sacrifices made by immigrants. The son of a Korean couple who moved to New York before he was born, Sohn previously directed Pixar's 2015 animation "The Good Dinosaur". When he returned to his native Bronx for a talk on that film, he welled up seeing his proud parents in the audience, and the seed for his next movie was planted. - AFP





Ruthless Australia hammer India in World Test Championship final

Boland sparks dramatic collapse as Australia win WTC final

News in Brief



Al-Tomooh team win 4 gold

KUWAIT: Athletes of Kuwait's Al-Tomooh Sport Club won four gold medals and one silver on Saturday, the second day of the Czech International Para Athletics Championship. This pushed their tally of medals to six gold, two silver and one bronze. Hanin Al-Mesbah led the 100 meters and 400 meters female races of T20 category while Fahad Al-Selili claimed the title in the 100 meters (male) of the same category. Hassan Samir won the gold medal of the 1,500 meters race of T36 category while Abdullah Salmin won the silver medal of 100 meters race of T20 category. — KUNA

Rins suffers broken leg

MUGELLO: Spaniard Alex Rins broke his right leg in a fall during the sprint race at the Italian Grand Prix, his LCR Honda MotoGP team said on Saturday. The 27-year-old fell on the fourth lap and was airlifted to Careggi Hospital in Florence where he was diagnosed with fractures to his right tibia and fibula. "He will undergo a first surgery this evening at the Careggi University Hospital (Florence), where doctors will attach an external fixator to stabilize his right leg and reduce swelling," the team posted on Twitter. "He will remain under observation, and once cleared, he will return to Spain for a final surgery." — AFP

An Se-young wins 5th title

SINGAPORE: South Korea's An Se-young won her fifth title this year as she outclassed Japan's world number one Akane Yamaguchi in straight games 21-16, 21-14 to capture the Singapore Open badminton on Sunday. Playing in her eighth consecutive final of 2023, the 21-year-old An added the Singapore crown to victories in India, Indonesia, the All England Open and Thailand. "I've been feeling very confident since the start of the year and I'm very pleased I found my winning formula," An, ranked second in the world, said. "This victory is especially meaningful as it's also my first competitive professional tournament in Singapore. I'm so happy I have won here." —AFP

LONDON: Scott Boland sparked a dramatic collapse as a dominant Australia hammered India by 209 runs to win the World Test Championship (WTC) final at The Oval on Sunday. India, set a record 444 to win, resumed on 164-3. But they slumped to 234 all out before lunch on the fifth day, losing their last five wickets for a mere 22 runs. Boland did the initial damage with two wickets in Sunday's seventh over, including the prize scalp of Virat Kohli, on his way to figures of 3-46 in 16 overs. Off-spinner Nathan Lyon (4-41) then polished off the tail.

Victory meant Australia had now captured the one major men's cricket title that had previously eluded them. Boland might not have been in the side but for an injury to Josh Hazlewood. The 34-year-old seamer now looks to have assured himself of a place in Australia's XI for the first Ashes Test against England at Edgbaston starting on Friday. "It felt pretty good to get Kohli out," said Boland, who has now taken 33 wickets in eight Tests at the remarkably low average of 14.57. "I have been playing state cricket for Victoria for 12 years," he added. "I have done some hard work and it is nice to play international cricket and get some wickets."

Defeat left India, beaten by New Zealand in the inaugural 2021 WTC final in Southampton, still searching for their first piece of global silverware in a decade. Had India reached a target of 444, it would have surpassed the West Indies' 418-7 against Australia at St John's in 2003 as the highest winning fourth-innings chase in Test history. India were also attempting to top the corresponding Oval record of 263 posted by England in a one-wicket win over Australia way back in 1902.

Yet even though the odds were heavily against their side, scores of India fans, the key component in a cumulative crowd in excess of 100,000 across the five days, still streamed into the ground. Australia, who had lost their last four Test series against India, were in charge from early on in this match after being sent into bat. Both player-of-the-match Travis



LONDON: Australia's Pat Cummins (center left) lifts the ICC Test Championship Mace as he celebrates with teammates after victory in the ICC World Test Championship cricket final match between Australia and India on June 11, 2023. — AFP

Head (163) and star batsman Steve Smith (121) made hundreds in a first-innings total of 469.

'Savor this ahead of Ashes'

"The way Travis and Smith put on that partnership put us at ease," said Australia captain Pat Cummins. The fast bowler added: "Boland was fantastic, he's now my favorite player, everyone just did their role really well...We'll savor this and then turn our attention to the Ashes." Opening batsman Rohit Sharma said: "In the second innings, we didn't apply ourselves with the bat...Playing two (WTC) finals is a good achievement for us but, yeah, we would like to go a mile ahead of that as well. Chants of "Kohli, Kohli, Kohli" rang out round the ground as the former India captain and Ajinkya Rahane walked out to bat on Sunday. But Kohli had added just five runs to his overnight score when, on 49, his edged drive off Boland was brilliantly caught by a diving Smith at second slip.

Two balls later, new batsman Ravindra Jadeja fell for a duck, caught behind nicking a superb Boland delivery that seamed away. Rahane had marked his first Test in over a year by top-scoring with patient 89 in India's first innings. But an otherwise composed 46 on Sunday ended when he edged a booming drive off Mitchell Starc straight to wicketkeeper Alex Carey. Lyon then proved too much for India's tail and he finished the match when last man Mohammed Siraj was caught off a reverse sweep. — AFP

Kuwaiti gymnast wins gold medal

KUWAIT: Kuwait's gymnast Sarah Al-Bannai gave an outstanding performance with the Ball Routine of the 4th Pharaohs International Rhythmic Gymnastics Cup Championship for Girls in Cairo - winning the gold medal. Al-Bannai competed with 50 players from 28 countries. The second and third place medals went to the Cypriot team. Meanwhile, Al-Bannai placed fifth in her second contest of the hoop event. This is Kuwait's second achievement in the nternational event. Talia Behbehani won third place and the bronze medal in the Ball Routine during the first day of the championship. Sarah dedicated the medal to HH the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the federation and her family. She thanked her Ukrainian coaches Irina and Victoria for their great efforts.

Lopez grabs the

light-welter title

NEW YORK: American Teofimo Lopez defeated

Britain's previously unbeaten Josh Taylor by unan-

imous decision on Saturday to capture the World

Boxing Organization light-welterweight title. Judges

handed the 25-year-old Brooklyn fighter the victory

by scores of 115-113, 115-113 and 117-111. Lopez im-

proved to 19-1 while dropping the 32-year-old Scot-

tish southpaw, the former undisputed world champi-

Lopez, a former world lightweight champion,

became a two-division world champion with the

140-pound crown. "I'm so thankful. It has been a long

on in the division, to the same record.



PGA 'couldn't afford cost'

NEW YORK: Commissioner Jay Monahan said the PGA Tour could not afford a legal fight with LIV Golf's Saudi backers and higher purses to prevent player defections, The Wall Street Journal reported Saturday. The newspaper reported that Monahan told tour employees in a meeting at the tour's Florida headquarters that it was an unsustainable financial battle to challenge the Saudi Public Investment Fund (PIF), worth a reported \$600 billion. The PGA Tour and PIF announced a merger on Tuesday that settled the legal battle between the rivals only a year after LIV Golf launched with several stars who jumped from the PGA for big-money offers from the upstart series. — AFP

Sri Lanka likely Asia Cup venue

COLOMBO: Asia Cup matches involving India could be played in Sri Lanka after the cricketing powerhouse refused to visit arch-rival and official host Pakistan, a board official said Sunday. The Asian Cricket Council (ACC) is due to make a formal announcement in the coming week after calls for a different venue for India's games in the 50-over tournament in September, a Sri Lankan official said. Neighbors India and Pakistan have not met on either side's soil in any version of the game since 2012, and only play each other in international tournaments on neutral grounds. The two cricketing powerhouses have fought three wars since being carved out of the subcontinent's partition in 1947, and are bitter political rivals. — AFP

Pan grabs Canadian Open lead

TORONTO: Taiwan's Pan Cheng-tsung opened and closed with back-to-back birdies to grab a two-stroke lead after Saturday's third round of the US PGA Tour's Canadian Open. Two-time defending champion Rory McIlroy and England's Justin Rose and Tommy Fleetwood charged into the hunt but it was Pan, trying to end a four-year PGA win drought, who fired a six-under par 66 to lead after 54 holes at Oakdale on 14-under 202. Pan capped his second 66 in a row with birdie putts from just outside 10 feet at 17 and the par-5 18th. "That put me in a good spot, but I still got a lot of work to do," Pan said. — AFP

Kuwaiti Gymnast Sarah Al-Bannai celebrates with her coaches.

time coming," Lopez said. "We just beat the number one guy, former undisputed world champion. It was about doing what I needed to do." Lopez apologized to Taylor for saying in the run-up to the fight that he wanted to kill the Scotsman. "He's a tough dude," Lopez said.

"I can see why he beat so many fighters. You've got to counter a counter puncher." Taylor has been the undisputed world light-welterweight champion after a controversial split-decision victory over England's Jack Catterall. He dropped three of his titles to pursue a rematch with Catterall but Taylor suffered a foot injury that scrapped the planned bout.

That created a 16-month layoff ahead of the Lopez fight but Taylor said that was not a factor. "The layoff had nothing to do with it," Taylor said. "I've got no excuses. He was better on the night. "Wasn't my best. I thought it was a close fight. I know I can beat him." Lopez went to the canvas in the second round and Taylor went down in the third on what were ruled slips by referee Michael Griffin. Taylor struck Lopez with a jab in touching up the gloves on a restart in round two, when he was also warned about pulling down the head of the smaller Lopez.

A left uppercut by Lopez in the fifth round sparked cheers from hometown supporters but Taylor answered later with a hard left. Lopez suffered a cut on the outside of his right eye but began pressing the attack in the middle rounds, hammering Taylor with a right to the head in the seventh and connecting with a lunging left as he leaped off the canvas late in the eighth round. A right uppercut set up a double right combination for Lopez in the ninth and after dominating the 11th round, Lopez raised his arms in victory with another round to come, one that also went Lopez's way. — AFP

Knights on brink of first NHL title

MIAMI: Chandler Stephenson scored two goals and the Vegas Golden Knights moved to the brink of their first NHL title by defeating Florida 3-2 on Saturday in the Stanley Cup Final. With the victory in South Florida, the Golden Knights seized a 3-1 lead in the best-of-seven series, which moves back to Las Vegas for game five on Tuesday. "It's a different feeling," said Stephenson.

"Little more nerves when you know the Cup is in the building. Little more going on. You've just got to try to keep it just like another game. "Hopefully we can close it out." Both clubs are chasing a first Stanley Cup title in their second trip to the final. Vegas lost to Washington in 2018 in the Knights' inaugural season while the Panthers were swept by Colorado in 1996.

The Knights are counting on an excited and noisy atmosphere from a sellout crowd in their arena just off the Las Vegas Strip. "Hopefully it's an electric factory," Stephenson said. Golden Knights center Stephenson opened the scoring 99 seconds into the game and the Canadian struck again 7:28 into the second period to give Vegas a 2-0 advantage. William Karlsson scored 3:36 later to make it 3-0 with Nicolas Hague assisting on both second-period tallies by the Golden Knights.

"We just try to play with that swagger. That seems to be the magic in the playoffs," Stephenson said. "Everybody has been scoring. Everybody has been



FLORIDA: The Florida Panthers and Vegas Golden Knights fight following the Knights 3-2 win against the Panthers in Game Four of the 2023 NHL Stanley Cup Final on June 10, 2023. — AFP

contributing. That's kind of what you need come playoff time." Florida's Brandon Montour answered with 3:51 remaining in the second to pull the Panthers within 3-1 entering the third period. Montour, a Canadian defenseman, set up a goal from Florida's Aleksander Barkov only 3:49 into the third period to lift the hosts within 3-2.

Alex Pietrangelo of Vegas was whistled for delay of game with just under 18 seconds remaining to give Florida a late power play but the Panthers couldn't take advantage. Vegas goaltender Aiden Hill made the last of his 28 saves in the dying seconds and a scramble ensued as players shoved each other in front of the Knights net after the final horn sounded. The last period felt similar to that of game three, when the Panthers tied the score late to set up an overtime triumph. "It seems like we have that in the playoffs and the next game we learn from it," Stephenson said. "The guys came up huge that were out there. — AFP

Kuwait is Times

Sports

Messi new club Inter Miami suffer sixth straight defeat

Inter Miami remain rooted to the bottom of MLS

MIAMI: Lionel Messi's future club Inter Miami suffered a sixth straight defeat and remained rooted to the bottom of Major League Soccer's Eastern Conference after a 3-1 defeat at the New England Revolution on Saturday. If Messi was tuning in to watch what awaits him in MLS, his disappointment at Miami's dismal form would have been tempered by a wonder goal from his compatriot, Lucas Zelarayan of Columbus.

Three minutes into stoppage time, with the game at 1-1, the Crew's Zelarayan won the game at Chicago with an audacious shot from inside his own half that became an instant goal-of-the-season contender. That level of technical brilliance was in stark contrast to the performance of the seven-time Ballon d'Or winner's future teammates as they continued their miserable run of form. New England took a 27th-minute lead with a Carles Gil penalty after former Newcastle United fullback DeAndre

Yedlin gave away a penalty with a clumsy foul on Matt Polster.

Miami's troubles were compounded when French midfielder Corentin Jean was stretchered off with what appeared to be a serious injury. Minutes later, New England doubled the lead with an angled Polster header from a Gil corner. The Revolution made sure of the win in the 51st minute with some dreadful defending allowing Bobby Wood to fire in the third. Although Josef Martinez provided some minor consolation for Miami with an 84th minute penalty, Inter suffered a second straight loss under interim coach Javier Morales.

Perfectly executed

The Crew took the lead at Chicago through a deflected strike from Cucho Hernandez in the 58th minute but the Fire looked to have earned a point when Swiss international Xherdan Shaqiri levelled in the

88th minute. But with seconds remaining, Zelarayan spotted Chicago goalkeeper Spencer Richey off his line and beat him with a perfectly executed effort from five yards behind the half-way line.

Champions Los Angeles FC have had a bad week - after losing the CONCACAF Champions League final to Mexico's Leon on Sunday and being held to a goal-less draw at home to Atlanta on Wednesday, Steve Cherundolo's side fell to a 4-0 defeat at Houston. Nelson Quinones cut in from the left and fired a right-foot shot into the far corner in the 11th minute and then French-born Morocco international Amine Bassi made it 2-0 from the spot. Corey Bair took full advantage of some sloppy defending to add the third and then Franco Escobar completed the rout with a long-range strike in the final minute.

There was plenty of drama in Charlotte, where the Seattle Sounders took the lead with a brilliant strike from outside the box from Peruvian Raul Ruidiaz. But the home side fought back with a beautiful curling strike from former Burnley midfielder Ashley Westwood in the 53rd. Ruidiaz, who has only recently returned from injury, restored Seattle's advantage in the 70th minute, turning in at the back post but Charlotte rallied once again with Patrick Agyemang's 89th minute header ensuring a 3-3 draw.

Wayne Rooney's D.C. United fell to a 3-1 loss at Atlanta United with Greece forward Giorgos Giakoumakis putting the home side ahead before his compatriot Taxiarchis Fountas leveled for DC. Andrew Gutman, set up superbly by Argentina Thiago Almada, put the Georgia club 2-1 ahead and then the left wing-back provided the low cross for Tyler Wolff to tap-in. Mexican Alan Pulido scored twice for Sporting Kansas City as they thrashed Austin 4-1 and Mason Toye also had a brace for Montreal in a 4-0 crushing of Minnesota. — AFP

Former footballers 3 times more likely to suffer dementia

LONDON: Former professional footballers are almost three-and-a-half times more likely to be diagnosed with dementia than the general population, according to a study commissioned by the English Football Association (FA) and Professional Footballers' Association (PFA). The findings of the study, conducted by the University of Nottingham, support previous research that former footballers may be at higher risk of neurocognitive disease.

The new report states that 2.8 percent of retired professional footballers in their study reported medically diagnosed dementia and other neurodegenerative disease compared to 0.9 percent of the general population. Dr Charlotte Cowie, the FA's head of medicine, said: "The FOCUS study worked with an established group of former professional footballers that were participating in research and was able to review their brain health, and it supports the previous findings in the FIELD study which suggest an increased risk for neurodegenerative disease in former professional footballers than in the general population.

"This is an extremely complex area of our game, but we are committed to working collectively with our stakeholders to help grow our knowledge in this area through further medical and expert analvsis." The Football Association has been criticized



by campaigners for not doing enough to aid former players now suffering from neurocognitive disease. But it said it had introduced "industry-leading"

concussion guidelines which has restricted heading practice in training and banned deliberate headers from under-12s level. — AFP

Guardiola's luck turns to end CL tales of woe

ISTANBUL: Pep Guardiola's long struggle to win the Champions League (CL) again came to an end on Saturday as Manchester City finally conquered Europe. The last time Guardiola lifted the European Cup 12 years ago his Barcelona side put in an era-defining performance to dismantle Manchester United 3-1 at Wembley. By contrast, a nervy 1-0 win over Inter Milan in Istanbul will not go down as one of City's most stylish in seven golden years since the Catalan coach arrived in Manchester.

But it was the most significant as a club that for so long lived in the shadow of United has now matched the Red Devils' class of 1998/99 by winning the treble of Premier League, FA Cup and Champions League in the same season. "(To) win this competition, to win the treble is so difficult," Guardiola told BT Sport. "That's why today is not important the way, it's to get it." The 52-year-old knows all too well about the fine margins that define success or failure in the latter stages of the Champions League. Since last winning the competition, he had lost one final, five semi-finals and three quarter-finals in 10 seasons at Barca, Bayern and City.

So many times fortune deserted him. Lionel Messi missed a crucial penalty for Barcelona against Chelsea in the semi-finals of 2012. Thomas Mueller also fluffed his lines from the spot that cost Bayern a place in the final against Atletico Madrid in 2016. At City, only a dramatic VAR intervention chalked off Raheem Sterling's stoppage-time winner against Tottenham in 2019 quarter-finals and Real Madrid rallied in last season's semi-final from two goals down in the dying seconds only after series of remarkable saves from Thibaut Courtois kept the Spanish giants in the game. This time lady luck shone on Guardiola as he claimed "it was written in the stars" this would be City's season. After Rodri gave the English champions the lead 22 minutes from time, Inter were twice inches away from an equalizer when Federico Dimarco hit the bar before Romelu Lukaku's late header struck Ederson on the knee. — AFP

Off night for Lukaku as Inter fall at final hurdle

ISTANBUL: Romelu Lukaku was supposed to be Inter Milan's secret weapon in the Champions League final but instead he had an awful night which stopped Inter from upsetting the odds and beating Manchester City. The Belgium striker was always likely to start on the bench as Edin Dzeko's link play is what stitches together Inter's attacks and helps the Italians relieve opposition pressure. However the 30-year-old's recent explosive form had fans hoping that he might have an impact as a substitute as City's legs tired, seven goals and five assists since late April enough to hint at a rebirth months after his disastrous World Cup.

But Dzeko's exit allowed City to push Inter back as the Bosnian was no longer there to hold up clearances and Lukaku struggled to hold on to the ball and bring others into play. Worse, his goalscoring touch also deserted him just as Inter pushed for what would have probably been a deserved equalizer, and he even added a tragicomedy touch for good measure. Seconds after Rodri stroked City into a 68th minute lead Federico Dimarco's looping header bounced out to the Italy full-back off the crossbar.



ISTANBUL: (From left) Inter Milan's Italian defender #33 Danilo D'Ambrosio, Inter Milan's German midfielder #8 Robin Gosens and Inter Milan's Belgian forward #90 Romelu Lukaku react at the end of the UEFA Champions League final football match between Inter Milan and Manchester City on June 10, 2023. — AFP

But just as boyhood Inter fan Dimarco looked certain to head the Serie A club level Lukaku got in the way and kept his teammate's effort out. And with the match inching towards stoppage time Lukaku was presented with the opportunity to remind everyone why Chelsea paid a club-record

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fee to take him from then-Italian champions Inter two years ago. Robin Gosens directed an inviting header across goal which left Lukaku just needing to guide his close-range header past Ederson, who had the good fortune to have the ball bounce out off his knee. — AFP



ISTANBUL: Manchester City's Spanish manager Pep Guardiola kisses the European Cup trophy as they celebrate winning the UEFA Champions League final football match between Inter Milan and Manchester City on June 10, 2023. — AFP

Classifieds

I, KADHAR SAMATHU, holder of

Passport No. L5941243, do hereby

change my name to ABDUL SAMED

(as given name) KADHAR SAHIB (as surname) for all purposes. I will

henceforth be known in the name

ABDUL SAMED KADHAR SAHIB

and I also undertake to carry out this

name change in all my documents.

I, SHABBIR, holder of Passport

No. Z4825725, do hereby change

my name to SHABBIR (as giv-

en name) HITA (as surname) for

all purposes. I will henceforth be

known in the name SHABBIR HITA

and I also undertake to carry out this

name change in all my documents.

(#3804) 12/06/2023

(#3803) 12/06/2023

Hospitals & Clinics

Hospitals

Sabah Hospital	24812000
Amiri Hospital	22450005
Maternity Hospital	24843100
Mubarak Al-Kabir Hospital	25312700
Chest Hospital	24849400
Farwaniya Hospital	24892010
Adan Hospital	23940620
Ibn Sina Hospital	24840300
Al-Razi Hospital	24846000
Physiotherapy Hospital 2	4874330/9

Clinics

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Kaizen center Rawda

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24812000 22450005 24843100 25312700 24849400 24892010 23940620 24840300 24846000 4874330/9	Kaifan	2484
	Shamiya	2484
	Shuwaikh	2481
	Abdullah Salem	2254
	Nuzha	2252
	Industrial Shuwaikh	2481
	Qadsiya	2251
	Dasmah	2253
	Bneid Al-Gar	2253
	Shaab	2251
	Qibla	2245
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	Mirqab	2245
	Sharq	2246
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Change of Name

I, ZARINA ABBAS ALI, holder of Passport No. S5547730, do hereby change my name to ZARINA (as given name) HITA (as surname) for all purposes. I will henceforth be known in the name ZARINA HITA and I also undertake to carry out this name change in all my documents. (#3803) 12/06/2023

I, ABBAS ALI, holder of Passport No. P7118093, do hereby change my name to ABBAS ALI (as given name) HITA (as surname) for all purposes. I will henceforth be known in the name ABBAS ALI HITA and I also undertake to carry out this name change in all my documents. (#3803) 12/06/2023

I, SABIRA BANU, holder of Passport No. Z6929011, do hereby change my name to SABIRA (as given name) HITA (as surname) for all purposes. I will henceforth be known in the name SABIRA HITA and I also undertake to carry out this name change in all my documents. (#3803) 12/06/2023

I, Ajij, holder of Indian Passport No. Z3828425, having permanent address: Aziz Arif, S/o Saifuddin Arif, 107, Ward No. 18, Saket Residency, Barwani, M.P. - 451551, India, residing in Kuwait at present, hereby declare that henceforth my name will be read as Aziz (given name) and Arif (surname). (#3802) 09/06/2023

Automated enquiry about the CivilID card is 1889988



Sport Vinez

MONDAY, JUNE 12, 2023

City taste Champions League glory

Manchester City complete a remarkable treble





ISTANBUL: Manchester City's German midfielder #8 Ilkay Gundogan holds aloft the European Cup trophy as they celebrate winning the UEFA Champions League final football match between Inter Milan and Manchester City on June 10, 2023. Manchester City won the match 1-0. — AFP

ISTANBUL: Manchester City tasted Champions League glory at last on Saturday as a second-half Rodri strike gave the favorites a 1-0 victory over Inter Milan in a tense final, allowing Pep Guardiola's side to complete a remarkable treble. Rodri fired in from a Bernardo Silva cutback midway through the second half at the Ataturk Olympic Stadium to decide a game in which City were knocked out of their usual rhythm and lost Kevin De Bruvne to injury.

Erling Haaland, scorer of 52 goals this season, went a fifth straight match without finding the net, but City had enough to edge out opponents who had never been expected to get this far. "It wasn't easy. What a team we faced, unbelievable," Rodri told British broadcaster BT Sport. Having already claimed a fifth Premier League title in six seasons, and added the FA Cup, City are the first English club to win such a treble since Manchester United in 1999. That same month 24 years ago, City won the English third-tier play-off final on penalties against Gillingham.

Now they have established themselves as England's dominant side and have finally added the biggest prize

in European club football, two years after losing to Chelsea in their first final. "I think we made history. The good thing is that we want more. This project is to want more, more ambition," Rodri added. The match was watched by owner Sheikh Mansour, who made a very rare appearance at a City game as his team capped their rise from also-rans to superpower in the years since he bought the club in 2008.

Guardiola's third title

Twelve years after last lifting the trophy with Barcelona, meanwhile, Guardiola joins an elite club of coaches to have won the competition three times. "It's so difficult to win it," Guardiola said, before adding that City's triumph this season was "written in the stars". Having brushed aside RB Leipzig, Bayern Munich and Real Madrid to reach the final, City did not have it easy against Inter, who saw Federico Dimarco and substitute Romelu Lukaku both almost equalise.

Inter had hoped to spring a surprise and lift the trophy for the fourth time. It was not to be, but Simone Inzaghi's side will be back in the competition again next season. "We didn't deserve to lose," Inzaghi said. "We played against a top team, absolutely, but Inter also played a great final." Victory for Guardiola's men, to go with the three titles of rivals United, means Manchester becomes just the second city to produce two different winners of the competition, after Milan.

The occasion did not match the drama of the last Champions League final at the Ataturk Olympic Stadium. Liverpool triumphed here in 2005, recovering from a three-goal deficit against AC Milan to draw 3-3 before winning on penalties. However, it also passed off without serious incident, a year after chaos overshadowed the final at the Stade de France in Paris, even if the stadium's location some 25 kilometres west of central Istanbul did not make access simple for supporters.

De Bruyne comes off hurt

City, with Nathan Ake starting ahead of Kyle Walker in defense, expected Inter to come out and attempt to thwart them, and the first half went to plan for the Italians. They pressed and snapped at City's

Drink with Messi for \$42,000: Scam alert

BEIJING: Dinner, drinks and a selfie with Lionel Messi sounds like every football fan's dream, but Chinese police have warned it's just one of numerous scams surrounding his visit to Beijing. The Argentine legend's presence in China for a friendly against Australia in the capital on Thursday has drawn scammers and ticket-scalpers desperate to capitalize on Messi mania.

Beijing police are warning against falling for one widely circulated advertisement that promises an evening in Messi's company for 300,000 yuan (\$42,000). "If you can be scammed of 300,000 yuan, we'll raise a glass to you," the usually austere Beijing public security bureau joked on the Twitter-like Weibo. Other dubious offers posted online include "internal" stadium passes for 5,000 yuan and a "tailored VIP package" including an autographed jersey, front-row seats and a photo with Messi for over 8,000 yuan.

For 50 million yuan, Messi will appear on your shopping livestream to extol the virtues of your product, another unauthorized advertisement claims. Messi landed in Beijing on Saturday and will lead the world champions against the Socceroos at Beijing's newly renovated 68,000-capacity Workers' Stadium. It is a rematch of the round-of-16 clash at last winter's World Cup, where Argentina won 2-1 and went on to lift the trophy. Chinese fans have been



BEIJING: People shop for merchandises next to a board with human-shaped image of Argentina's footballer Lionel Messi and Angel Di Maria at a new-ly decorated post office in Beijing.— AFP

desperate to get close to their hero Messi, with tickets for the game ranging from 580 to 4,800 yuan quickly selling out.

Dozens of merchants on the Taobao online shopping platform are offering to resell tickets for as much as 18,000 yuan, despite anti-scalping measures including an ID requirement for entering the stadium. Hundreds of people waited outside the Argentina team hotel in central Beijing on Saturday, with one fan telling AFP they had booked a room in hopes of catching a glimpse of Messi after failing to secure match tickets. The 35-year-old Messi, who is set to join Inter Miami after leaving Paris Saint-Germain, will also play another friendly match when Argentina take on Indonesia in Jakarta on June 19. — AFP

History-making Djokovic claims record 23rd title

PARIS: Novak Djokovic created history on Sunday when he captured a record-breaking 23rd Grand Slam title with a third French Open triumph, reinforcing his case to be crowned the greatest player of all time. The 36-year-old Serb brushed off an early wobble to defeat Casper Ruud of Norway 7-6 (7/1), 6-3, 7-5 and snap the tie of 22 Slams he shared with career-long rival Rafael Nadal.

Victory for the third time in Paris, after 2016 and 2021, adds to his 10 Australian Open titles, seven at Wimbledon and three at the US Open. Djokovic is the first man to win all four maiors at least three times and is once again halfway to the first calendar Grand Slam since Rod Laver in 1969. Only Margaret Court and Serena Williams in women's tennis have managed to rack up 23 Grand Slam titles. Court's all-time mark of 24 will now be in his sights at Wimbledon next month. There is little sign

PARIS: Serbia's Novak Djokovic jumps as he celebrates his victory over Norway's Casper Ruud during their men's singles final match on June 11, 2023. — AFP heels, although the best chance fell to Guardiola's men when De Bruyne set up Haaland for an effort that was well saved by Andre Onana.

City were then dealt a major blow as De Bruyne – who came off hurt in the 2O21 final – departed injured on 36 minutes, to be replaced by Phil Foden. It was just as the prospect of extra time, and a final finishing past midnight, began to loom that the game opened up. Lautaro Martinez squandered a chance that was gifted to him by a poor Silva ball back towards his own goal, and City struck on 68 minutes.

Manuel Akanji's pass found Silva in the box and his cutback came off a defender before falling for Rodri to fire in. It was a second goal in the competition for the Spanish midfielder following his brilliant strike against Bayern in the quarter-finals. Inter's resistance was broken, and yet they nearly leveled almost immediately as Dimarco's header hit the bar. They nearly did so again in the 88th minute as Ederson somehow got in the way of a goal-bound Lukaku effort. After coming so close in recent Champions League campaigns, finally it was City's time. — AFP

> of Djokovic slowing down. He is now the oldest French Open champion but 11 of his Slam trophies have now been won after he turned 30. On Monday, he will reclaim the world number ranking and start his 388th week in top spot. The sense of Sunday's occasion certainly attracted sports A-listers. NFL legend Tom Brady watched from the Djokovic box, football stars Kylian Mbappe and Zlatan Ibrahimovic sat side by side in the VIP area which also accommodated former world heavyweight boxing champion Mike Tyson, a regular this weekend. Djokovic was playing in his seventh French Open final and boasted a 4–0 career record over Ruud, not having lost a single set.

However, the fourth-ranked Norwegian was the more composed of the two at the start, sprinting out of the blocks for a 2-0 lead when Djokovic shanked an overhead. Ruud, the 2022 runner-up to Nadal, stretched to 3-0 and 4-1 before Djokovic retrieved the break in the seventh game when his opponent buried an easy smash into the net with an open court begging. It came at the end of a lung-busting 28-shot rally. Djokovic missed a break point in the ninth game, tumbling to the red clay as he chased down a Ruud drive. His frustration boiled over when he angrily accused umpire Damien Dumusois of rushing the players between changeovers on a heavy, humid afternoon in the French capital. Fired up, he then raced through the tiebreak, sealing the opener with a running forehand. Tellingly, that was Djokovic's sixth tiebreak at this French Open and in none of them had he committed a single unforced error in the 55 points contested. - AFP