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Oman, Egypt back Gaza reconstruction

Cairo, Egypt - Oman and Egypt reaffirmed their united stance on regional developments, particularly the situation in Gaza, during the 16th session of the Omani-Egyptian Joint Committee held in Cairo on Tuesday.

H E Sayyid Badr bin Hamad al Busaidi, Foreign Minister, met his Egyptian counterpart Dr Badr Abdel-Aty on the sidelines of the session. Both firmly rejected any effort to displace the Palestinian people and called for stepped-up efforts to support the Arab plan for Gaza's reconstruction.

They also reiterated their support for a two-state solution based on the 1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as the capital of a future Palestinian state.

Speaking after the meeting, H E Sayyid Badr said, "This meeting comes at a critical time with growing challenges in the region, most notably the continued Israeli aggression in Gaza. We value Egypt's role in achieving ceasefires and easing humanitarian suffering. We fully support the Arab and Islamic initiative for



H E Sayyid Badr bin Hamad al Busaidi, Foreign Minister, with his Egyptian counterpart Dr Badr Abdel-Aty in Cairo

the reconstruction of Gaza."

He also highlighted the importance of resuming talks between the US and Iran on the nuclear issue, stating that dialogue and trust-building are essential for regional stability.

Abdel-Aty underlined the need to restart the ceasefire, secure the release of hostages and prisoners, and ensure uninterrupted humanitarian aid. He added that Egypt is continuing preparations to host the International Conference for Early Recovery and Reconstruction of Gaza once a comprehensive truce is in place.

The two ministers also discussed developments in Yemen, Syria, Sudan and the Horn of Africa, emphasising the need to respect national sovereignty and reject foreign interference.

The session also focused on strengthening bilateral economic ties. Seven memoranda of understanding and executive programmes were signed in key sectors including labour, mineral resources, investment promotion, media, food safety and religious affairs.

Both sides agreed to reactivate the Egyptian-Omani Business

Trump to discuss Gaza, Iran with Netanyahu next week

Washington - US President Donald Trump has said he will discuss the situations in Gaza and Iran when he meets Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu at the White House on Monday.

Trump said the US is pushing for a truce in Gaza by "sometime next week" when asked by reporters if a ceasefire could be



in place before a visit by Netanyahu to the White House, set for July 7. "We hope it's going

to happen, and we're looking for it to happen sometime next week," Trump responded as he departed Washington for Florida on Tuesday.

He has previously urged Israel to "make the deal in Gaza," but on the ground, Israel has continued to pursue its offensive.

See also [Page 09](#)

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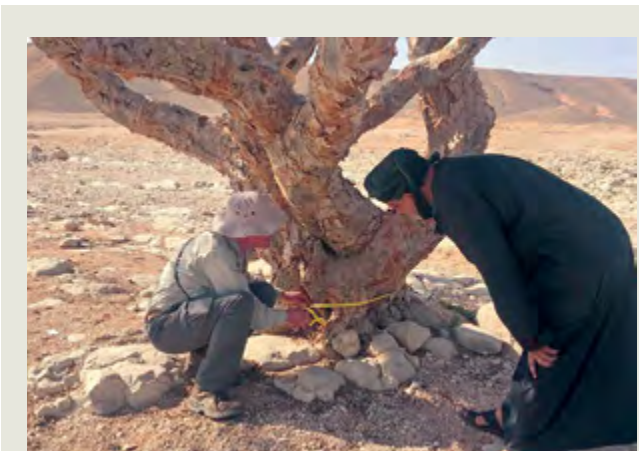


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3rd global meet on frankincense from Sept 14 to 16

Our Correspondent
Salalah

As part of the sultanate's ongoing efforts to promote innovation and sustainable use of natural resources, Ministry of Agricultural, Fisheries and Water Resources will host the 3rd International Meeting on Frankincense and Medicinal Plants in association with Dhofar University from September 14 to 16 in Salalah. The event will be held in a hybrid format allowing both in-person and virtual participation.

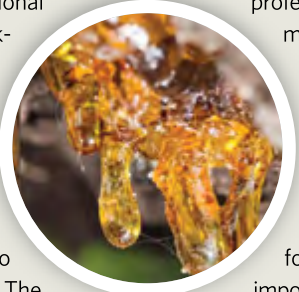
Building on the success of previous editions, this year's event will explore the therapeutic and medicinal potential of the region's botanical heritage, with particular emphasis on frankincense - one of Dhofar's most iconic and historically significant natural products.

The three-day event will include keynote addresses by international experts, presentation of academic papers, exhibitions and interactive workshops. It aims to serve as a collaborative platform bringing together researchers, healthcare professionals, policy-makers, entrepreneurs, farmers and industry stakeholders.

The event seeks to reinforce the global importance of Omani medicinal plants, not only as part of the sultanate's cultural heritage but also as promising contributors to contemporary health solutions.

Dhofar University is inviting academics, institutions and interested individuals from across Oman and abroad to participate.

Further details and registration are available at <https://imfm.du.edu.om>



MTCIT's 'Hadatha' cybersecurity centre to drive tech innovation

Our Correspondent
Muscat

In a strategic move to enhance the cybersecurity ecosystem, Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology (MTCIT) inaugurated the Hadatha Cybersecurity Industry Centre on Tuesday in partnership with Sultan Qaboos University.

The centre is designed to bolster research, development and innovation in cybersecurity, reinforcing the role of academic institutions in driving national progress.

The inauguration ceremony was held under the patronage of H E Dr Ali bin Amer al Shidhani, Undersecretary for Communications and Information Technology in MTCIT, in the presence of H H Sayyid Dr Fahd bin al Julanda al Said, Vice-Chancellor of SQU.

Badar bin Ali al Salehi, Director General of Oman National CERT, said that the centre will serve as a scientific and intellectual platform fostering creativity and pioneering solutions in the cybersecurity sector.

He noted that the global cybersecurity market is witnessing rapid growth, projected to exceed US\$500bn by 2030, up from US\$246bn in 2024, with a compound annual growth rate of 12.9%. He said this growth underscores the pressing need for innovative, locally developed solutions to keep pace with the evolving digital threat landscape.

Salehi stressed the fact that Hadatha Centre will play a key role in integrating efforts across



The global cybersecurity market is witnessing rapid growth, projected to exceed US\$500bn by 2030, up from US\$246bn in 2024, with a compound annual growth rate of 12.9%

BADAR BIN ALI AL SALEHI

government entities, private sector partners and academic institutions. It will also activate the national framework for cybersecurity innovation, ensuring that scientific research is closely aligned with local market demands and contributes to both economic development and national security.

Dr Mohammed Bait Suwailam, Director of Commu-

nications and Information Research Centre at SQU, described cybersecurity as a shared national responsibility of individuals as well as institutions. He underlined the importance of embracing emerging technologies to safeguard data in light of the growing sophistication of electronic threats.

He explained that the Hadatha initiative seeks to equip national

talents with the skills required for the cybersecurity job market, while fostering strategic partnerships with both public and private stakeholders.

Suwailam also pointed out that the centre has a distinctive visual identity and state-of-the-art technical infrastructure. It provides an enabling environment for students and researchers to conduct hands-on

experiments in areas such as software analysis, penetration testing, network monitoring and development of AI-powered cybersecurity solutions.

The inauguration included a presentation introducing the centre, official launch of its registration platform and a guided tour of its modern facilities. Attendees had the opportunity to view the centre's advanced technologies and specialised operational areas.

MTCIT stated that Hadatha Cybersecurity Industry Centre is committed to advancing research and development, fostering innovation and enhancing Oman's leadership in cybersecurity across the Arab region.

Nizwa vineyard venture boosts agriculture, tourism

Our Correspondent
Nizwa

Issa Saif al Riyami, a farmer in Nizwa, has turned a passion for farming into a successful commercial venture. This year, he cultivated four varieties of grapes - Halawani, Green Spanish, Red Italian and Finnish - on a one-and-a-half-acre farm.

Riyami overcame early irrigation challenges by adopting drip irrigation, a move he described as essential for maintaining quality and conserving water. "Using modern irrigation is crucial," he said. "It allows us to conserve water and maintain high-quality, consistent harvests."

Encouraged by this season's



yield, Riyami plans to expand the vineyard, introduce new varieties of grapes, and focus on quality improvements to meet demands of local and regional markets. He

also intends to promote Omani grapes through exhibitions and agricultural festivals, while building better market access for domestic produce.

In a first for Dakhliyah, Riyami has introduced agritourism on his farm, offering visitors the chance to participate in grape picking and learn about sustainable farming. This initiative, he believes, can raise public awareness and offer alternative income sources. "Through agritourism, people forge a connection with their food's source and value the effort behind each harvest," he said. "It's a learning journey and a community builder."

Riyami urged the younger generation to see farming as a viable career. "Agriculture is not just work; it's a passion and an opportunity for the future. It is a promising sector that can enhance our national economy."

Pact signed to expand Nakhal Health Centre

Our Correspondent
Nakhal

Ministry of Health signed a tripartite cooperation agreement on Tuesday to fund the expansion of Nakhal Health Centre in South Batinah. The move reflects the strong public-private partnerships in the health sector.

The agreement was signed by Dr Nasser bin Abdullah al Shukaili, Director General of Health Services in South Batinah, representing the Ministry of Health; Mohammed bin Abu Bakr al Ghassani, Board Member of Health Endowment Foundation (Athar); and Saud bin Hamad al Hadrami, a businessman and financier of the project.

The expansion project aims to



enhance the quality of healthcare services in the wilayat by establishing specialised clinics equipped with modern medical equipment and office furnishings. The new facility will span a total area of 475sqm and adhere to

approved technical standards. Speaking at the signing, Dr Shukaili affirmed the ministry's commitment to developing healthcare infrastructure in line with the needs of local communities. "This agreement repre-

sents direct support for health services in the wilayat. The new expansion will provide advanced facilities that enable medical professionals to deliver high-quality care to citizens," he said.

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Yousuf al Housni appears in Brad Pitt’s ‘F1’

Our Correspondent
Muscat

Omani actor Yousuf al Housni makes an appearance in the blockbuster *F1*, the Brad Pitt-led Formula One film currently screening in cinemas worldwide. This marks his second appearance in a major international production following his earlier role in the sci-fi epic *Dune*.

Speaking to *Muscat Daily*, Housni shared how he was cast in the role. “There’s no formal audition for these roles. We apply through a casting agency’s website, where our portfolio - including videos, showreels and casting tapes - is already uploaded. If selected, you simply agree to the terms and payment,” he said.

Housni appears in the Abu Dhabi sequence of the film shot over a year ago in a five-day schedule. He plays a senior official in the pit stop during a race sequence. “It is a small role but being on such a high-profile set is a valuable experience in it-

It is a small role but being on such a high-profile set is a valuable experience in itself

YOUSUF AL HOUSNI

self. I am optimistic that very soon I will lead the narrative,” he added.

Describing his experience on set, Housni said working with Pitt was “awesome”. While direct interaction and photography with lead actors were restricted, he noted that sharing the set with top international talent was both inspiring and motivating. “It’s definitely good for my career.”

Looking ahead, Housni said he hopes to be the first Omani actor in a leading role in a major global production. “My aim is to work on more global projects, build a strong reputation internationally, and eventually direct and produce my own films,” he added.

First Rutab Festival to celebrate culture, farming and tourism

Our Correspondent
Wadi al Maawil

South Batinah will host the inaugural Omani Rutab Festival on July 17 and 18 in a celebration of agriculture, culture and tourism. The event will be held at the Hujrat al Sheikh Tourist Walkway in Wadi al Maawil, a location known for its scenic heritage and high visitor turnout.

The two-day festival will highlight the governorate’s date farming traditions, especially its prized varieties of rutab - half-ripened dates that hold culinary and cultural importance in Oman. Farmers, artisans and families from across the governorate are expected to participate, showcasing products and engaging visitors with local customs.

“This festival reflects our commitment to empowering local communities - especially artisan families - by giving them a platform to showcase their skills and products,” an official from South Batinah Governor’s Office told *Muscat Daily*. “It will offer visitors an authentic and immersive experience that blends agriculture, culture and ecotourism.”

Running from 5pm to 11pm each evening, the festival will feature stalls selling date-based products, palm-derived handicrafts, organic items and heritage goods. Timed to avoid peak summer heat, the evening hours are designed to create a relaxed, family-friendly atmosphere amid palm groves and heritage landmarks, the official added.

Wilayats across South Batinah will present their finest rutab harvests, offering visitors opportunities to taste, buy and learn about the significance of dates in Omani life.

The venue, Hujrat al Sheikh Walkway, connects three her-



Saham hosts fruit festival to boost eco-farming

Saham - The Saham Fruits Festival officially opened in North Batinah on Monday, aiming to highlight local agricultural production and encourage sustainable farming.

Organised by Saham Wali’s Office, in cooperation with Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources, the three-day festival is taking place at Saham Public Park. It provides farmers with a direct platform to market and sell their produce to the public, while also raising awareness on the economic and environmental value of agriculture in the wilayat.

The event is showcasing a



wide range of fruits and crops cultivated in Saham’s fertile farmlands. It also serves as a venue for public engagement and agricultural education, with various activities designed to inform and involve visitors. These include fruit displays and stalls, workshops on modern farming techni-

ques, and seminars on best practices in agriculture. The sessions aim to support both farmers and those interested in learning more about the sector.

Ahmed bin Ali al Farsi, Director of Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources in Saham, said the

festival plays an important role in connecting farmers directly with consumers. “The Saham Fruits Festival provides an excellent opportunity for farmers to directly showcase their produce to the public,” he said. “It also plays a crucial role in promoting sustainable agricultural methods and raising awareness on the importance of this sector in supporting the community and ensuring food security.”

The festival is expected to attract significant local and regional interest, offering visitors access to fresh produce while encouraging dialogue around the future of farming in Oman.

itage sites - Hujrat al Sheikh Quarter, Al Safalah Castle and Bait al Ghasham Museum - and provides access to green oases, historical homes and Al Washihi Falaj, drawing over 15,000 visitors weekly from Oman and neighbouring countries.

Built at a cost exceeding RO80,000, the 1,500m walkway was developed in collaboration with public and private stakeholders. Designed with a traditional Omani look, it includes restored historic walls, heritage-style entrances, and a newly

added 200m elevated stretch offering views of surrounding farms, towers and houses.

Recent upgrades have added shaded seating, signage and visitor facilities, making it a key site for culture and eco-tourism.

Officials hope the event will

become an annual tradition, expanding its reach and appeal in future editions.

“This is more than a festival,” the official said. “It’s a movement to celebrate who we are - our roots, our land and our shared future.”

CDAA confirms full preparedness for Dhofar Khareef 2025

Our Correspondent
Salalah

Civil Defence and Ambulance Authority (CDAA) has confirmed its full readiness to provide services to visitors during Dhofar Khareef 2025.

The preparedness is part of a comprehensive operational plan designed to ensure public safety and enable prompt response to incidents and emergencies during the popular tourist season.

As part of its strategy, CDAA has adopted integrated operational plans aimed at enhancing emergency response capabilities. These include reinforcing existing Civil Defence and Am-

bulance centres and establishing additional emergency points along roads leading to Dhofar. These points will be located in the governorates of Dakhliyah, Dhahirah and Al Wusta, contributing to improved efficiency through coordination with the main operations centre and regional hubs.

In line with its preventive approach, the authority has urged institutions, companies and property owners to comply with its safety regulations.

CDAA stressed the importance of conducting regular maintenance of facilities and implementing preventive procedures to reduce accidents.



Additionally, it will intensify inspection campaigns across various facilities, with violations resulting in legal action and penalties for non-compliance.

CDAA also reaffirmed its commitment to raising public awareness through multiple channels. These efforts will include educational content via

social media platforms, print and visual media, awareness brochures, and deployment of field teams at tourist sites and key locations. The authority ac-

knowledgeled the important role played by media outlets in spreading a culture of safety and security.

As part of its public advisory, CDAA called on visitors travelling to Dhofar during the season to adhere to essential safety guidelines. ‘Travellers are advised to conduct proper vehicle maintenance, carry a first-aid kit, ensure fire extinguishers are functional, identify rest stops and fuel stations in advance, choose appropriate time for travel, and take breaks when fatigued. Strict compliance with traffic rules is necessary.’

During their stay in Dhofar, CDAA urged visitors to follow all

safety instructions and avoid swimming in unauthorised areas such as springs, pools and beaches due to the risks posed by strong currents and high waves.

CDAA also warned against venturing near hazardous areas like cliffs and waterfalls. ‘Supervising children at all times and not leaving them unattended is key to safety,’ it said.

The authority reaffirmed its commitment to ensuring a safe and enjoyable monsoon season for all and called on the public to cooperate with safety instructions and remain vigilant throughout their journey and stay in Dhofar.

Brookfield Global acquires majority stake in Oman Tower Company

Our Correspondent
Muscat

Oman Tower Company has announced that Brookfield Global Investment Firm has acquired a majority stake in the company, marking a significant milestone in the evolution of Oman's telecommunications infrastructure sector.

Oman Tower Company is a leading independent provider of telecommunications towers in the sultanate, managing a portfolio of over 2,450 sites across various governorates. The company plays a pivotal role in supporting the growth and expansion of telecom networks across Oman.

Brookfield, one of the world's largest alternative investment managers, brings extensive global experience to the partnership. With over US\$1tn in assets under management, Brookfield operates the world's second-largest portfolio of telecommunication towers, encompassing approximately 315,000 sites worldwide. The firm has also been a major direct foreign investor in the GCC region since



Majed bin Amer al Kharoosi

This partnership with Brookfield marks a new chapter in our company's journey. It is not merely an investment transaction, but a launch-pad for future growth

1997, with a current regional asset portfolio valued at approximately US\$15bn across infrastructure, private equity, and real estate sectors.

Commenting on the develop-



ment, Majed bin Amer al Kharoosi, CEO of Oman Tower Company, said, "This strategic partnership with Brookfield marks a new chapter in our company's journey. It is not merely an investment transaction, but a

launch-pad for future growth, enhanced operational excellence, and institutional development."

He is of the opinion that the collaboration "will elevate our governance standards,

strengthen business sustainability, and enable us to better align with Oman's national development goals and future opportunities in the telecommunications sector".

The partnership is expected to

bring in world-class expertise and innovation, positioning Oman Tower Company as a key regional player in digital infrastructure and contributing to the Sultanate's broader digital transformation agenda.

IMF okays 500mn tranche for Ukraine

Istanbul, Türkiye - The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has approved the 8th review of its Extended Fund Facility (EFF) for Ukraine, unlocking a US\$500mn disbursement to support the country's state budget, the National Bank of Ukraine announced on Tuesday.

The decision, made by the IMF Executive Board on Monday, raises total disbursements under the programme to US\$10.6bn, as Ukraine continues to battle the economic fallout of the war with Russia.

"The programme's performance remains strong," the IMF said in a statement, noting that Ukraine had met all quantitative targets through March and implemented key reform measures. While the timing of future disbursements in 2025 has been adjusted, the total size of the programme remains at US\$15.5bn.

IMF First Deputy Managing Director Gita Gopinath acknowledged the devastating toll of the war.

Hamood al Alawi made Oman Air's Deputy CEO

Muscat - Oman Air has announced the appointment of Hamood bin Musbah al Alawi as Deputy Chief Executive Officer.

This strategic appointment marks a significant step in the airline's transformation journey and underscores its commitment to building a strong pipeline of Omani leaders in the aviation sector. Alawi joins Oman Air from Oman Airports Management Company, where he served as Acting Chief Executive Officer and played a pivotal role in launching the airport's own transformation programme.

H E Saeed bin Hamoud al Mawali, Minister of Transport, Communications and Information Technology and Chairman of Oman Air, said "The appointment of Hamood al Alawi is a proud moment for the airline and the country's aviation sector. He has demonstrated exceptional leadership in his role at Oman Airports Management Company and we are confident that he will



Hamood bin Musbah al Alawi

bring the same vision and drive to the national airline. This is a clear outcome of our succession planning strategy and reflects our commitment to cultivating Omani talent and ensuring our leadership reflects the national values, priorities and ambitions."

Con Korfiatis, Chief Executive Officer of Oman Air, added, "Hamood al Alawi is a strong leader with sound judgement and a deep understanding of the aviation industry. His appoint-

ment strengthens our leadership team at a critical time in our growth journey.

"I look forward to working closely with him as we proceed on our transformation agenda and deliver long-term sustainable value for the country."

Holding a Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Leeds, UK, Alawi brings over two decades of diverse leadership experience across the government and private sectors, with a strong track record in asset management, corporate transformation and commercial performance.

He has held senior roles with Shell International in the Netherlands, led flagship-cost efficiency initiatives for Petroleum Development Oman (PDO), and served as a member of the Executive leadership team at the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology, where he headed a unit responsible for an RO1bn strategic project.

Renault reports €10bn non-cash loss

Paris, France - The French car-maker said it would change the way it accounts for its stake in its long-term Japanese partner, based on Nissan's share price.

Renault SA has changed the way it accounts for its stake in Japanese firm Nissan, leading to a non-cash loss of €9.5bn, affecting its earnings in the first half of its 2025 fiscal year.

The stake, previously accounted for using the equity method, will now be a financial asset, measured by the share price of Nissan, as of Monday.

"This approach aligns the value of the stake in Nissan in Renault Group's financial statements with the value of Nissan's share price," Renault said in a statement.

"The non-cash loss has no impact on the calculation of the dividend paid by Renault Group."

The two carmakers have been cooperating for a little more than a quarter of a century, and the French brand owns nearly 36% of the ailing Japanese company.

Since the start of this year, the Japanese carmaker's stocks have



lost 28% of their value. Nissan also announced recently that it would shed 20,000 jobs worldwide after it reported a net loss of around €4bn for the fiscal year that ended in March 2025.

Renault Group, the owner of brands including Renault, Dacia, Alpine and Mobilize, successfully increased its sales against a broader market downturn in the first quarter of 2025, as carmakers across the globe face trade

uncertainty triggered by US President Donald Trump's tariff policy.

Renault's future became even more uncertain after CEO Luca de Meo recently resigned to take over the leadership of luxury group Kering.

In terms of the long-term alliance between Nissan and Renault, this partnership has come into question as reports have emerged that the two carmakers

are looking for a way out of the strategic cooperation, which has bound them since 1999.

Renault has, however, sent a strong message to investors saying: "The operational projects and collaboration resulting from the strategic cooperation between Renault Group and Nissan remain intact with a pragmatic and business-oriented approach."

Euronews

Poland trials a four-day working week: A step towards the future?

Warsaw, Poland - Poland will start its first-ever pilot of a shortened working week this July as the government seeks to meet social needs.

The idea of reducing working time is one that has received much attention. For several years now, this topic has regularly appeared in public debates, not only in Poland, but also in many other countries.

Employees are increasingly saying they are overburdened, lacking time for their private life, health, and family. Statistics from Poland reiterate this narrative; the country is one of the busiest nations in the European Union.

At the same time, more and more countries are experimenting with "smarter work". In Iceland, Belgium, Spain and even Japan, various models of a shorter working week have already been tested or introduced. The results? Mostly positive:



Higher productivity, reduced sick leave, improved working atmospheres.

Today's labour market is vastly different from that seen a

century ago, when the eight-hour working day was first introduced in Poland. Technology, automation and societal changes mean that many jobs can be done

faster and more efficiently. Today, more than ever, it is not necessarily the time spent in the office that counts, but the quality of the work done.

Employers have diverse reactions

There is no single opinion among employers when it comes to the topic of the four-day working

week. Large companies, especially in the creative and technology industries, are looking at the idea with interest. Some are already introducing flexible working hours or testing shorter weeks. The situation is different in the SME sector, as small and medium-sized companies are usually more cautious. They fear that a shorter week could lead to cash flow problems, a drop in revenue or the need to hire additional staff.

This is why the government's financial support could be crucial for businesses trialling the new work model, protecting against the risk of serious losses.

The effect on the economy

Advocates of a shorter working week argue that less time spent at work doesn't have to lower productivity.

On the contrary, they argue

that by organising work in a smarter way, the same - or even better - results can be achieved in less time. Studies in other countries show an increase in efficiency, reduced resource use, fewer errors and increased team creativity.

Of course, there are also sceptics. Some economists warn that there could be an increase in companies' operating costs and, consequently, a decrease in competitiveness or a stifling of GDP growth.

To tackle these risks, the pilot project aims to rely on data rather than guesswork.

Some employers are already taking decisions to reduce working hours. Herbapol Poznań, as well as city halls in Wrocław, Ostrzeszów, Wiesbodzice or Leszno are just a few examples of institutions that have decided to take this step.

Euronews

ECB President says bank will not rest as eurozone inflation hits 2% in June

Brussels, Belgium - Eurozone price pressures rose in line with expectations in June, reaching the ECB's 2% target. ECB President Christine Lagarde struck a cautious tone in her opening remarks at the central bank's annual symposium in Sintra.

Annual inflation in the eurozone edged back to 2% in June, marking the first rise seen since January and reinforcing the European Central Bank's (ECB) cautious stance as it navigates the final leg of its disinflation campaign.

According to a flash estimate from Eurostat released on Tuesday, consumer prices rose by 2% year-on-year, up from 1.9% in May, in line with economists' expectations.

On a monthly basis, inflation accelerated to 0.3%, from a flat reading the previous month.

Core inflation - which excludes volatile items such as food and energy - remained steady at 2.3% annually and rose 0.4% on the month, highlighting persistent underlying price pressures, particularly in services.

Services inflation, a key focus for the ECB, rose to 3.3% in June from 3.2% in May, and jumped by 0.7% month-on-month, suggesting lingering demand-driven inflationary dynamics as the summer begins. Among the main inflation components, energy prices remained at -2.7%, though this marked a moderation from May's -3.6%.

Food, alcohol and tobacco inflation slowed marginally to 3.1%, while non-energy industrial goods posted a 0.5% annual increase.



Much of the policy challenge over the last few years has involved stabilising inflation while facing fundamental uncertainty about the economy

CHRISTINE LAGARDE

At the country level, Estonia recorded the highest annual inflation rate at 5.2%, followed by Slovakia (4.6%) and Croatia (4.4%). France (0.8%) and Cyprus (0.5%) had the lowest rates. Monthly inflation was strongest in Greece, up 1.3%, while Finland was the only member state to record a price contraction at -0.2%.

‘Our work is not done’
Speaking at the ECB Forum on Central Banking in Sintra, Portu-

gal, ECB President Christine Lagarde reaffirmed the central bank's commitment to price stability.

“Much of the policy challenge over the last few years has involved stabilising inflation while facing fundamental uncertainty about the economy,” Lagarde said in her keynote address on Monday.

Inflation, she noted, had peaked higher than in previous soft-landing episodes, but also decelerated more rapidly.

Growth, while muted, remained within the historical range, and the labour market proved “exceptionally benign”.

Yet the path ahead remains fraught with uncertainty. Lagarde pointed to unresolved questions around the evolving dynamics of wages, profits and productivity, and warned that potential supply-side shocks could still derail progress.

“It will take time for us to gather sufficient data to be certain that the risks of above-target inflation have passed,” she said. “Our work is not done, and we need to remain vigilant.”

Echoing football legend Sir Bobby Robson, Lagarde concluded: “We will not rest until the match is won and inflation is back at 2%.”

Euronews

MEPs rues anti-money laundering blacklist

Brussels, Belgium - The European Parliament is opposing the European Commission's updated anti-money laundering blacklist, which removes several jurisdictions including the UAE, Panama, and Gibraltar. MEPs are still at odds with the EU Commission over its list of third-country jurisdictions deemed insufficient in their anti-money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism regimes.

The EU's 'blacklist' hasn't aligned with that of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) - the global watchdog on money laundering and terrorist financing - for over a year and a half. According to EU Commissioner for Financial Services, Maria Luis Albuquerque, this misalignment has created “significant irritants with international partners”.

“If we are perceived as not respecting the outcomes of the process, this risks undermining our ability in the future to influence technical assessments and secure the commitments we would like to see from other jurisdictions,” argued Albuquerque during a committee meeting in the European Parliament on Monday.

Earlier this month, the Commission updated its list, adding countries such as Algeria, Angola, Kenya, Monaco, and Venezuela. Meanwhile, several jurisdictions - including Barbados, Gibraltar, Panama, and the UAE - were removed.

However, this list cannot enter into force without the scrutiny and assent of both the European Parliament and the Council - and the Commission has not yet convinced MEPs to support it.

In a resolution adopted in April 2024, MEPs opposed the Commission's decision to delist Gibraltar, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), and Panama, citing



compelling evidence that these jurisdictions have failed to take sufficient steps to address - or

The EU's 'blacklist' hasn't aligned with that of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) - the global watchdog on money laundering and terrorist financing

even actively facilitate - the circumvention of sanctions against Russia. These sanctions include targeted financial measures imposed in response to Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine.

“Those countries may act as platforms for circumvention of sanctions for Union entities, directly or indirectly, thus undermining the Union's efforts in stopping the Russian war machine,” the resolution stated.

Speaking to a half-empty room at the EU Parliament in Brussels, from which political groups such as Renew Europe, the European Sovereign Nations (ESN) and The Left were absent,

Albuquerque argued that their concerns had been addressed and that these jurisdictions had made ‘tangible progress’.

Those present publicly aired their frustration with the process. “It doesn't seem to me that the possibility to engage in dialogue with the European Parliament was utilised to the extent that corresponds to very strong involvement of the Parliament in this matter,” MEP Luděk Niedermayer (European People's Party/Czechia) said.

The Commissioner herself expressed her concerns about the current impasse. “The fact that countries listed by the FATF are still not listed by the EU exposes the EU's financial system to vulnerabilities and can create loopholes that need to be addressed,” she said. The Portuguese Commissioner also pointed out that the absence of an updated European list causes confusion and legal uncertainty for entities that must apply anti-money laundering rules. “EU operators have to comply with divergent lists which increase their compliance burden, adds additional costs and impacts their global competitiveness,” Albuquerque added.

Euronews



US stocks rise as investors prepare for US tariff deadline

New York, US - US indexes have risen over the last week as investors wait to see whether President Donald Trump can secure deals with partner countries ahead of his tariff deadline.

Over the last five days, the Dow Jones has risen 3% to 44,094.77, the Nasdaq 2.83% to 20,369.73, and the S&P 500 2.37% to 6,204.95.

Futures on Tuesday morning were tracking very marginally lower, although Wall Street showed buoyed investor sentiment on Monday.

Stocks were notably boosted after Canada said it would rescind a planned tax on US technology firms and resumed trade talks with the United States.

On Friday, US President Donald Trump had said he was suspending those talks to retaliate for the tax, calling it “a direct and blatant attack on our country”.

US stocks have bounced back on hopes that Trump will reach deals with other countries and avert trade wars that could stifle the economy and send inflation

higher. Many of the administration's announced tariffs have been postponed and are due to come into effect again on July 9.

The EU, for instance, is working to avoid a proposed 50% tariff. The bloc may accept a 10% baseline duty on many of its exports but is seeking carve outs for goods such as alcohol and automobiles.

On Wall Street, Oracle's 4% rise was one of the strongest forces lifting the S&P 500 on Monday. CEO Safra Catz said the tech giant was “off to a strong start” in its fiscal year and added that the firm had signed multiple large cloud services agreements.

GMS' stock jumped 11.7% after the supplier of speciality building products said it agreed to be acquired by a Home Depot subsidiary in a deal that would pay US\$110.00 (€93.39) per share in cash.

Hewlett Packard Enterprise rallied 11.1% and Juniper Networks climbed 8.4% after the firms said they had reached an agreement with the US Depart-

ment of Justice that could clear the way for their merger, subject to court approval.

Bank stocks were also solid after the Federal Reserve said on Friday that all major banks were financially strong enough to survive a downturn in the economy. JPMorgan Chase climbed 1%, and Citigroup gained 0.9%.

In the bond market, Treasury yields fell ahead of several major economic reports later in the week. The highlight will be Thursday's jobs report. It's often the most anticipated economic data of each month, and it will come a day earlier than usual because of Friday's Fourth of July holiday.

In early European trading on Tuesday, Germany's DAX was flat at 23,908.82, France's CAC 40 slid 0.16% to 7,653.59, the UK's FTSE 100 jumped 0.22% to 8,780.60, while Italy's FTSE MIB dropped 0.48% to 39,601.38.

The STOXX 600 benchmark ticked up 0.05% to 541.64, while the STOXX 50 fell by a modest 0.05% to 5,300.45.

Euronews

Date markets of Saudi Arabia welcome early Madinah harvest

Madinah, Saudi Arabia - Date markets across Saudi Arabia have begun welcoming the early harvest of dates from Madinah, renowned for producing some of the finest varieties, as the annual date season gets underway.

The harvest starts in June and continues through the end of November. On this occasion, the Ministry of Environment, Water and Agriculture stated that Madinah produces 58 distinct varieties of dates, contributing to the Kingdom's total of more than 404 varieties cultivated across all regions.

The ministry says Saudi Arabia is home to approximately 37.1mn date palm trees, with total date production exceeding



1.9mn tonnes by the end of 2023. In terms of production, Qassim Region led with 578,000

tonnes, followed by Riyadh Region with over 453,000 tonnes, Madinah Region with more than

343,000 tonnes, and Eastern Region with over 258,700 tonnes. SPA

Musk would head back to South Africa: Trump

Istanbul, Türkiye - US President Donald Trump on Tuesday again took aim at his onetime close ally Elon Musk, claiming the billionaire would ‘head back home to South Africa’ if federal subsidies on electric vehicles are cut.

“Elon may get more subsidy than any human being in history, by far, and without subsidies, Elon would probably have to close up shop and head back home to South Africa,” Trump wrote on social media about his former top campaign donor, who also owns EV maker Tesla.

The president's remarks followed more criticism by Musk of Trump's massive ‘Big Beautiful Bill’, saying that cuts to EV and



Elon Musk

clean energy credits would be ‘incredibly destructive’ and labelling it “political suicide for the Republican Party”.

“Elon Musk knew, long before he so strongly Endorsed me for President, that I was strongly against the EV Mandate. It is



Donald Trump

ridiculous, and was always a major part of my campaign. Electric cars are fine, but not everyone should be forced to own one,” Trump said.

No US legislation forces people to own electric vehicles, but credits encourage buying the

more environmentally friendly vehicles.

On Tuesday, Musk also criticized the bill on X, saying those who campaigned on cutting spending but supported the bill should ‘hang their heads in shame’ and warned they will lose campaign primaries next year.

“No more Rocket launches, Satellites, or Electric Car Production, and our Country would save a FORTUNE. Perhaps we should have DOGE take a good, hard, look at this? BIG MONEY TO BE SAVED!!!!” Trump added in his post, also taking aim at Musk's lucrative SpaceX contracts with the US government.

Anadolu Agency

Lynk & Co introduces smart SUV

In a world of design that is a blend of style and function and that is dominated by power and precision, the Lynk & Co 06 steps in as the ideal mix of what is expected today in terms of modern transportation and urban class. This is not your typical SUV but rather a different approach to driving that is born out of the connected age, a press release said.

The Lynk & Co 06 is an urban luxury SUV that we put at your service as we see you navigate through the dynamic streets of Muscat or plan your next weekend getaway. It is the premiere of a new age of premium mobility that is smart, styled, and also very accessible.

With the design DNA of Volvo Cars, Lynk & Co has turned the compact SUV game on its head. In Oman, the 06 is presented in association with Towell Auto Group and Mobility Auto, a premium experience that is also very much a result of global know-how and local trust.

The 06 is turning heads with its radical and future-focused design - the Z-shaped waistline, aggressive posture, and floating roof, in which it presents a sports and urban persona. In the front there are Energy Cube LED headlamps and taillights that improve visibility and present a high-tech signature look, which also plays home to the sculpted body panels and wide grille, which, in turn, create a bold front end.



In Oman, the 06 is presented in association with Towell Auto Group and Mobility Auto, a premium experience that is also very much a result of global know-how and local trust

Also, it has the aluminum alloy wheels that add to the sporty feel and, at the same time, the large panoramic sunroof, which lets in natural light

into the cabin, thus creating an open feel. Also, you can choose from standout colours like Sonic Green, Pastel Lilac, Pearl White, and Misty Grey, each of which is

designed to project confidence and individuality.

In the engine bay sits a 1.5ltr turbocharged unit that puts out 181 PS and 290 Nm of torque,

which in turn is connected to a quick 7-speed Dual Clutch Transmission (7DCT). For a daily commute or a weekend trip, the MacPherson front and multi-link rear suspension provide a level of balance and comfort. Also, one can choose from four drive modes, which are Eco, Comfort, Sport, and Individual. Equipped with over 17 Ad-

vanced Driver Assistance Systems, the 06 sets the pace in terms of intelligent safety. The features such as Adaptive Cruise Control, Autonomous Emergency Braking, Forward Collision Warning, Lane Departure Warning, and Blind Spot Detection, which all work together to look out for you at all times.

GREE and Genetco announce Cash Refund

GREE, the world's No 1 air conditioning brand, in partnership with Genetco, announced the first grand winner of its ongoing Scratch & Win promotion. Raid Saif Suaiman al Wahaibi, who purchased 28 GREE air-conditioning units from Ambassador Electronics in Al Amerat, has been awarded a 100% cash refund on his purchase, a press release said.

This exciting campaign is part of GREE's celebration of its continued leadership in the Omani market as the No 1 brand in Split ACs. The Scratch & Win promotion, launched earlier this year, offers guaranteed rewards to every customer, including instant cash discounts and the chance to win a full refund on their purchase.

"We are thrilled to reward Wahaibi and celebrate the trust that Omani consumers have placed in GREE," said Dr Ambuj Khare, COO-Trade, Genetco. "This campaign is our way of giving back to the community and reinforcing our commitment to delivering world-class cooling solutions."

NBO launches API gateway to accelerate Oman's digital financial transformation

The National Bank of Oman (NBO) has officially launched its Application Programming Interface (API) Gateway, marking a significant step towards advancing the Sultanate's digital banking landscape. The secure platform enables seamless integration between the customer's systems and NBO's channels, offering real-time access to a wide range of banking services.

Commenting on the launch, Mohamed Yahya Al Jabri, Assistant General Manager & Head of Global Transactions, said, "The launch of the NBO's API Gateway represents a significant step in our strategic drive to empower Oman's digital economy. By providing secure, real-time access to our banking services, we are not only enabling connections; we

are utilising innovation and driving automation at unprecedented speeds. This initiative lays the foundation for a dynamic financial ecosystem targeting key sectors such as SMEs, e-commerce, fintech and large-scale infrastructure projects."

Live across Oman, the API Gateway serves as a foundational tool for corporate customers, government entities and fintech developers, supporting integration with Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) systems, treasury functions and custom financial applications. It aligns with the Central Bank of Oman's vision to enable open banking and foster a digitally connected financial ecosystem.

Through a robust set of APIs covering payments, accounts,

mandates, CRM, cards, loans and open banking use cases, NBO's platform empowers businesses and developers to streamline operations and drive automation. The gateway supports both corporate API banking and open banking models, including AISP and PISP functions, while adhering to international security standards.

Customers can access the API Gateway through a dedicated developer portal. Once approved, they can connect to the live environment. The platform is built to grow and supports future plans such as fintech onboarding and deeper digital collaboration with corporate and government clients.

With this launch, NBO reaffirms its position in digital banking.

JETOUR begins 'Think Future' drive

Jetour flagged off the highly anticipated 'Jetour Middle East Drive', an ambitious regional expedition that will see eight Jetour SUVs—led by the breakthrough T2 PHEV and T2—traverse six GCC nations under the rallying theme 'Think Future'.

Starting in Oman, the convoy will cross into the United Arab Emirates before powering on to Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. More than a road trip, the landmark campaign underscores Jetour's unwavering commitment to deliver innovation, performance, and cultural connection to customers throughout the Middle East, a press release said.

"This drive is our bold declaration of intent," said Mohsin Hani Al Bahrani, CEO, MHD Automobiles—the exclusive distributor of Jetour in Oman. "By taking the T2 and T2 PHEV across every border in the GCC, we are proving, in real time, that Jetour is ready for tomorrow's mobility challenges—combining hybrid durability, cutting-edge technology, and an explorer's spirit with the everyday comfort



Starting in Oman, the convoy will cross into the United Arab Emirates before powering on to Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia

our customers demand."

The road test is undertaken by a mixed fleet of T2 and T2 PHEV SUVs, purpose-built for seamless city driving and rugged off-road adventure. They travel to six

countries demonstrating Jetour's strength, efficiency, and reliability across diverse terrains and climates. The journey embodies Jetour's philosophy of weaving advanced technology into cultur-

ally rich, adventure-driven experiences that inspire drivers to explore more.

Recognising the ecosystem of innovation behind the brand, Jetour invited strategic partner Huawei on stage during the Muscat ceremony to honour two standout team members with Tokens of Appreciation for amplifying Jetour's voice and values across the region.

Pre-registration open for first World Sailing Inclusion Championships

World Sailing has announced that pre-registration is now open for the first World Sailing Inclusion Championships, taking place at the Mussanah Sailing School at the Barceló Mussanah Resort in the Sultanate of Oman from November 30 to December 8.

Organised in partnership with Oman Sail, this groundbreaking event marks a major milestone for the sport – the first multiclass, global championship hosted by World Sailing that is designed specifically to include both Para classified athletes and athletes with disabilities who do not meet IPC classification criteria, all racing side by side in an inclusive, high-performance environment.

The championship will feature competition across five cate-



Dr Khamis al Jabri

gories, including the RS Venture Connect two-person keelboat, which is open to both para-classified and inclusive category teams using servo control systems, the Hansa 303 single class, which welcomes sailors regardless of classification, the ILCA 6 class, designated for athletes with intellectual impairments



and requiring Virtus, Special Olympics, or World Sailing II

classification, the RS21 blind fleet racing class, open to visually im-

paired sailors classified as B1, B2, or B3, and Seated Wing Foiling,

an exciting new discipline open to both Para MIC-classified and self-declared inclusive athletes.

Interested sailors, teams and MNAs are invited to complete the pre-registration form to express interest, a press release said.

Early pre-registration is strongly encouraged as entries will be limited per class but sailors must note that pre-registration does not confirm entry due to the limited availability of charter equipment in each class and the rotational race formats detailed in the Notice of Race. Pre-registration will guide the organisers in the planning of equipment use, accommodation needs, classification logistics and the overall event structure.

Dr Khamis al Jabri, CEO of

Oman Sail, said, "We are honoured to host the first World Sailing Inclusion Championships. This event is a powerful statement about the importance of inclusion – both in sport and in society. We look forward to welcoming sailors from around the world to Oman for what promises to be an unforgettable championship."

Hannah Stodel, Para World Sailing manager, added, "This first edition of such a landmark event promises to be an exciting opportunity to showcase the diversity of our sport. The Inclusion Championships are a celebration of what sailing can be – inclusive, dynamic, and welcoming to all. From grassroots participants to elite competitors, this is a chance to compete on equal terms."

Own a Chery sedan with summer benefits

Now is a good time to own any Chery sedan from the range and enjoy benefits like Free AAA Roadside Assistance, Free Service up to 6 Years/60,000km, an unparalleled 10 year/1,000,000km engine warranty (not applicable on Arrizo 5), Free Insurance, Walk-in and Win Raffle with a chance to win a Samsung Galaxy S25 Ultra 5G and Test Drive and Win exciting prizes.

Also available is attractive EMI options across the full range. This exclusive campaign that began on May 18 will last until July 17, a press release said.

Smart, stylish and built for modern living, the all-new Arrizo 5 is designed to enhance every journey. Equipped with a highly efficient 1.5ltr engine, it delivers the perfect mix of performance and fuel savings. Whether navigating city traffic or heading out for a weekend drive, the intelligent CVT (Continuously Variable Transmission) ensures



front grille, sleek LED headlights and sculpted aerodynamic profile speak volumes about its modern character. Available in both 1.6ltr and 2ltr turbocharged variants, the Arrizo 8 offers dynamic performance with ad-

The Chery Arrizo 6 PRO is where technology meets elegance. Engineered with a powerful turbocharged engine, it offers exhilarating performance

smooth, responsive acceleration. Its advanced suspension system adds extra stability and comfort, giving you a refined and confident ride every time you get behind the wheel. The Arrizo 5 is

now available with an EMI starting from RO61.

The Chery Arrizo 6 PRO is where technology meets elegance. Engineered with a powerful turbocharged engine, it offers

exhilarating performance while maintaining fuel efficiency. The smooth CVT gearbox ensures a relaxed, effortless drive, ideal for both everyday commutes and longer road trips. Inside, pre-

mium features and intelligent safety systems work together to create a secure, comfortable and connected environment for you and your passengers. The Arrizo 6 is now available with an EMI

starting from RO79.

Redefine your expectations with the Chery Arrizo 8, a premium sedan that blends cutting-edge technology with head-turning design. Its bold

vanced TDI (Turbocharged Direct Injection) technology that maximises power while keeping fuel consumption in check. The Arrizo 8 is now available with an EMI starting from RO115.

Oman Shell appoints new country chairman

Oman Shell has announced the appointment of Ali al Janabi as the new senior vice president and country chairman for Oman, effective July 1.

Ali Janabi has over 29 years of global experience, including 22 years at Shell, where he has held diverse leadership roles in Business Development, Commercial, Trading, and Country Management across the Chemicals, Integrated Gas, and Upstream businesses. He began his career in Shell's Gas and Power division, working in Business Development, and in 2006, was appointed LNG Supply Manager for the Middle East, North Africa, and South Asia, a press release said.

Prior to his new appointment in Oman, he served as senior vice president and country chair for Kazakhstan, and previously held the position of Vice President and Chairman for Shell's operations in Iraq, Tunisia, and the UAE.

Reflecting on his new role, Janabi said, "Shell has proudly been a partner to Oman and



Ali al Janabi

its people for decades. I am honoured to lead our efforts in this next chapter, reinforcing our long-standing commitment to Oman's energy future and its ambitions for a diversified and sustainable energy landscape.

"Oman Shell will continue to support the growth and transformation journeys of Petroleum Development Oman and Oman LNG, especially in their efforts towards growth and emissions reductions. At the same time, Oman Shell remains focused on unlocking the gas potential of Blocks 10 and 11, while advancing our decarbonisation goals."

Muscat Governorate continues risk management training initiatives

As part of Muscat Governorate's continuous training programmes to enhance institutional performance and raise readiness to face challenges, a training workshop entitled 'Enhancing Administrative Capabilities in Risk Management and Business Continuity Methodologies' was held on Tuesday

The workshop was organised in cooperation with Jadarat Development Foundation and presented by Dr Khalifa al Fathi, an expert in governance, risk management and compliance, a press release said.

The workshop targeted more than 120 staff from the offices of governors, employees of government agencies, and representatives of civil society organisations in Muscat Governorate. It focused on introducing participants to the concepts and basics of enterprise risk management, international frameworks and standards, as well as mechanisms for designing and applying effective methodologies to manage risks and ensure business continuity.

The workshop also discussed the differences between risks, opportunities and issues,



the types of risks and their classifications, as well as the steps to assess and address them according to best practices. It aimed to strengthen the capabilities of the participants in preparing effective ERM models, develop their awareness of the applied procedures related to risk management and business continuity, and enable them to make decisions based on a scientific and thoughtful assessment of risks.

"This workshop aims to

build the capacities of participants and develop their knowledge in the basics of risk management and business continuity planning to ensure the continuity of providing vital services during risks," said Saif bin Mohammed bin Khalifa al ubaei, director of Risk Management in Muscat Governorate. "This initiative is part of Muscat Governorate's efforts to enhance coordination and integration between government and civil society institutions in the

governorate to achieve Oman Vision 2040, and to contribute to raising the efficiency of institutional performance and enhancing the quality of life."

Dr Salwa bint Nasser al Hashemi, head of the Emergency and Crisis Department at the General Directorate of Health Services in Muscat Governorate, praised the efforts of the governorate in organising such training workshops, stressing that this workshop holds great value and benefit for her and her colleagues

due to the nature of their work in dealing with crises and risks.

Noman bin Zahran al Rawahi, head of Muttrah Charity Team, affirmed the importance of such training workshops that contribute to introducing employees to the concept of risk management and how to apply it, noting that this concept has become part of daily working life and has been adopted today by most organisations and institutions to enhance their efficiency in the face of challenges.

Oman Air starts flight to Amsterdam

Oman Air, the national carrier of the Sultanate of Oman, celebrated the launch of its inaugural flight to Amsterdam, marking a significant addition to its growing European network and reinforcing the airline's commitment to connecting Oman with key global markets.

The four-weekly service, the first direct connection between Oman and the Netherlands, was officially inaugurated in a ceremony held at Muscat International Airport. The event was attended by H E Azzan Qassim Al Busaidi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism, H H Dr Faris al Said, Member of the Technical Team for Oman Promotional Brand, H E Stella Kloth, Dutch Ambassador to Oman, senior officials from Oman Air, government representatives, airport stakeholders, and media partners.

H E Azzan Qassim al Busaidi said, "The launch of direct flights between Muscat and Amsterdam marks another step in strengthening Oman's position



as a high-quality, accessible tourism destination. The Netherlands is a key source market for us, and this new route enhances our ability to welcome more visitors to experience Oman's landscapes, heritage, and hospitality. We congratulate Oman Air on this milestone and look forward to the opportunities it will bring for tourism, trade and investment."

Con Korfiatis, CEO of Oman Air, added, "We are delighted to

launch services to Amsterdam, a vibrant European gateway and a strategic addition to our network. This route not only connects two dynamic cities, but also opens new possibilities for travellers across the world. Coming just one day after our official entry into oneworld, today's launch symbolises the momentum we're building for our airline, for Oman, and for our guests."

The launch comes just one

day after Oman Air's official integration into the oneworld alliance, making Amsterdam the first new destination to join the airline's network under the oneworld banner. Through oneworld, Oman Air guests will now benefit from seamless connectivity to over 900 destinations around the world, while travellers from across Europe can more easily access the beauty, culture, and hospitality of Oman.

First Kids FAST channel launched

Warner Bros Discovery, in partnership with Etisalat's StarzOn platform, has launched its first-ever kids-focused Free Ad-Supported Streaming Television (FAST) channel.

Going live on July 1, this exciting milestone marks a new chapter in how children and families around the world enjoy free access to Warner Bros Discovery's beloved and premium kids content, a press release said.

The new channel will provide 24x7, free-to-access entertainment with a curated lineup of timeless and contemporary animated favourites from the Warner Bros Discovery vault. The channel will debut with the legendary Tom and Jerry, Gumball, Ben 10, Teen Titans Go, Scooby Doo and will refresh its programming lineup quarterly to ensure a constantly engaging and dynamic viewing experience.

Sean Gorman, VP of pay TV networks, Kids, EMEA, said, "This launch marks a major milestone in how we connect with our youngest fans in the MENA



The new channel will provide 24x7, free-to-access entertainment with a lineup of timeless and contemporary animated favourites

region. We're incredibly proud to work with Etisalat on a pioneering FAST channel that not only brings some of our most iconic characters into homes but does so in a format that suits the modern viewing habits of kids and families alike. It's an exciting step in ensuring that our content remains accessible, engaging, and inclusive for audiences of all ages."

What chance does Nigeria's new opposition coalition have in 2027?

Abuja, Nigeria - According to the opposition, the new All Democratic Alliance (ADA) coalition would eventually transform into a political party to oust the government of President Bola Tinubu from office in the 2027 general election in Nigeria.

Proponents of the coalition say they are uniting in response to what they describe as the country's worsening economic conditions under the Tinubu administration. Nigeria's opposition is reeling from defections of top leaders and politicians to the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC). Some of the key figures in the coalition include Nigeria's former Vice President Atiku Abubakar, former Kaduna State Governor Nasir El-Rufai, former Minister of Transportation Rotimi Amaechi, and Labour Party's Peter Obi, who stressed he is only interested in coalitions that end Nigerians' sufferings.

"We are fighting for the soul of the country, that is what this coalition is about," Yunusa Tanko, a member of the new coalition and coordinator of the Obidient movement, told DW.

"You'll agree with me that the Nigerian system is in a bad state - there's hunger in the land, rising insecurity, and clear disdain for democratic values," Tanko said. "Many true democrats believe the system must be rejigged. This coalition is a collective effort to fight for the soul of Nigeria and defend the essence of democ-



In recent weeks, President Tinubu has convinced several opposition politicians to join his ruling APC party

racy. It's also about making sure hunger doesn't wipe away the people in the midst of plenty."

Nigeria has regularly held peaceful elections since the return of democracy in 1999, despite allegations of electoral fraud, political violence and corruption.

Reaction from Tinubu's allies

While supporters of the coalition

remain optimistic of victory in the 2027 polls, not everyone is convinced. Binta Garba Massi, a former lawmaker and supporter of Tinubu, told DW that while the coalition is a welcome feature of democracy, unseating the president is an entirely different matter. "Coalition in a democratic setting - this is healthy to me. But the process of trying to unseat an incumbent president is another issue," she said. "It's a tall hill for

anyone who wants to unseat President Tinubu." She cited the time when the opposition Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) was in power, the APC (which was then in opposition) had formed a coalition.

"But now, if you say it happened before and can happen again, I think it's an entirely different ball game."

Coalitions are not new in Nigerian politics. The country's oppo-

sition has tried this before. In 2015, the APC itself was born from a coalition that succeeded in defeating then-incumbent Goodluck Jonathan.

That coalition broke the PDP's 16-year grip on power, leading to the election of then-opposition candidate Muhammadu Buhari. However, observers note that the dynamics are significantly different now.

"I think it's too early to say if

they (ADA opposition coalition) can make any real impact," Malam Baba Yusuf, a political analyst, told DW. "If we consider the current political dynamics in Nigeria, it seems more like just another political gathering," Baba Yusuf explained, adding that President Tinubu and others in the APC have decades of experience in opposition and were able to unseat an incumbent in 2015. "Their methodology, approach, and mindset were quite different from what we're seeing now. Unless the current opposition leaders significantly change their strategy, I don't see them making much of a dent."

However, Nigerians have been feeling the pinch; the cost of living has surged, and millions are struggling to afford basic necessities, including food, housing, and transportation.

For many grappling with inflation, joblessness, and rising insecurity, the coalition promises a new political vehicle - but its chances remain uncertain.

"As they are coalescing, the current administration is strategising. There is insecurity in almost every part of Nigeria - is that the fault of the APC? Garba Massi, a Tinubu ally, posed. "Some of the people fighting the president today were helped by

Faced with increasing defections to the ruling APC, Nigerian opposition leaders have formed the All Democratic Alliance (ADA) to challenge President Bola Tinubu in the 2027 elections

Economic challenges deepen

Since taking office in May 2023, President Tinubu's government has implemented bold economic reforms - ending fuel subsidies and floating the naira - in an effort to attract foreign investment and restructure public finances.

A recent World Bank report stated that Nigeria's economy had recorded its largest growth in the past decade.

him to grow politically. But rest assured, APC is still standing strong and waxing stronger. At the end of the day, APC will clinch that seat in 2027 by the special grace of God."

Organisers of the ADA coalition say discussions are ongoing with a roadmap to register the party and present a single opposition presidential candidate in the 2027 election. dw

Thai PM suspended over leaked audio linked to Cambodia dispute

Bangkok, Thailand - Thailand's Constitutional Court on Tuesday suspended Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra over a recent leaked audio linked to a border dispute with Cambodia.

The court accepted charges against Paetongtarn over her phone call with Cambodian strongman Hun Sen for deliberation and suspended her from duty as prime minister.

A group of 36 senators filed

the charges - accepted by all nine members of the court - accusing her of 'gross ethical misconduct and dishonesty' in connection with the call.

The court order follows the leak of a phone call between Paetongtarn and Cambodian Senate head Hun Sen in which the Thai leader allegedly criticised her country's military, specifically the 2nd Army Region commander, over escalating



Thailand Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra

border tensions with Cambodia.

Paetongtarn's suspension came hours after King Maha Vajiralongkorn endorsed a reshuffle in the Cabinet following the exit of a key party from the ruling coalition. She has 15 days to defend herself, state-run Thai PBS reported.

"I made the phone call in the national interest," Paetongtarn said after the court order, stressing that she made 'no personal

gain' from the conversation.

Paetongtarn, 38, the daughter of former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, was elected Thailand's youngest and only second woman prime minister last August.

The phone call 'might have offended some people. But I will prove that it was 100% my effort to protect the national interest', she told journalists at the Government House in Bangkok.

Deputy Prime Minister and Transport Minister Suriya Jungrungreangkit will serve as acting prime minister until the royal endorsement of Phumtham Wechayachai as deputy prime minister and interior minister, set for Thursday.

In the changed Cabinet, Paetongtarn was set to serve as culture minister and endorsement is set for the same day.

Anadolu Agency

US Senate holds marathon vote for Trump's 'Big Beautiful Bill'

Washington, D.C., US - A marathon Senate vote on US President Donald Trump's controversial tax, border, and defence bill began on Monday morning and continued overnight as Republicans race to meet a July 4 deadline to deliver the legislation to the president's desk.

The debate and the start of a marathon series of amendment votes, known as a vote-a-rama, allow Republicans to make final changes to the Senate tax bill while giving Democrats opportunities to challenge key issues and pressure GOP lawmakers ahead of upcoming campaign season.

As Trump set a deadline for its approval of July 4 - US Independence Day - Senate Republicans are carefully revising it to avoid disrupting the agreement, and the House must approve these changes before the bill goes to the president.

Senate Republicans advanced the legislation late on Saturday after hours of delays and last-minute negotiations to secure enough votes, while Senate Democrats prolonged the process by forcing a full reading of the bill, which took nearly 16

hours before the debate began.

Cuts to Medicaid, food stamps

The legislation - formally called the One Big Beautiful Bill Act - includes extensions of Trump's controversial 2017 tax cuts, tougher work requirements for Medicaid recipients, increased border



security funding, and rollbacks of clean energy tax credits.

Democrats have focused their opposition on unpopular cuts to Medicaid (for people with low incomes) and food stamps as part of their challenge to the president's agenda.

Among the critics of the bill is billionaire Elon Musk, Trump's

former ally and top campaign donor, who warned that cuts to electric vehicle and clean energy subsidies would be 'incredibly destructive' and labelled the bill 'political suicide for the Republican Party'.

Trump responded by accusing Musk of depending heavily on federal subsidies and said he would 'head back home to South Africa' without them.

Most nationwide polls show widespread opposition to the bill, which the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office has found sharply regressive - strongly benefiting the wealthiest Americans while hurting those with the least money.

Musk's warning

Meanwhile, Musk on Tuesday stepped up his opposition to 'Big Beautiful Bill', pledging to launch a new political party if the controversial omnibus bill is approved by Congress. "It is obvious with the insane spending of this bill, which increases the debt ceiling by a record five trillion dollars that we live in a one-party country - the porky pig party," Musk wrote on X.

Anadolu Agency

North Korean military training delegation to visit Russia amid deepening relations

Ankara, Turkey - A delegation from North Korea's most prestigious military school has left for Russia amid deepening defence cooperation between the two countries, state media reported on Tuesday.

Led by Kim Kum-chol, president of Kim Il Sung Military University, it departed Pyongyang the previous day to visit the Military Academy of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of Russia, the Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) reported.

There was no official word on the purpose of the delegation's visit, but it appears to be aimed at boosting exchanges and cooperation between military education institutions of North Korea and Russia.

The development took place days after Russian Security Council Secretary Sergei Shoigu visited Pyongyang on his second trip in less than two weeks.

Kim last visited Russia in July 2024, after North Korea and Russia signed a mutual defence treaty the previous month.

He was among North Korean individuals added to the US's sanctions list in December last year in connection with North Korea's support for Russia's war



There was no official word on the purpose of the delegation's visit

against Ukraine, according to Yonhap News Agency.

Kim Il Sung Military University, named after North Korea's late founder, is a training institute for military officers.

In a related development, North Korea's state broadcaster aired images of leader Kim Jong Un mourning over his soldiers believed to have been killed in the Russia-Ukraine war. Released by Korean Central Television, the images showed Kim solemnly placing a North Korean flag over a coffin during a cere-

mony for the return of the remains of North Korean soldiers who were deployed and killed in the conflict. Last week, South Korea's intelligence agency claimed that North Korea is likely to send more troops to Russia in the next two months.

North Korea deployed thousands of soldiers to aid Russia in the Ukraine war following the signing of a strategic partnership treaty by leader Kim Jong Un and Russian President Vladimir Putin in Pyongyang in June 2024.

Russian security chief Shoigu

recently said that North Korea will send 6,000 personnel to Russia, including 1,000 combat engineers and 5,000 military builders, to assist in mine clearance and reconstruction efforts in the Kursk region bordering Ukraine.

In April, South Korea's spy agency claimed that North Korea likely suffered around 4,700 casualties while fighting alongside Russian forces in the Russia-Ukraine war, with 600 of those being confirmed fatalities.

Anadolu Agency

45 Palestinians killed as Israel intensifies attacks on Gaza Strip; toll rises to 56,647

Gaza City/Istanbul - At least 45 more Palestinians were killed and scores injured as the Israeli army escalated its attacks in the war-torn Gaza Strip on Tuesday, medics said.

Israeli forces shelled civilians waiting for aid delivery in the Netzarim Corridor and Salah al-Din Street in central Gaza, killing 11 people and injuring over 65 others, a medical source told Anadolu.

Six other people were killed by Israeli shelling of their houses in the town of Al-Zawayda in central Gaza.

Medics said two more people, including a woman, were killed in an attack on a school-turned-shelter in the Maghazi refugee camp in central Gaza.

Twelve other people were killed in separate strikes on a home and tent sheltering displaced civilians in the southern city of Khan Younis, medics said.

Israeli fire also killed six more aid seekers near a distribution point in northern Rafah in southern Gaza.

Two Palestinians died from wounds they sustained in earlier Israeli strikes in the central and southern Gaza Strip, medical sources said.

A young man also died of severe malnutrition in the southern city of Khan Younis amid an Israeli siege on the enclave, the



government media office said.

In Gaza City, an Israeli strike on a group of civilians killed one Palestinian in the Al-Zeitoun neighbourhood. Bodies of two people killed in previous Israeli attacks were also retrieved in the Al-Tuffah neighbourhood of the same city.

Two more people were killed by an Israeli drone strike in the

Shejaiya neighbourhood of Gaza City. According to witnesses, the Israeli army shelled residential buildings in eastern Gaza City and eastern Khan Younis in the south.

Death toll rises to 56,647

At least 56,647 Palestinians have been killed in Israel's genocidal

war on the Gaza Strip since October 2023, the Palestinian Health Ministry said on Tuesday.

A statement said that 116 bodies were brought to hospitals in the last 24 hours, with 463 people injured, taking the number of injuries to 134,105 in the Israeli onslaught.

"Many victims are still trapped under the rubble and on the

roads as rescuers are unable to reach them," it added. Israel resumed attacks on the Gaza Strip on March 18 and has since killed 6,315 victims and injured 22,064, shattering a ceasefire and prisoner exchange agreement that took hold in January.

Meanwhile, two more civilians were killed by Israeli army fire in the occupied West Bank on

Tuesday.

A 16-year-old Palestinian from southern Hebron died of wounds from Israeli gunfire in central Ramallah, the official news agency Wafa said, citing medical and security sources.

The Israeli army raided several homes in Ramallah, damaging the property, and interrogated a number of young Palestinians in the field, the agency said.

Strip. Egyptian Foreign Minister Badr Abdelatty held a phone conversation with his Qatari counterpart, Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, to exchange views on the latest situation in Gaza, Egypt's Foreign Ministry said in a readout.

The two ministers reviewed joint efforts, along with the US, 'to resume the ceasefire to stop the bloodshed of the Palestinian peo-

Meanwhile, the top diplomats of Egypt and Qatar discussed joint efforts on Tuesday to resume negotiations for a lasting ceasefire in the Gaza Strip

Another young man was also killed by Israeli gunfire at the Meitar crossing in south Hebron in the southern West Bank, Wafa said. Since the start of Israel's assault on Gaza in October 2023, at least 988 Palestinians have been killed and more than 7,000 injured in the West Bank by Israeli forces and illegal settlers, according to the Palestinian Health Ministry.

Efforts to resume negotiations

The top diplomats of Egypt and Qatar discussed joint efforts on Tuesday to resume negotiations for a lasting ceasefire in the Gaza

ple, secure the release of prisoners and detainees, and ensure the urgent and unhindered flow of humanitarian aid into Gaza', the statement said.

On Sunday, the Egyptian foreign minister said that Cairo was working on a new Gaza deal that includes a 60-day ceasefire in exchange for the release of some Israeli hostages and the rapid entry of humanitarian aid into the besieged enclave.

Egypt, Qatar, and the US brokered on January 19 a three-phased ceasefire deal between Israel and the Palestinian group Hamas.

Anadolu Agency

UK rights groups plot next steps after Israel arms sales blow in High Court

London, UK - Several prominent rights organisations have vowed to keep up efforts to force the British government to halt arms exports to Israel after a top court dismissed their landmark appeal on the matter.

The UK High Court on Monday dismissed a judicial review brought by the Palestinian human rights organisation Al-Haq, which sought to end the British government's exports of F-35 fighter jet components to Israel amid its ongoing genocidal war on Gaza.

Doireann McCarthy, a legal researcher at Al-Haq, described the case as 'monumental' despite the court's dismissal.

"When it comes to the decision, of course, a definitive ruling on the grounds that we raised would have been desirable. So, in that sense, it's a temporary setback," she said.

"However, it has been really, really valuable in actually deferring it back to the government, meaning that ultimately, these issues need to be decided on."

McCarthy confirmed that Al-Haq is actively considering an appeal.

"This is just the beginning. The fight for justice, self-determination, and the dignity of Palestinians is long, and we remain steadfast in this fight."

Al-Haq's case centred on Britain's decision to exempt F-35 parts when suspending some arms export licenses last year, citing the UK's legal obligations under international humanitarian law, including the Geneva Conventions, the Arms Trade Treaty, and the Genocide Convention.

Backed by Oxfam, Amnesty International UK, and Human Rights Watch, the case argued that the carve-out contravened



these obligations, given the risk that F-35 components could be used in violations of international humanitarian law in Gaza. However, judges Stephen Males and Karen Steyn ruled that the carve-out was lawful, and refused to grant permission for the case to proceed to a full hearing.

The court held that interna-

UK High Court had dismissed a judicial review to end the British government's exports of F-35 fighter jet components to Israel

tional treaties, including the Genocide Convention and the Arms Trade Treaty, do not form part of English law unless explicitly incorporated by Parliament. The judges also emphasised that foreign policy decisions remain within the executive's remit.

"The conduct of international relations is a matter for

the executive and not the courts," the judges ruled, citing longstanding constitutional principles.

'Deeply disappointed'

Jennine Walker, a lawyer with the Global Legal Action Network (GLAN), which supported Al-Haq's case, said the organisation remains committed to the case.

"We are deeply disappointed by the court's decision to not uphold Al-Haq's claim, but we will stand steadfast with them and continue the fight," Walker told Anadolu. "We're considering whether to appeal against this judgment, and also other ways that we can put pressure on the government."

Walker emphasised the significance of disclosures made during proceedings. "We're able to disclose now the government's assessments, the fact that they had plenty of evidence that what is happening in Palestine at the moment is a genocide, and the government deliberately chose not to see, not to recognise, and not to act," she concluded.

Anadolu Agency

Gaza ceasefire to be reached next week: Donald Trump

Washington, D.C., US - US President Donald Trump said on Tuesday he hopes a ceasefire in the Gaza Strip will be reached soon.

"We hope (a ceasefire) is going to happen and we're looking for it to happen sometime next week," Trump told reporters before departing the White House for the opening of a temporary migrant detention centre in Florida.

Trump said he will discuss Gaza and Iran with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu next week in Washington, D.C.

"He's coming here. We're going to talk about a lot of things. We're going to talk about the great success we had in Iran



US President Donald Trump

... We're also going to talk about Gaza," he said.

His remarks came after Netanyahu said in a statement ahead of a Cabinet meeting.

Netanyahu said he will also meet with Vice President J D Vance, Secretary of State

for meetings in the US with US President Donald Trump," Netanyahu said in a statement ahead of a Cabinet meeting.

Netanyahu said he will also meet with Vice President J D Vance, Secretary of State

Marco Rubio, Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth, Trump's Middle East envoy Steve Witkoff, and Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick.

"We have several items to close beforehand in order to reach the trade agreement and several additional matters; meetings with Congressional and Senate leaders and security meetings, which I will not detail here," Netanyahu said.

"These events follow the great victory we achieved in Operation 'Rising Lion'. Exploiting success is no less important than achieving success," he added, in reference to recent airstrikes on Iran.

Anadolu Agency

Iran demands full security guarantee for talks with US

Tehran, Iran - Iran's foreign minister on Tuesday stipulated a full guarantee of no further US attacks on Iranian soil as a precondition for resuming nuclear negotiations with Washington.

"I don't think negotiations will restart as quickly as that. In order for us to decide to reengage, we will have to first ensure that America will not revert back to targeting us in a military attack during the negotiations," Abbas Araghchi told the US' CBS News. "And I think with all these considerations, we still need more time."

On Monday, the White House confirmed ongoing dialogue between US President Donald Trump's Middle East envoy, Steve Witkoff, and Iranian officials following a ceasefire that halted 12 days of conflict.

Iran's top diplomat stressed that Tehran would not 'easily



Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi

back down from enrichment', calling the country's nuclear programme 'a matter of national pride and glory'.

"We showed and proved during this 12-day imposed war that we have the ability to defend ourselves, and we will continue to do so should any aggression be launched against us," Araghchi added.

A conflict between Israel and Iran erupted on June 13 when Is-

rael launched airstrikes on Iranian military, nuclear, and civilian sites, killing at least 935 people. The Health Ministry said 5,332 people were injured.

Tehran launched retaliatory missile and drone strikes on Israel, killing at least 29 people and wounding more than 3,400, according to figures released by the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

Anadolu Agency

US ends USAID, says Marco Rubio

Washington, D.C., US - US Secretary of State Marco Rubio announced on Tuesday that the US Agency for International Development (USAID) will officially cease implementing foreign assistance, with assistance programme being transferred to the State Department.

"Foreign assistance programmes that align with administration policies - and which advance American interests - will be administered by State Department, where they will be delivered with more accountability, strategy, and efficiency," Rubio said in a statement.

"Every public servant has an obligation to American citizens to ensure any programmes they fund advance our nation's interests," he said.

India: Death toll rises to 34 in Telangana chemical factory blast

Sangareddy, India - A day after a massive blast reduced a chemical factory in Indian state of Telangana to ashes, the death toll rose to 34 by Tuesday morning. The blast at the Sigachi Chemicals factory in Pashamylaram industrial estate in Telangana's Sangareddy district had trapped several workers inside, the police had said.

Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy on Tuesday visited the site, held a review meeting and directed officials to submit a detailed investigation report into the cause of the blast.

While interacting with factory authorities, Reddy asked: "Don't conclude with assumption or general opinion. I need specific reasons for this accident. Only then can we address what happened here today."

The chief minister also enquired about the treatment status and hospital expenses of the injured victims.

He said: "How many people are unskilled and skilled labour?"



Telangana CM Revanth Reddy meets the injured at hospital (ANI)

Have you segregated the number of skilled and unskilled workers who died after the blast?"

Revanth Reddy emphasised that such incidents should serve as a learning point for both the government and industry stakeholders. "We need to focus on what instructions we must give to avoid similar problems in other industries like this. There are two things we need from this: first, a detailed report, and second, accountability," he further said.

He directed the officials not to rely on earlier inspections or reports and insisted on fresh evaluations by new experts.

The chief minister also referred to possible compliance lapses by the industry and called for a review of past notices and penalties.

The CM also announced a compensation of Rs 1 crore to the families of the deceased and ordered a detailed inquiry into the explosion.

"Rs 1 crore will be given to the

deceased and Rs 10 lakh to the seriously injured, and Rs 5 lakh to the injured people. The government will take care of their medical treatment..." he said.

He further added that the government would not only provide financial assistance but also establish new regulations to prevent such incidents in the future.

"The inquiry is going on. We will examine everything and see all the lapses and make regulations," the CM said.

ANI

How instability in Middle East could influence Africa's volatile regions?

Berlin, Germany - European analysts worry conflict in the Middle East could be a destabilising factor in already volatile regions of the African continent.

"If the conflict between Israel and Iran escalates further, there is a risk that the various interconnected wars around the Red Sea could also expand," Hendrik Maihack, of the German Friedrich Ebert Foundation (FES), told DW.

He says the greatest danger would be to the Horn of Africa, a region 'currently in its deepest crisis in nearly 30 years'.

"Iran cooperates with the Houthi rebels in Yemen, who in turn also collaborate with the Al-Shabab militia in Somalia," Maihack says, adding such interconnected alliances are the reason Germany and Europe must look beyond the wars in the Middle East and Ukraine.

With conflicts across Africa 'rather increasing than decreasing' - there could be consequences for Europe.

"Where foreign policy attention and resources for humanitarian and development cooperation diminish, many African countries fear falling further out of the spotlight of Western support," Maihack says.

Guido Lanfranchi from the Clingendael Institute for International Relations in the Netherlands told DW the cooperation between the military Houthi group, supported by Iran, and the Al-Shabab militias in Somalia has



Destroyed tanks are seen in front of the damaged central bank building in Khartoum, Sudan

Both Israel and Iran have supported various factions of the warring parties in Sudan, and strategic interests link Israel and Iran to several African states. Analysts eye threats for already volatile African nations if the Iran-Israel conflict escalates

intensified.

"Maintaining these connections appears to be in the interest of both groups," the conflict analyst says, but adds it is uncertain to what extent Iran can continue supporting the Houthis.

Strategic importance
The Horn of Africa and Red Sea

regions, which include Egypt, Sudan, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Israel, Djibouti, Ethiopia and Somalia are geo-strategically important to both Iran and Israel, Lanfranchi says, with Iran recently supplying weapons to the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF).

"Israel maintains close relations with Ethiopia, and in the last

few months alone there have been several meetings at ministerial level between the two sides," Lanfranchi says.

While Israel's role in Sudan is not entirely clear, Lanfranchi says Israel had relations with both the SAF and the RSF (Rapid Support Forces) factions before the Sudanese civil war broke out in April

2023.

But according to Romane Dideberg of the London-based think tank Chatham House, Iran and Israel's limited economic and diplomatic overall footprint in Africa so far means the fallout from the Iran-Israel conflict is currently 'mainly indirect geopolitical effects'.

"Both countries have invested very little in Africa and don't really have an Africa strategy like similar players in the region," she told DW.

These effects include potential disruption to trade, increased

market instability, rising oil prices, and growing economic pressure.

Nevertheless, Dideberg says, energy prices could still skyrocket, and with international political and military attention now focused elsewhere, 'security gaps' on the continent could emerge.

Other Middle East players, however, have vested interest in certain African nations.

"Qatar has played a very active role in mediating in various African countries in recent years and most recently played a leading role in the regional mediation

efforts between Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo," Dideberg tells DW.

But following an Iranian attack on a United States airbase in Qatar, further threats to Qatar could now follow: "So if they are attacked directly, that could diminish their role. They provided this quiet diplomacy and support in the background, while all other diplomatic channels failed."

Qatar managed to bring Rwandan President Paul Kagame and Felix Tshisekedi, President of the DRC, to the negotiating table in early 2025, after the two leaders avoided each other for months amid escalating violence in the eastern DRC bordering Rwanda.

In West Africa, Iran has invested in the Sahel countries, says Ulf Laessing of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation (KAS) in Mali. Iran has tried to provide an alternative to European partners, such as France.

"For example, an agreement was concluded with Niger, which is officially about energy cooperation," Laessing told DW.

Despite alleged military deals in exchange for access to resources, Laessing says the Israel-Iran conflict has taken away Iran's capacity to be a player in West Africa. Military-ruled Sahel countries ruled could therefore receive less support, such as for drone purchases, than previously hoped.

DW

Japan, South Korea experience record-breaking heat last month

Seoul/Tokyo - Japan and South Korea experienced record-breaking heat during the month of June, according to reports released by both countries' meteorological agencies on Tuesday.

In South Korea, the Korea Meteorological Administration (KMA) reported that several cities logged their highest average daily temperatures for June since records began. The southeastern city of Busan reached an average of 26.2°C (79.16°F) on June 30, marking the hottest June day since national weather tracking started in 1904, according to Seoul-based Yonhap News.

Between Saturday and Monday, 59 out of 97 climate observation stations across the country recorded historic June temperature highs, the KMA said.

In Japan, the Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA) reported that June 2024 saw the highest national average monthly temperature since record-keeping began in 1898. The JMA has forecast maximum temperatures exceeding 35°C (95°F) in the first



half of July, with an expectation that heat levels will continue to rise further in the second half of the month.

Authorities in both countries have issued warnings urging the public to take precautions against heat-related illnesses, including heat stroke.

Meanwhile, Japan on Tuesday declared the start of Mount Fuji's climbing season amid efforts to ease overcrowding and the impact on the environment, local

media reported. The season started as the most popular trail opened on Tuesday, with local authorities charging a doubled fee of 4,000 yen (US\$28) to ease overcrowding. Tokyo-based Kyodo News reported.

The Yamanashi prefecture is accepting a maximum of 4,000 hikers per day on the Yoshida Trail, the most commonly used route to the summit of the 3,776-metre (12,388-foot) mountain.

The trail is scheduled to re-

main open through September 10. Authorities have tightened measures amid a rise in foreign visitors and growing concern about the many ill-prepared hikers seen on the mountain in recent years.

Hikers planning to use the Yoshida Trail must also agree when making an online reservation to terms set by the local government, including the use of warm clothing and appropriate footwear.

Poland's president calls to stop entry of migrants from Germany

Warsaw, Poland - Poland's president called on the government to take action to prevent non-EU immigrants from being sent back into the country from Germany.

"It is a pity the Polish government is not reacting to the pushing of migrants from Germany into Poland," said Andrzej Duda.

During a briefing in Seville, Duda was asked how he assessed the actions of the Polish government and border authorities on the Polish-German border. "We cannot allow the law to be broken, for migrants to be brutally pushed into our country. Germany has created a problem with migrants and must deal with this problem on its own. We will not solve this problem for them," he said.

Germany introduced controls in October 2023 to stop illegal migration. On Sunday, Poland's Interior Minister Tomasz Siemoniak said on X that 'the Border Guard is performing its statutory tasks of protecting the state border and combating illegal migration' and appealed for 'trust in the Border Guard'.

Self-declared 'citizen patrols' -



Poland's president Andrzej Duda

some hundreds strong - have gathered on the Polish side of the border with Germany to oppose returns of migrants whom the German authorities have found to have entered illegally from Poland.

On Saturday, a group of 200 residents of Szczecin, a city near the German border, blocked a road. "We walk to the border post and back. Just so that the German police don't bring us migrants," one participant told Radio Szczecin.

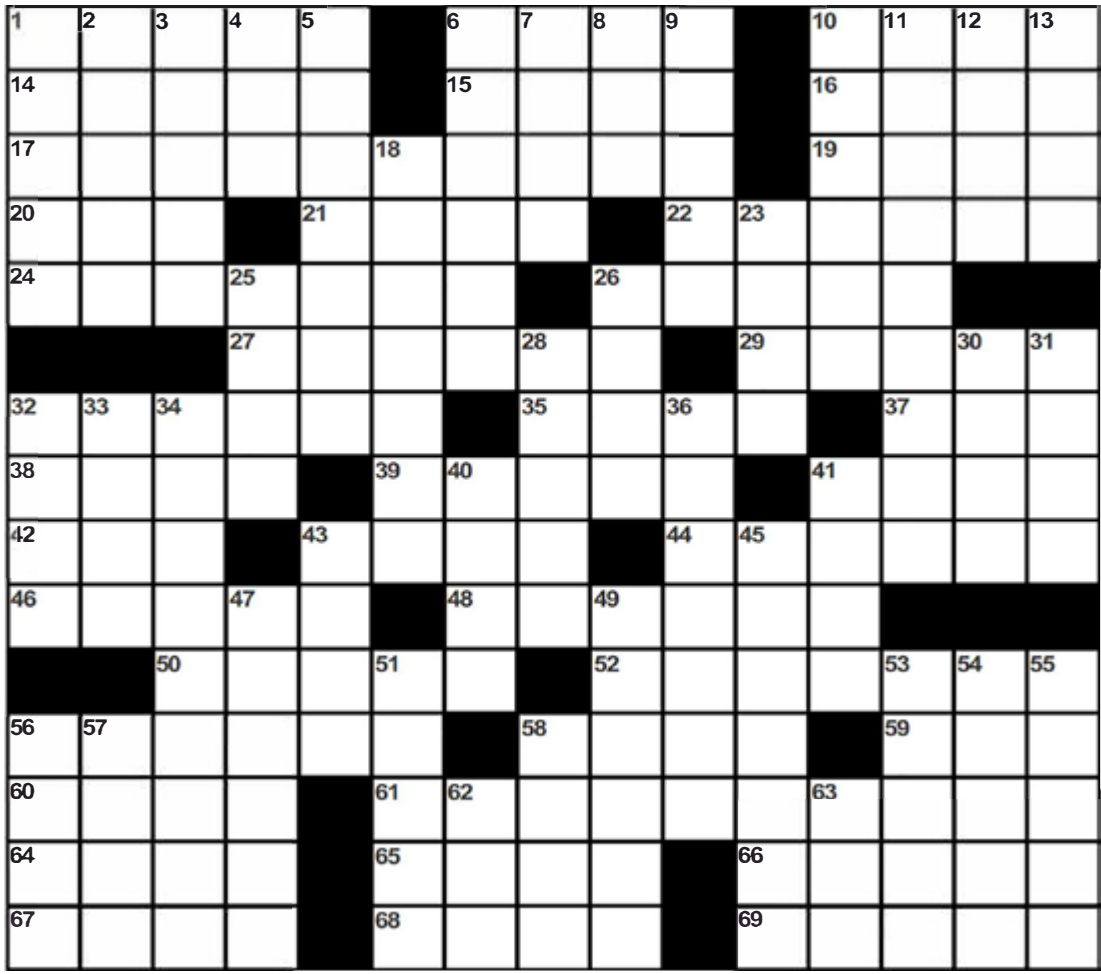
Groups of soccer fans have

also organised similar 'citizen patrols' on the border, with banners saying 'Stop illegal immigration'.

The protests are supported by Poland's two main opposition parties - the far-right Confederation party and conservative Law and Justice (PiS) party.

"Poland's western border is ceasing to exist!" wrote Mariusz Blaszcak, a former defence minister. "Illegal migrants are regularly being transferred to us from Germany, and Tusk's government is pretending that nothing is happening."

DAILY CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- 1) City of pilgrimages
 - 6) Superlative suffixes
 - 10) "I need it yesterday!" letters
 - 14) Improvise verbally
 - 15) Ostrich's look-alike
 - 16) Small coin
 - 17) Foreign monetary unit
 - 19) "How clumsy of me!"
 - 20) Go astray biblically
 - 21) Study all night
 - 22) Noted Italian tenor
 - 24) Implore
 - 26) Fancy watch
 - 27) One way to get out of prison
 - 29) Broad scarf
 - 32) Word in some magazine titles
 - 35) Burden
 - 37) Abbr. on a clothing reject tag
 - 38) Pastoral verse (Abbr.)
 - 39) Firebug's crime
 - 41) Needle case
 - 42) Sleep stage, initially
 - 43) Sad color
 - 44) "Because..." (parental explanation)
 - 46) Cushy course
 - 48) Clear soups

- 50) Ships' bottoms
 - 52) Fashionable apparel brand
 - 56) Shangri-La
 - 58) Separate into groups
 - 59) Trinity third
 - 60) Baseball field cover
 - 61) Welcoming facial feature
 - 64) Play opener
 - 65) Blackthorn fruit
 - 66) Express verbally
 - 67) It may go to blazes
 - 68) NYC wagering parlors, once
 - 69) Monetary unit of India
- DOWN**
- 1) Billiards stroke
 - 2) Reagan attorney general Meese
 - 3) Mr. Eastwood
 - 4) USSR successor
 - 5) Inflamed swelling
 - 6) Book mistakes
 - 7) Fake pillow cover?
 - 8) Number to count up to
 - 9) Vanzetti's partner in anarchy
 - 10) Thinks the world of
 - 11) Port in Iowa
 - 12) Rock blasters
 - 13) Cuban bread?

- 18) Geometric figure with a repeating pattern
- 23) "Sorry to say ..."
- 25) Angler's need
- 26) Truckee stop?
- 28) Tough riddle
- 30) "It's either them..."
- 31) Small musical group
- 32) Desperate
- 33) Result of brainstorming
- 34) Athletic wear
- 36) Indivisible
- 40) Gives a massage
- 41) Where the sun comes up
- 43) Island east of Java
- 45) Quits yapping
- 47) Stereotypical Beemer driver
- 49) Words before "toes" or "best behavior"
- 51) Cowboy's apparatus
- 53) "Lord..." (Last Supper question)
- 54) Natalie and Nat King
- 55) The end of... (legend's retirement)
- 56) Provo's place
- 57) Mexican fare
- 58) Nose-in-the-air type
- 62) To the max, for short
- 63) N.Y. transit org

NOTE PAD



YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

ARIES MARCH 21-APRIL 19
Reliability is a virtue, especially when it comes to finances. In fact, it's quite virtuous of you to take a look at any consistently unhealthy ways you deal with money. It's even more educational for you (and your checkbook) if you start to plan how to deal with your money on a consistently functional basis, rather than the same patterns that have recently come into question.

LEO JULY 23-AUGUST 22
Someone could be taken aback by your brutal honesty when you change your mind about plans they thought were set in stone. You're done with following other people's agendas just because it's polite, and you're ready to try new goals. Trust your instincts and use your emotional momentum to break out of old habits, whether emotional, professional, or personal.

SAGITTARIUS NOVEMBER 22-DECEMBER 21
Your mental energy gets a giant helping of earthy influences, which help bring you a deep sense of calm. It's fortunate, too, because you're just about to tackle some big tasks that require the best of your intellect. The only way to stay focused on these tasks is to retain a sense of connection. Remember that as you set about reaching your goal.



TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

01. What were the first names of author D H Lawrence?
A. Darwin Haversham
B. Dennis Harold
C. Darren Hurst
D. David Herbert

02. British clog dancing can be seen as a forerunner of what?
A. Ballet
B. The tarantella
C. Tap dance
D. Bunions

3. Over 6 days in March 2021 transport of over 10% of global trade came to a stop. What was the reason?
A. A call to reduce the rate of global warming
B. Lockdowns in the course of recurring waves of COVID 19 infections
C. A ship ran aground in the Suez Canal and blocked the waterway
D. A terrorist scare

Answers: 1. D 2. C 3. C

TAURUS APRIL 20-MAY 20
You and someone close may get so giddy in each other's company that your heads seem to have settled in the clouds for now, but your feet should be firmly planted on the ground. This helps take care of all the irritating details, so you can both revel in each other's company without even a bit of guilt. Altogether, you're a fantastic combination.

VIRGO AUGUST 23-SEPTEMBER 22
Look for a new way to reduce the number of duties in your life and make space for the things that you really want to do. Once you give yourself the space to examine recent events in your life, you might find yourself dictating the outcome of the next few events, instead of feeling that you're at the mercy of fate. Learn to be focused and perform actions mindfully rather than rush through them.

CAPRICORN DECEMBER 22-JANUARY 19
Supremely capable and hardworking people like you aren't always the best at expressing feelings, but that all changes for you today. You've got a lot of emotions that you need to get off your chest, and you're determined to express them to those who are closest to you. Not only are they pleased to hear you let it all out, but they reciprocate in ways that will please you immensely.

GEMINI MAY 21-JUNE 21
Truth is certainly stranger than fiction, though it's usually not as stylish! It's your job now to sift out the facts from the tall tales. It's important to consider your sources. Since you're able to see both sides of most issues, you're better able than most to spot a cherished truth that's actually just an embellished opinion. This should definitely come in handy as you go about your day!

LIBRA SEPTEMBER 23-OCTOBER 22
You're usually able to keep up with your crazy pace, but sometimes it feels as if everything is moving faster, louder, and more frantically for no good reason. Fortunately, you're smart enough to know when you need to replenish body and soul. Now is the time to take a break and do something indulgent that pampers you inside and out. It could be as simple as a good book or a trip to a park. Whatever it is, do it now!

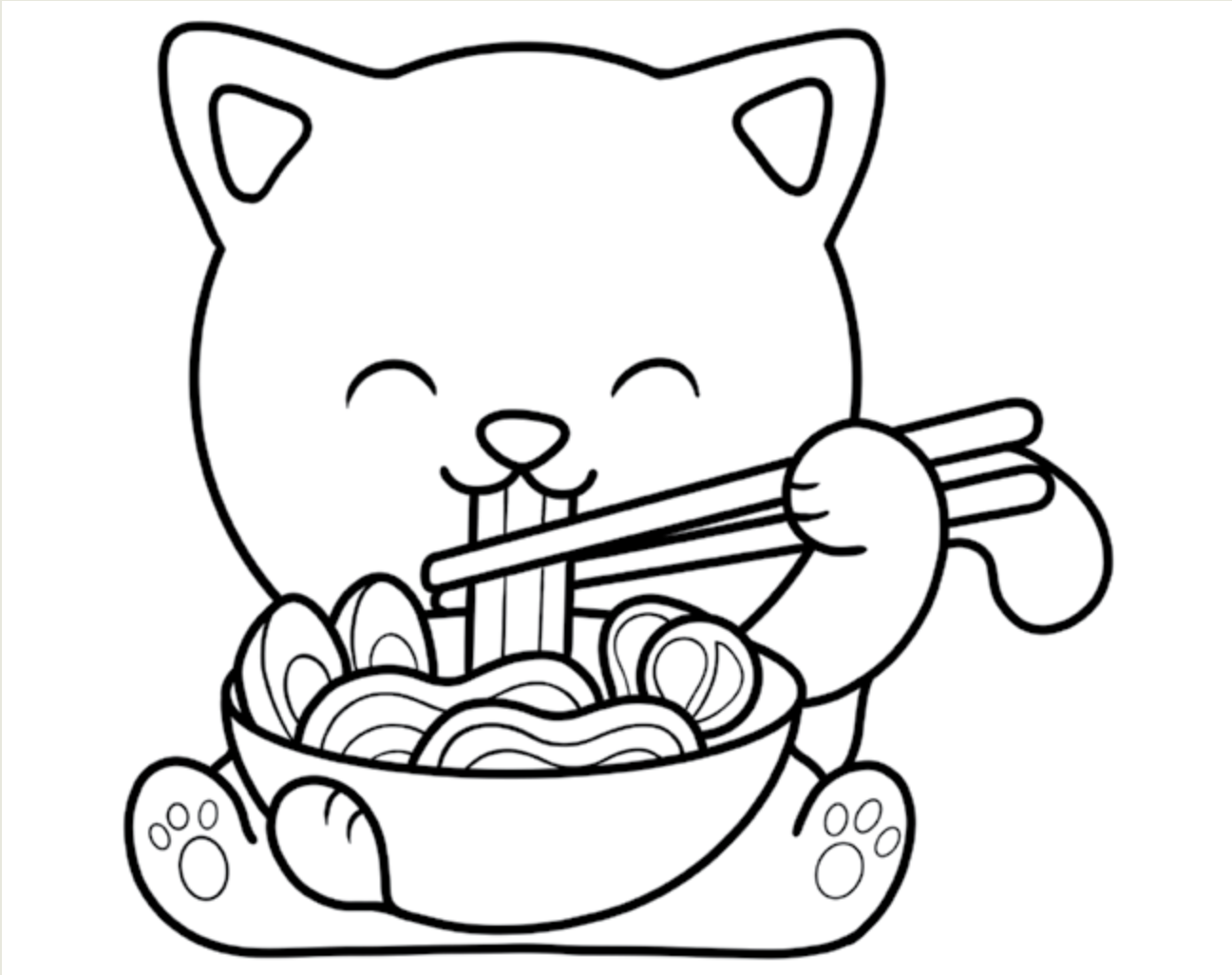
AQUARIUS JANUARY 20-FEBRUARY 18
You are the best at coming up with far-reaching ideas or being a visionary in your chosen field, but you might not be quite as flexible when it's time to implement those ideas or listen to other people's opinions. Try doing some simple yoga or even deep breathing, whatever it takes to help you find a way to stay limber so the rest of you can keep up with your clever (and flexible) brain.

CANCER JUNE 22-JULY 22
It's a good moment to keep your social life low-key. Instead of fighting your way through crowds, just gather a few close friends who really understand you (and spend your time near water, if possible). Your emotional nature might take you a step further and opt for solitude. This would be a good time to commune with your spirit and ask the big questions and get some big answers.

SCORPIO OCTOBER 23-NOVEMBER 21
Even if their demands are unreasonable or they're being weirdly fussy, face up to your people bravely. Use your natural speed and clever brain to engage them instead of simply dismissing their concerns. You're more than capable of giving generously (of time and energy), so make sure you take care of that right now, no matter how trying this person is to your patience.

PISCES FEBRUARY 19-MARCH 20
Break out the paints, computer, knitting needles, or whatever you use to please your muse. Your energy emphasizes art and creation now. That could mean exploring a museum you've never been to or maybe looking through your old sketchbooks from that long-ago drawing class. It should provide you with plenty of inspiration to pick up your tools and make something that pleases you.

KIDS COLOURING



BOGGLER

E	T	E	T
A	Y	D	R
W	M	H	I
B	A	I	E

Each game will present you with a matrix filled with letters. The objective is to form words by linking adjacent letters - to the left, right, on top, bottom, or diagonal to each other. The Boggles Classic game uses a 4 x 4 matrix. Words are valued at one point for each letter in excess of two letters. A three letter word is worth one point, a four letter word is worth two points, and so on. Valid words must be at least three letters long.

SOLUTION
20-25 words: Excellent,
15-20 words: Very good,
10-15 words: Good,
5-10 words: Average

DO YOU SUDOKU?

LEVEL EASY: Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9 and only one instance of each number

3		8	1					
2	9	1		8	5		3	
4	5		9	6				
		3	2			1		
		4	7		6	9		
		2			4	6		
				5	9		7	2
	3		6	2		4	9	1
					1	3		5

WORD BUILDER



You have three minutes to find all the words contained in this word.

Rules: Words should be at least four letters long, proper nouns and duplicates don't count

SUDOKU EASY ANSWER

6	9	3	1	4	8	6	2	7
1	6	4	7	2	9	5	3	8
2	7	8	6	5	3	9	4	1
7	8	9	4	5	3	2	1	6
3	2	6	9	1	7	4	8	5
4	5	1	8	6	2	3	7	9
1	5	4	3	9	6	7	8	2
8	1	2	5	3	9	6	7	4
6	9	7	3	5	8	4	1	2
4	6	2	7	1	8	9	3	5



Hercules of Fluminense celebrates after scoring against Inter Milan in their Club World Cup last 16 match in Charlotte, US, on Monday

Fluminense stun Inter to reach Club World Cup quarterfinals

Charlotte, US - Fluminense reached the Club World Cup quarter-finals with a stunning 2-0 win over Inter Milan as German Cano's early goal and substitute Hercules' stoppage-time strike toppled the Champions League

runners-up in sweltering heat on Monday.

Coach Renato's decision to line up a three-man defence paid off, catching Inter off guard and leaving the 2023 Copa Libertadores champions largely untrou-

bled throughout the match.

"I put it in their heads that it would work. Inter is a great team. They have much more money than us, but on the field it's 11 against 11," Renato told DAZN.

"The team believed, fought, and stayed focused for the 90 minutes."

Fluminense showed the grit and determination that have defined their campaign under Re-

nato, with Colombian winger Jhon Arias and striker Cano once again making the difference.

Arias was once again a force up and down the right channel in a memorable win for the Brazilian side.

Renato, a former Fluminense striker and club great, has transformed the team since taking over three months ago. Known for his attacking 4-2-3-1 system

and relentless high-pressure style, which he calls "creating chaos," Renato has brought out the best in a squad that struggled in 2024, narrowly avoiding relegation in the Brazilian league.

"Today, we were not facing just any team. We were facing one of the giants of European football, a team that just a few days ago was playing in the Champions League final against

They have much more money than us, but on the field it's 11 against 11. The team believed, fought, and stayed focused for the 90 minutes

RENATO, FLUMINENSE COACH

PSG," Renato said of Inter, who were thrashed 5-0 by the French side.

"We are very proud of ourselves for the affection and joy we are bringing to our fans and, without a doubt, to Brazilian football. We are proving that we have commitment and attitude on the pitch."

Fluminense struck after three

minutes when Cano pounced on a deflected cross and headed in from close range, putting the ball through goalkeeper Yann Sommer's legs for a dream start.

Inter dominated possession, but Fluminense created the better chances, with Colombian forward Jhon Arias causing all sorts of trouble for the Italian side's defence and Sommer.

Top-level mentality, or please leave, says Martinez

Charlotte, US - Inter Milan captain Lautaro Martinez did not hold back after Monday's 2-0 loss to Fluminense, criticising a lacklustre display as they exited the Club World Cup in the last 16.

Inter were stunned by a resilient Fluminense side, with the Italians failing to pose a real threat until the closing stages, leaving striker Martinez frustrated as he called on his teammates to show greater commitment.

"I want to fight for the major titles. Anyone who wants to stay at Inter, fine, let's fight. But anyone who doesn't want to stay can leave," the Argentine told reporters.

"We need players who want to be here. We're wearing an important shirt. We need a top-level mentality, or please leave."

Inter arrived at the revamped Club World Cup as title contenders but, aside from a 2-0 win over Argentinian side River Plate in the group stage, the Serie A side had an inconsistent campaign.

Lautaro Martinez



We've put Brazilian football on top of the world, says Cano

Charlotte, US - In a Club World Cup that has delivered eye-popping results, Fluminense have registered one of the most significant with their 2-0 victory over Inter Milan in the last 16 at Bank of America Stadium in Charlotte.

An early header from German Cano put the Brazilian side in dreamland, and stout defending carried them the rest of the way until a late insurance goal from Hercules cemented the epic triumph. The Argentinian striker displayed his natural goalscoring instinct in hunting for the opener.

"I am so happy that I was able to get a goal that was very important for us to keep growing into the game," Cano told FIFA. "It was a play that originated on the wing and a cross into the area in which the goalkeeper wasn't sure whether to come out or not. I was able to get in there and score with a header. So I'm very happy for the goal and for getting to the quarter-finals."

Fluminense join Palmeiras as Brazilian clubs reaching the final eight of the tournament.



German Cano of Fluminense celebrates after scoring against Inter Milan

We are very competitive and we are here because we believe in the work we do as a team. We believe that we can do big things

GERMAN CANO

"We are playing in one of the best leagues in the world," said Cano. "For me, Brazil is among them. We are very competitive and we are here because we believe in the work that we do daily as a team. We believe that we can do big things, and today we put Brazil on top of the world because we were able to advance to the quarter-finals of such a difficult competition."

Former Milan star Thiago Silva savours double celebration

Charlotte, US - Fluminense captain Thiago Silva had extra reason to celebrate after Monday's 2-0 win over Inter Milan in the Club World Cup round of 16, revelling not only in his team's historic performance but also in beating his former club's city rivals.

The 40-year-old defender, who returned to his hometown club Fluminense last year, played three seasons with Milan between 2009 and 2012, winning a Serie A title and an Italian Super Cup.

As Fluminense knocked their Italian opponents out of the tournament, Silva acknowledged he thought about the joy Milan fans would feel witnessing their arch-rivals' defeat. "I was thinking here and thinking about Milan," he said. "I'm sure the Milan fans will be happy about Inter's defeat and our victory."

The centre-back, who also enjoyed successful spells at Paris St Germain and Chelsea, praised his team's outstanding performance in overcoming the Champions League runners-up.



Fluminense captain Thiago Silva celebrates with Juan Pablo Freytes after their win against Inter Milan

Flamengo manager Filipe Luis on radar of Europe's top clubs

Philadelphia, US - Flamengo's spirited display at the Club World Cup ended with a 4-2 defeat by Bayern Munich in the last 16 but the Brazilian side's attacking approach under Filipe Luis has drawn praise and put the 39-year-old firmly on the radar of Europe's top clubs.

Despite the loss, Flamengo's

campaign, which included a commanding 3-1 win over Premier League Chelsea, showcased their ability to challenge European opposition, a feat no Brazilian club has managed in 13 years at this level.

Filipe Luis, a former defender with Atletico Madrid and Chelsea, has transformed Flamengo into an exciting offensive force since taking over last year, winning three domestic trophies in his first four months at the helm.

Filipe Luis' managerial career has taken off rapidly since he suc-



Filipe Luis

ceeded former Brazil coach Tite at Flamengo.

Under his guidance, the club won the Copa do Brasil in November, the Supercopa do Brasil against Botafogo in February, and the Carioca Championship in March. The Club World Cup marked the first tournament Luis has failed to win, though his achievements have already drawn comparisons to Brazil's top coaching exports.

European media have taken notice, with *Marc* describing him as "one of the greats in the making," while France's *L'Equipe*

praised his "brilliant transformation" of Flamengo. *The Athletic* labelled him "a young coach with a bright future."

Filipe Luis' Flamengo lead the Brasileirao and are in the knockout stages of the Copa Libertadores and Copa do Brasil.

With his European playing experience and early managerial success, Filipe Luis is seen as Brazil's best hope of returning a native coach to the top leagues of Europe. Only time will tell if Flamengo's manager will continue his rise and secure a move to one of Europe's elite clubs.

Leonardo stars in Al Hilal stunner

Saudi Arabian side shock Manchester City to reach Club World Cup quarterfinals

Orlando, US - Saudi Arabia's Al Hilal stunned Manchester City 4-3 in extra-time in Orlando on Monday to pull off one of the shocks of the Club World Cup and set up a quarterfinal against Brazil's Fluminense.

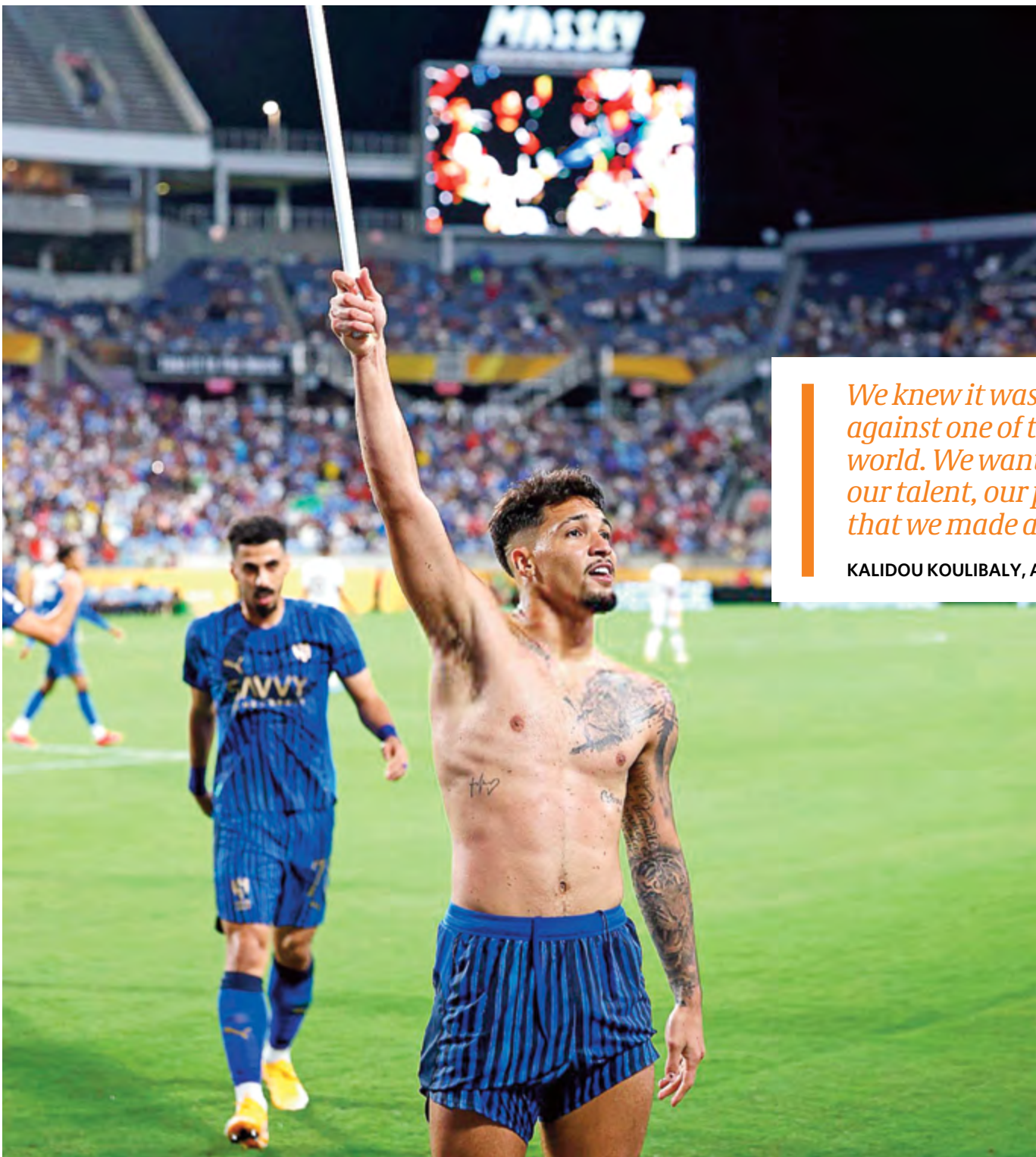
Marcos Leonardo scored his second of the night in the 112th minute as Simone Inzaghi's side saw off the Premier League club, who had taken a ninth minute lead through Bernardo Silva.

Quick-fire goals from Leonardo and Malcom in six minutes immediately after the restart put Al Hilal in front before Erling Haaland equalised for City in the 55th minute.

Four minutes into extra-time, Kalidou Koulibaly headed in Ruben Neves' corner to put Al Hilal in front and while Phil Foden levelled again for City Leonardo netted with seven minutes left to take Al Hilal through.

"We knew it was a difficult game against one of the best teams in the world," said Koulibaly. "We wanted to show our ideas, our talent, our power and I think that we made a very good game."

"Defensively we were very strong and offensively all of the opportunities we could put inside we put in, so we can be happy."



Al Hilal's Marcos Leonardo celebrates after scoring the winner against Manchester City in their Club World Cup last 16 match on Monday

We knew it was a difficult game against one of the best teams in the world. We wanted to show our ideas, our talent, our power and I think that we made a very good game

KALIDOU KOULIBALY, AL HILAL



Portuguese playmaker Silva had put City ahead when he pushed the ball over the line after Renan Lodi's attempted clearance ended up at his feet inside the six-yard box.

Replays showed the ball had brushed the wrist of City's Rayan Ait Nouri earlier in the move but the referee waved away the Al Hilal protests. Al Hilal goalkeeper Yassine Bounou then made a string of saves to deny City a second before the interval and within seconds of the restart the Saudi club levelled.

Malcom drove down the right and found Joao Cancelo, whose ball into the six-yard box was initially blocked by a sprawling Ederson but Leonardo headed the looping rebound into the unguarded net. Six minutes later Malcom was released behind the

defence by Cancelo's pass from deep inside his own half and the Brazilian showed composure to stroke his shot past Ederson.

The lead was to last only three minutes, however, as Haaland pounced on Silva's corner and the Norwegian was denied a late winner by a desperate clearance on the line from Ali Lajami.

The Saudis went ahead four minutes into extra-time when Koulibaly rose to glance home a header from a corner but City levelled once again, substitutes Rayan Cherki and Foden combining for the England international to steer a sublime first-time volley across Bounou and into the bottom corner.

Al Hilal would not be denied and Leonardo claimed his second of the night after seeing Ederson save Sergej Milinkovic-Savic's header, the weary Brazilian stumbling as he steered the winner home.

FIFPRO mulls longer halftimes, more breaks to counter heat

Miami, US - Global players' union FIFPRO is exploring whether extending halftime to 20 minutes and introducing more frequent cooling breaks could better protect players from extreme heat.

Nine of the 16 host cities for the 2026 World Cup face conditions considered "extreme risk" for heat-related illness.

Atlanta, Boston, Dallas, Guadalajara, Houston, Kansas City, Miami, Monterrey and Philadelphia are expected to face dangerous levels of heat and humidity, posing player safety concerns and fueling calls for mandatory cooling aids or schedule changes.

FIFPRO's heat risk assessments are based on wet bulb globe temperature (WBGT), a measure combining temperature, humidity, solar radiation and wind speed to estimate how environmental conditions affect the body's ability to cool itself.

Under FIFPRO guidelines, a WBGT reading above 28 degrees Celsius indicates conditions in which matches should be postponed or rescheduled to protect players' health.

By comparison, FIFA's own guidelines set the extreme risk threshold higher, at 32 degrees Celsius WBGT - but even by that standard, six of the nine cities are still projected to exceed safe limits.

We had to climb Mount Everest without oxygen and we made it, says Inzaghi

Orlando, US - Al-Hilal coach Simone Inzaghi likened his side's shock 4-3 extra-time win over Manchester City in the last 16 of the Club World Cup to "climbing Mount Everest without oxygen" after the Saudi side booked an unexpected berth in the quarterfinals.

Inzaghi's side will face Brazil's Fluminense in the last eight on Friday after Marcos Leonardo scored a 112th minute winner for the Riyadh-based club to eliminate Pep Guardiola's team at the end of a



Simone Inzaghi

seven-goal thriller in Orlando.

"The key to this result was the players, and the heart they put on the pitch tonight. We had to do something extraordinary because we all know Manchester City, that team."

"We had to climb Mount Everest without oxygen and we made it. All the players were exceptional in everything, in the possession phase, the non-possession phase," said Inzaghi.

Al Hilal have been majority-owned by Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund since 2023 and

over the last two years have invested heavily in big-name foreign signings including Ruben Neves, Sergej Milinkovic-Savic and Kalidou Koulibaly.

"We were very well organised in possession and we played well from a technical point of view against a team which is really aggressive and strong in possession."

"(Pep) Guardiola, I believe, is the best coach in the world, but tonight we did our best and I believe we deserve this result," added Inzaghi.

PSG serve reminder of their firepower ahead of Bayern clash

Miami, US - When Paris Saint-Germain are in full flight they remind fans why they are one of the most dangerous teams in world football, as they showed in their blistering 4-0 win against Inter Miami at the Club World Cup on Sunday.

The demolition of the MLS side was a statement of how devastating European champions PSG can be when their collective talent snaps into perfect sync.

The way they dismantled Lionel Messi's Miami outfit in a suffocating first-half blitz will have not gone unnoticed by their quarter-final opponents Bayern Munich.

Under a closed roof in Atlanta in a game played with a controlled temperature of 19 degrees Celsius, Luis Enrique's side pressed with relentless energy, moved the ball with purpose, and choked the life out of their opponents.

"We started the match really well and imposed our rhythm,"



Paris Saint-Germain's demolition of Inter Miami in the last 16 proves they are back to their best after a lacklustre game against Botafogo

We had a bit of fatigue in the group phase but we rested. When we are in form like this, nobody can stop us

BRADLEY BARCOLA, PSG

said Bradley Barcola after the game. "We had a bit of fatigue in the group phase but we rested. When we're in form like this, nobody can stop us."

Joao Neves, who starred with two goals in a man-of-the-match performance, reflected the team's relentless mindset.

"We will continue to play our game no matter the opponent," the Portugal midfielder said.

Luis Enrique, who has turned PSG into a cohesive, ruthless unit, stressed that their ability to stay focused was key.

"We started the match in the

best possible way, with concentration and the right mentality to play our football from the first minutes," the Spaniard said.

"We deserved our lead at halftime and after that it was a completely different match because the result dictated everything."

His words reflected satisfaction with the performance and an awareness that maintaining such intensity is the key to finally delivering on PSG's long-held ambitions.

As the Paris side prepare for a far tougher test against Bayern in the quarter-finals on Saturday, the emphatic display served as a timely reminder of their immense potential.

"PSG are a top team, European champions," Bayern striker Harry Kane said. "We played them once this year and we came out on top but it was a difficult game and we know the qualities they have and we'll have to be ready."

French players' union blasts Infantino over packed calendar

Miami, US - France's professional footballers' union wants FIFA to halt what it describes as a "game of massacre" affecting players' health, accusing President Gianni Infantino of ignoring the toll an overloaded calendar, with an expanded Club World Cup, is taking.

The UNFP has issued a scathing statement, warning that the tournament exemplifies how the relentless match schedule is pushing players to the brink, both physically and mentally.



Gianni Infantino

"The incongruity of the situation escapes no one — except, of course, Gianni Infantino and his flatterers," the UNFP said. "From his ivory tower, which he tours around the world, the FIFA president shows no concern for the fate the international calendar reserves for top players."

The UNFP said the Club World Cup comes at the end of an exhausting season and claims that it disregards collective bargaining agreements that guarantee players at least three weeks of complete rest between seasons.

ALCARAZ SURVIVES FOGNINI SCARE

Sabalenka
cruises past
qualifier
Branstine;
Paolini made
to sweat

London, England - Carlos Alcaraz survived Wimbledon's hottest-ever opening day although the Spaniard was far from his sizzling best as he began his quest for a hat-trick of titles with a scare against Fabio Fognini at the All England Club on Monday.

With air temperatures soaring to 32 degrees Celsius, Alcaraz needed more than four hours to subdue veteran Fognini, winning 7-5 6-7(5) 7-5 2-6 6-1 - the last set interrupted after a spectator became unwell in the heat and required assistance.

Women's top seed Aryna Sabalenka, bidding to win Wimbledon for the first time, had no trouble as she dispatched Canadian qualifier Carson Branstine 6-1 7-5 but last year's runner-up, Jasmine Paolini, was pushed hard by Latvia's Anastasija Sevastova in a 2-6 6-3 6-2 win.

While five-times Grand Slam champion Alcaraz, who won the Queen's Club title in the build-up, lives to fight another day, several high-profile players departed the men's draw.

Eighth seed Holger Rune of Denmark, yet to really make his mark at a Grand Slam, won the opening two sets against Chilean qualifier Nicolas Jarry but succumbed 4-6 4-6 7-5 6-3 6-4.

Greece's Stefanos Tsitsipas, twice a Grand Slam runner-up, was left despondent after retiring with a back injury having fallen two sets behind against French qualifier Valentin Royer.

American fifth seed Taylor Fritz looked to be on his way out before battling back to force a



Carlos Alcaraz hits a return to Fabio Fognini during their opening match at Wimbledon on Monday

Alcaraz arrived at Wimbledon on an 18-match winning streak, which included a French Open final win over Sinner. But the spark was missing on Monday in front of a crowd that included David Beckham

fifth set against big-serving Frenchman Giovanni Mpetshi Perricard before their match was suspended with the Grand Slam's 11 p.m. curfew looming.

German third seed Alexander Zverev summoned up similar fighting spirit to draw level at one set apiece with Arthur Rinderknech in another match

scheduled to resume on Tuesday.

Only two defending men's champions had ever lost in the first round at Wimbledon, but there were moments when Alcaraz looked in danger of joining compatriot Manuel Santana on that short list as Fognini rolled back the years.

Alcaraz arrived at Wimbledon

on an 18-match winning streak, which included a spellbinding French Open final win over Jannik Sinner. But the spark was missing on Monday in front of a Centre Court crowd that included David Beckham.

Heat is second nature to Alcaraz, but it was Fognini who flourished in the sun and when he broke serve twice to level the match at two sets apiece a massive shock looked possible.

But Alcaraz, regularly using an ice towel to cool down, found an extra gear in the decider and even charmed the crowd by offering his water bottle to the distressed fan.

Italian Cocciaretto shows Pegula the door

London, England - Fresh off a title in Bad Homburg and tipped for a deep run at Wimbledon, world number three Jessica Pegula suffered a shock first-round exit on Tuesday, dismantled 6-2 6-3 by unheralded Italian Elisabetta Cocciaretto.

It was a meek surrender from Pegula, who looked out of sorts from the outset on Court Two. She landed only half her first serves, struck just five winners and committed 24 unforced errors in a performance more tentative than tenacious.

"No, it wasn't (good). It was terrible," Pegula said of her serve. "It's so frustrating when something you've been working on so much doesn't come and help you when you want it to, especially on grass."

The American had won 17 consecutive first-round matches at the Grand Slams, a run dating back to 2021. "It's really a bummer to lose," she said. "I'm upset that I wasn't able to turn anything



Jessica Pegula

around. But at the same time, I do feel like she played kind of insane. Kudos to her."

Cocciaretto, ranked 116th in the world, was rock-solid throughout, breaking the American four times and avenging her straight-sets loss to Pegula at Wimbledon two years ago. It was

just the second top-10 win of the 23-year-old's career, and richly earned.

"Playing on this court is a dream for me," she said, beaming.

Pegula tried to adjust to the Italian's pace and variety but found no answers.

Ton up Bosch takes five wickets as Proteas thrash Zimbabwe

Bulawayo, Zimbabwe - All-rounder Corbin Bosch took a first five-wicket haul in Test cricket to go with his maiden century as a much-changed South Africa thumped hosts Zimbabwe by 328 runs on day four of the first Test in Bulawayo on Tuesday.

Set a massive target of 537 for victory, Zimbabwe were bowled out for 208 in the afternoon session as Bosch, who finished 100 not out in the visitors' first innings, took 5-43 and debutant seamer Codi Yusuf chipped in with 3-22.

Wellington Masakadza top scored for the hosts with 57 and captain Craig Ervine managed 49, but for the rest it was a procession of wickets after Zimbabwe began the day on 32-1.

South Africa fielded only four of the players who defeated Aus-



Corbin Bosch

tralia in the World Test Championship final at Lord's earlier this month.

The second and final match in the series will also be played at the Queens Sports Club and starts on Sunday.

"Bosch is new to the international scene, but he's really fit in well. To see him conquer both facets (bat and ball) in this test was really special," stand-in South Africa captain Keshav Ma-

haraj said at the post-match presentation.

"We know the talent within our system. It was getting them in the right frame of mind to execute, and they showed that throughout the four days."

Zimbabwe were immediately under pressure on the fourth morning when Nick Welch was caught off the first ball of the day by short-leg Tony de Zorzi from the bowling of Bosch for a golden duck. The latter then claimed the prized wicket of Sean Williams, who made a superb 137 in Zimbabwe's first innings for 26.

Ervine and Masakadza provided some resistance with a stand of 83 for the seventh wicket, but when the former was caught by De Zorzi off the bowling of Bosch, South Africa mopped up the tail.

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Menswear in Milan

THE SPRING-SUMMER 2026 MENSWEAR SHOWS IN MILAN, WHERE THE COLLECTIONS WERE GENERALLY A MIXED BAG, DISPLAYED A VARIETY OF STYLES FROM SHORTS TO SUITS

MILAN FASHION WEEK

The feeling of unease is one of the hallmarks of our times, with cost of living increases and geopolitical conflicts contributing to a sense of disquietude. Within fashion, there is just as much uncertainty amid the ever-changing roster of designers at major luxury houses and a challenging retail climate. That mood was reflected at the Spring-Summer 2026 menswear shows in Milan, where the collections were generally a mixed bag. But one thing several designers agreed on was the need for compassion. “The most important thing for us was a change of tone: an invitation to embrace gentleness,” Prada co-creative director Miuccia Prada told journalists after the show. That sentiment was echoed by Italian entrepreneur Brunello Cucinelli. “We need to find elegance, gentleness and embrace the art of listening to one another,” he told CNN at his presentation.

‘Good vibes only’ With introspection seemingly top of Prada’s mind, the namesake designer and the brand’s co-creative director Raf Simons sought to offer a calm and gentle respite to the troubled world. “Basically, the opposite of aggression, power, nastiness, which seems to not interest me right now,” Prada told reporters backstage. The show, which was attended by the likes of Harris Dickinson, Riz Ahmed and Benedict Cumberbatch, featured dishevelled suiting, tiny shorts, hut-shaped intrecciato hats and striped tracksuits. At Dolce and Gabbana, designers Domenico Dolce and Stefano Gabbana continued their exploration of heritage and Italian elegance, with a star-studded front row that included newly appointed brand ambassador Theo James. On the runway, models wore loungewear and versatile, slouchy separates, trousers with pleats and wide hems, oversized stripes across shirts and jackets (at times they mimicked pajamas), and leather pieces inspired by the 1980s. Elsewhere, Brunello Cucinelli took a relaxed approach, offering classic, sometimes bold-coloured, separates, inspired by the early ‘90s — viewed by some as a simpler time. “The jacket is a bit shorter, while trousers are a bit higher and softer,” the eponymous designer told CNN. There was also a new capsule collection of cocktail evening-wear featuring jackets with satin-free shawl lapels, which were paired with silk-cotton knits.

Fluid and versatile The look of Italian fashion has evolved in recent years towards greater simplicity, sartorial rigor and a focus on form. The latter is key to Milan-based independent label Setchu, where its Japanese founder Satoshi Kuwata presented another collection of pragmatic and modular pieces. Inspired by the designer’s fishing adventures in Zimbabwe, standout looks — such as garment bags turned into dresses, denim pants worn as skirts, shrunken blazers with peak lapels and

straw helmets — combined playfulness with functionality. N o b o d y captures easy elegance better than Giorgio Armani. For the Italian label’s latest collection, there was a shift towards greater fluidity, marking a departure of sorts from their typical suiting. Double-breasted jackets with shawl collars were shortened, while trousers either tapered at the ankle or hung loosely towards the floor. However, Armani himself was not present to take a bow; the 90-year-old designer was “recovering at home,” according to a statement from the brand, without providing further details. British menswear stal-

wart Paul Smith, which normally shows in Paris, made its Milan debut with a show that expressed love for the city. Flea markets and vintage relics were references that defined the designer’s joyful moodboard, which also took inspiration from a book of Cairo street photography. Fellow British label Dunhill, which also migrated to Milan this season, dug into the elegance of Windsor men — in particular, the Duke of Windsor and King Charles, as well as British rock stars Bryan Ferry and Charlie Watts. “What I love is that both sets of men adhere to a very classic taste but one group wore it in a very codified way and the others wore it in a much more effortless casual way,” Dunhill’s designer Simon Holloway told CNN. “In a way, the components were the same — incredible tailoring, incredible outerwear, haberdashery, the full gamut of the classic men’s wardrobe worn in two very uniquely British ways.”

(Courtesy: cnn.com)



Prize to be unwrapped

ONE OF THE OLDEST ELEMENTS OF A BRIDAL ENSEMBLE, VEILS HAVE LARGELY REMAINED A STAPLE ACCESSORY FOR EVEN THE MOST MODERN, SUBVERSIVE BRIDES

When singer Lily Allen married actor David Harbour at an Elvis-inspired Las Vegas chapel in 2020, she eschewed an ornate gown in favour of a '60s-style Dior double-breasted mini-dress — but still wore a conventional tiered veil in her up-do.

And when singer Gwen Stefani decided on a boundary-pushing wedding frock (also Dior, designed by John Galliano for her 2002 wedding) that was dip-dyed in a shock of pink; so, too, was her trailing veil.

Over the weekend, Lauren Bezos Sanchez became the latest high-profile bride complete her look with tulle on top during her lavish, eyebrow-raising wedding in Venice. After slipping on her custom Dolce & Gabbana mermaid-line gown at her final fitting, seamstresses applied the cascading lace-finished veil to Bezos Sanchez's head 'like a

crown', according to Vogue.

A veiled history

At her wedding in 1840, Queen Victoria swapped her velvet robe of state in favour of a white silk gown — its wide, almost off-the-shoulder neckline trimmed with a curtain of lace. On the day she married Prince Albert, she was not the British monarch, but an adoring bride dressed in the purest ivory to signify her virtue. (The archbishop asked if Her Majesty would like the word 'obey' removed from the vows. She insisted it remained.) If only for just a few hours, she was playing a different role and wearing a different costume: Both would endure for well over a century.

Only recently have some of the traditional aspects of bridal wear first popularised by Victoria been updated for modern times. Hemlines are growing ever higher as the mini wedding dress

reigns supreme in the age of the pared-down ceremony while some brides have opted out of a dress altogether — gliding down the aisle in tailored suits instead.

An increasing number of brides, such as singer and actress Mandy Moore at her wedding in 2018, opt out of wearing white altogether (she chose a dusty-rose gown from Rodarte). Yet despite these contemporary reforms, one long-established accessory has displayed more staying power than the rest - the veil.

If anything, veils appear to have gotten bigger in recent years — sometimes demanding more attention than the dress itself. In 2018, actress Priyanka Chopra made headlines with her Ralph Lauren wedding gown, topped off with 75-feet of tulle (and five people to help carry it). The following year, Hailey Baldwin (now Hailey Bieber) married Justin Bieber in a giant Off-White wedding veil with the words 'Till Death do us Part' embroidered at the hem of the pooling fabric.

"The veil has become a canvas that really provides the drama you might not get from a more minimalist dress," said Kimberly Chrisman-Campbell, author of "The Way We Wed: A Global History of Wedding Fashion."

Return to fashion

Previously, veils of grandeur — or length — were reserved for royal nuptials. In 1981, Princess Diana wore the largest veil in the monarch's history, clocking in at a whopping 25-foot. It was hand-embellished with 10,000 micro pearls by London-based seamstress Peggy Umpleby, who took

the veil home on public transport each day to continue working on it well into the night. Meghan, Duchess of Sussex, followed suit in 2018 with a 16-foot long veil made of silk tulle, hand-embroidered with the flowers of the

Commonwealth countries.

The veil's appeal has even trickled off the aisle and onto the runway. This season at Paris Fashion Week, Andreas Kronthaler, creative director at Vivienne Westwood, sent both, a black and white, tulle veil down the catwalk, off-setting a polka dot and navy dress respectively.

At the London shows, Turkish designer Bora Aksu went one step further, offering netted veils in red and blush pink. Even at this year's Grammys, musician Gracie Abrams donned a chiffon Chanel veil for the ceremony's red carpet.

But according to Chrisman-Campbell, veils are simply returning to fashion — not being adopted by it. Historically, veils in western culture began as a fashion for the wealthy, she said. The upper echelons wore hand-made lace, which during the late

made lace, making the fabric more affordable to the masses. "Suddenly, more people could afford to have a very beautiful piece of diaphanous, beautifully embellished textile," she said. "That's why veils became fashionable."

In Ancient Greece, the bridal veil, also known as a 'flammeum', was seen as a form of protection for women, shielding them from evil spirits, wedding jitters, and other potential bad omens. Other cultures have used the garment as a means of obscuring the bride's face during the final moments before an arranged marriage. One urban myth argues veils were intended to hinder women from potentially running away, while others speculate they symbolize a bride being untouched and brand new — a prize to be unwrapped.



Paris Hilton wore an Oscar de la Renta wedding dress for her ceremony in 2021, complete with a cathedral-length veil

Anything but a veil

While Chrisman-Campbell isn't convinced by every interpretation of the veil, she has observed its association with purity and chastity which meant divorcees and widows wearing veils during their second wedding was widely considered a social faux pas.

"There was a big taboo against wearing a veil if you had been married once before," she said. Second brides were also excluded from wearing white, carrying a bouquet or wearing a floor-length gown."

(Courtesy: cnn.com)



Diana, the Princess of Wales, seated in her bridal gown at Buckingham Palace

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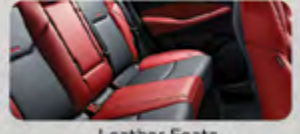
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