

Oman up nine places in UN E-Government Index

Our Correspondent
Muscat

The Sultanate of Oman has made significant strides in the United Nations E-Government Index 2024 advancing nine positions to rank 41st out of 193 countries.

This marks a substantial improvement from its 50th place in 2022, positioning Oman as the fifth-ranked nation in the Middle East and North Africa and 12th in Asia now.

Created by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the biennial UN E-Government Survey is monitored by E-Government Index, comprising three main sub-indices: Online Services Index, the Telecommunications Infrastructure Index, and the Human Capital Index.

In the 2024 Online Services Index, Oman achieved a ranking of 48th, up from 58th in 2022. This index evaluates the official portals for e-government services and government websites across various sectors, including education, health, social development, finance, employment, environment, and open data initiatives.



Oman also showed notable progress in the Human Capital Index, climbing 14 spots to 55th place globally, compared to 69th in 2022

The Telecommunications Infrastructure Index measures readiness through four indicators: Broadband Internet penetration per 100 inhabitants, percentage of individuals using the Internet, mobile phone subscriptions per 100 inhabitants, and fixed internet subscriptions per 100 inhabitants.

Oman also showed notable progress in the Human Capital Index, climbing 14 spots to 55th place globally, compared to 69th in 2022. This improvement reflects advancements in education levels, assessed through indicators such as adult literacy rates, gross enrollment rates in primary and secondary education, ex-

pected years of study, and average years of study.

According to the survey, with robust ICT infrastructure and widespread Internet access, Oman ranks among the top 50 countries in the Government AI Readiness Index. The digitisation of the 2020 census improved data accuracy, and the fully digitised electoral process in recent Consultative Assembly elections showcased Oman's progress.

The GCC countries too have achieved remarkable progress in digital government transformation. 'These nations have embraced the digital revolution as part of their broader economic diversification strategies, with significant investments in digital infrastructure, e-services and smart technologies,' it stated.

Overall Saudi Arabia is ranked 6th, UAE 11th, Bahrain 18th, Qatar 53rd and Kuwait 66th.

'A key element of their success has been the strategic importance assigned to digital cooperation among GCC countries, as this approach has facilitated the sharing of advancements and regional integration in digital governance.'



CEOs of GCC airports at Muscat forum discuss regional alliance

Our Correspondent
Muscat

The first GCC Airports CEOs Forum, held in Muscat on Wednesday, explored the possibility of forming a regional alliance aimed at strengthening cooperation among the Middle Eastern airports.

The forum, organised by the Oman Airports, focused on sharing experiences between airports in the Gulf, improving services for travellers, and discussing procurement and contracts.

Sheikh Aimen bin Ahmed al Hosni, Oman Airports CEO, said the forum seeks to enhance collaboration among the GCC countries in line with the region's broader economic goals. "This initiative aligns with the aspirations of the GCC leaders to promote sustainable economic development and improve infrastructure in response to growing

This initiative aligns with the aspirations of the GCC leaders to promote sustainable economic development in response to growing air travel demands

SHEIKH AIMEN AL HOSNI

air travel demands," he explained.

Hosni also mentioned that the forum will become an annual event, with the next host city to be announced soon.

Ali Salem al Midfa, Chairman of Sharjah International Airport, underscored the importance of such events in fostering closer cooperation among airports in the region. He noted that the forum provides a valuable platform for exchanging ideas and finding innovative solutions to enhance air-

port operations and services, while also ensuring sustainable growth in the aviation sector.

The discussions included presentations on the Oman Airports' strategic plans - in line with Oman Vision 2040, which aims to position the country as a key hub for air transport between East and West. There was also a focus on the success stories of Gulf airports and their growing presence on the global stage, particularly in economic and tourism sectors.

The potential for establishing a regional alliance of Middle Eastern airports was also discussed, with participants highlighting the role such an alliance could play in achieving common strategic goals. Additionally, future cooperation opportunities within the Gulf aviation sector were explored, with emphasis on the need for stronger integration to remain competitive.

Oman urges end to Israeli occupation of Palestine at UN

New York, USA - Oman has urged all United Nations member states to support a draft resolution calling for an end to the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories within 12 months.

The General Assembly was scheduled to vote on the resolution on Wednesday, which is part of a Palestinian push for international support.



Khalid bin Saleh al Rabkhi

The non-binding resolution, based on an advisory opinion from the International Court of Justice (ICJ), states that Israel's occupation of Palestinian land since 1967 is 'unlawful'. Israel has opposed the resolution, arguing that its adoption could lead to further violence.

Oman praised the ICJ's advisory opinion, issued on July 19,

which highlighted the legal consequences of Israel's continued occupation of Palestinian territories, including East Jerusalem. The sultanate said this opinion reflects the international community's commitment to justice and the rule of law. Oman called on Israel to end its 'illegal presence' and compensate the Palestinian people for the damages caused

by its policies.

Speaking at the tenth emergency special session of the UN General Assembly, Counselor Khalid bin Saleh al Rabkhi, Oman's Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN, said the advisory opinion represents a significant step in supporting Palestinian rights. He urged the international community to take

collective responsibility to ensure the opinion is implemented and to work towards ending the occupation. Oman also expressed deep concern over the ongoing blockade and military operations in Gaza, calling for an immediate end to the siege and the delivery of urgent humanitarian aid. Oman called on UN member states to support the resolution.



Art 'En Plein Air': Grassroots Omani art takes shape in green fields



GOLF LINKS

The Luxury of Nature

Ocean and golf at your door — 4 bedroom residences and 1-3 bedroom apartments — Starting price OMR 77,000

Limited availability. Reserve your new home today
almouj.com | 800 77776

الموج
almouj
مسقط muscat

Terms And Condition Applies



Get more returns on High Yield Savings Account

With Al Rifaa Privilege Account

Visit your nearest branch today



الأعمال المصرفية الحصرية
PRIVILEGE BANKING

2479 101

www.bankdhofar.com



bankdhofar

Scan to learn more





SPF starts Family Income Benefit distribution

Our Correspondent
Muscat

Social Protection Fund (SPF) has begun distributing the Family Income Benefits on Wednesday, part of the government’s initiative to enhance citizens’ standard of living.

Ibrahim bin Mahmoud al Baridi, Director of Communication and Media at SPF, announced that the fund has initiated the process of disbursing financial support to 79,000 families registered in the programme’s first phase.

These families, previously supported by the Ministry of Social Development, will now receive assistance through this benefit, replacing traditional social security pensions.

Baridi noted that among the 79,000 social security cases transferred from the Ministry of Social Development, 25,000 have registered for the Family Income Benefits, with 12,732 cases meeting the eligibility criteria.

He informed that the registration for the remaining eligible categories will open in October and continue until the end of 2024. Some registered cases may require data corrections, and the SPF will reach out to these individuals via text messages, he assured. “The SPF’s mission is to provide comprehensive social protection to ensure a decent life for all members of society, aiming to guarantee access to essential support systems and fostering a foundation for dignified living,” said Baridi.

Oman, S Korea celebrate 50 years of relations with year-long events

Our Correspondent
Muscat

Oman and South Korea are marking 50 years of diplomatic relations in 2024 with a series of celebratory events and programmes - panning business, sports, and cultural exchanges.

The year-long festivities started in May with the launch of a commemorative logo, followed by a reception honouring the National Youth Taekwondo Team medal winners at the GCC Youth Games. A notable Korea-Oman Green Industry Business meet was also held in September, underscoring both nations’ commitment to sustainable development.

Forthcoming events include a music performance by ADG7, a Korean fusion traditional music group, set to perform at Al Bustan Palace on September 25.

Additionally, the Korean Ambassador’s Cup will take place at the Sultan Qaboos Complex, with the Korea-Oman Business Forum rounding off the year in December.

Speaking about the events, H E Kiejoo Kim, Ambassador of South Korea to Oman, praised the longstanding relations be-

Korea is proud to be Oman’s third-largest trading partner... Recent agreements, such as the FTA with the GCC countries and the bilateral trade and investment promotion framework, will bolster economic ties

H E KIEJOO KIM

tween the two nations. He said, “Korea is proud to be Oman’s third-largest trading partner.”

He highlighted that recent agreements, such as the free trade agreement between South

Korea and the GCC countries and the bilateral trade and investment promotion framework, will further bolster economic ties.

H E Kim also stressed the importance of Oman Vision 2040,

emphasising future-oriented partnerships in renewable energy and environmental technology.

On the cultural front, H E Kim added that the embassy plans to bring back the popular film festi-

val in Oman. “Films from South Korea are very popular in Oman and films like *Parasite* and the Netflix series *The Squid Game* has been trending for long. We will plan to get back these classic from next year.”

Since establishing diplomatic relations in 1974, Oman and Korea have maintained strong cooperation, marked by mutual respect and growing collaboration across political, economic, and cultural spheres.



MUSCAT GOVERNMENT MUSCAT MUNICIPALITY

Advertisement No.(27 /2024)

International Companies specialized in the field and registered with Tender Board, may obtain tenderdocuments for the website through the following link: (<https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om>) against non-refundable fees as mentioned below starting from the date of this announcement and until the end of deadline stipulated below.

Tender Number	Description of Tender	Last date to collect the tender	Tender return date
PRE/23/264 (Re-Call)	Renovation of Football Pitch at Al Seeb Municipality- ReTender	29/09/2024	06/10/2024
PRE-24-041 (Re-Call)	Consultancy Services for Development at Hail Al Ghaf - ReTender	13/10/2024	29/10/2024
PRE/24/264	Renewing IBM FILENET & CMS Licenses for Record and Document Management System	29/09/2024	06/10/2024
PRE/24/241	RFP of Support and Maintenance Services for Oracle SUN Solaris Servers	03/10/2024	10/10/2024

- Bidders shall submit their offers electronically.
- Clarification and Support:
 - For any inquiries regarding tenders, please visit e-tendering website: (<https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om>) .
 - For technical support of e-tendering system please send an email to (etenderhd@mtcit.gov.om) or call (+96824402200).

New farming project to reduce reliance on imported onions

Our Correspondent
Muscat

In a bid to strengthen food security and boost local agricultural output, the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Water Resources (MAFWR) has signed an agreement for cultivation of onions on over 20 hectares of land in the wilayat of Dhank, in Dhahirah governorate.

The initiative, to be funded by the Agricultural and Fisheries Development Fund, is expected to contribute significantly to reducing the sultanate’s reliance on imported onions.

The ministry, represented by the Directorate General of Agriculture and Water Resources in Dhahirah, signed the agreement with Dhank Agricultural Production and Marketing Company, an official informed.

Under the pact, the ministry will offer both technical and financial support for the cultivation of red onions using modern farming techniques.

This project is part of a broader effort between the company and the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning, aimed at de-

veloping an onion cultivation project covering over 400 hectares in Dhahirah governorate. The initiative is projected to produce around 700 tonnes of red onion annually, helping

to meet the demands of the local market and reduce imports.

Eng Salem bin Ali al Amrani, Director General of Agriculture and Water Resources in Dhahirah, stated that the project aligns with the ministry’s goals under Oman Vision 2040 to increase self-sufficiency in key crops like onions. He highlighted that this effort marks a critical step toward boosting agricultural production across the country.

Adel bin Nasser al Hasani, representing Dhank Agricultural Production and Marketing Company, noted that the partnership with the ministry reflects a shared commitment to enhancing local food production and strengthening the role of the private sector in agriculture.

According to the National Center for Statistics and Information, Oman had over 3,600 hectares dedicated to onion cultivation in 2022, with an annual production of nearly 15,000 tonnes, representing 14% of the country’s total consumption of this crop.

The new Dhank project is expected to further increase these numbers, contributing to the overall goal of reducing reliance on imported produce.

Afghanistan reopens embassy in Muscat

Our Correspondent
Muscat

The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (IEA) has reopened its embassy in Muscat, the country’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced on Tuesday.

‘It is hereby to inform that, as of Sunday, September 15, the IEA Embassy has officially resumed its routine operations and consular services for both Afghan and Omani citizens,’ it said.

With the cooperation of the host nation, the resumption of the embassy’s operations will play a pivotal role in strengthening bilateral relations between Kabul and Muscat, facilitating enhanced political, economic, social, and religious engagement. ‘The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan expresses its gratitude to the Foreign Ministry of the Sultanate of Oman for its co-operation in this regard.’

Hafiz Zia Ahmad Takal, Deputy Spokesman and Assistant Director of Public Relations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of IEA, confirmed that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Emirate is overseeing the embassy’s operations in Muscat.



RO9mn Al Mughsayl Bridge to ease traffic, boost tourism in Dhofar

Our Correspondent
Muscat

The Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology on Wednesday signed an agreement for the construction of a major bridge in the Governorate of Dhofar, along with a connecting road at a total cost of over RO9mn.

Al Mughsayl Bridge, with its striking decorative arches rising up to 45.9m, is set to become a major tourist attraction for its structure, while serving as a key traffic route in Dhofar.

Inspired by local architecture, the bridge will be constructed to ease the traffic flow while adding to the region's scenic appeal, an official said.

The deal was signed by H E Said bin Hamood bin Said al Mawali, Minister of Transport, Communications and Informa-



tion Technology, and Syed Azhar Ali, Director of AZ Engineers & Partners.

The 630m long concrete bridge will be supported by 20 columns and two 13m high side pillars. It will feature six decorative arches, ranging in heights from 35.9m to 45.9m.

The project also includes parking spaces on both sides of the road, a lit walkway, and a crossing for easy access to nearby tourist spots.

H E Mawali said that the bridge will not only improve the road network in Dhofar but will also strengthen connections between Salalah and the western wilayats such as Rakhyut and Dhakut. The bridge, with a design reflecting local architecture, will withstand harsh weather conditions, he added.

The Al Mughsayl Bridge project will also serve as an important international route leading to Yemen's border crossing. Ad-



ditionally, the bridge is likely to boost tourism in the area due to its proximity to popular destinations such as Al Marneef Cave, the Mughsayl Fountains, and Mughsayl Beach.

H E Mawali also noted the progress of other key road projects in the region. These include the recently completed Wadi Adunub crossing in Raysut and the ongoing construction of the Wadi Afool Bridge, both of which were sanctioned to improve links

with the western wilayats.

Work is also underway on the Arjot-Sarfit road in Dalkout and the Harweeb-Miten project that will connect Dhofar's western region with Al Mazyouna. The work for these two projects has progressed 20%. Other significant developments include the dualisation of the Raysut-Al Mughsayl road and the awarding of contracts for the Haima-Thumrait road, which is expected to be completed by the end of 2024.

Two new agreements signed to stimulate economy in Buraimi



Our Correspondent
Muscat

Buraimi governorate has signed two agreements on Wednesday with a local company to launch investment projects at a combined value exceeding RO3mn.

The first agreement entails the construction of a commercial complex spanning over 20,000sqm. This two-floor complex will feature more than 200 shops, offering diverse entertainment and retail options, along with various facilities enhanced by distinctive artistic touches.

The second agreement paved the way for a Chinese market, which will occupy more than 3,000sqm and include 100 shops dedicated.

The two projects, and some additional amenities, will cover a total area of 25,897sqm, officials informed.

Additionally, the market will house restaurants and cafés, a children's entertainment centre, green spaces, and parking facilities, position-

These projects will significantly enhance local services and contribute to economic development

DR HAMAD AL BUSAIDI

ing it as a comprehensive destination for services in the region.

Dr Hamad bin Ahmed al Busaidi, Governor of Buraimi, said the governorate is committed to strengthening the economy and fostering an innovative investment environment. He expressed optimism that these projects will significantly enhance local services and contribute to economic development.

"The initiatives aim to create job opportunities for residents and boost purchasing power, while attracting further investment to the region."

Work on the projects is expected to commence in the first quarter of next year.

Oman secures 2nd place in FIAP 'black and white' contest

Our Correspondent
Muscat

Oman achieved overall second place at the 36th edition of the FIAP International Black and White Biennial Competition recently held in India.

In an interview with *Muscat Daily*, Salim bin Sultan Amer al Hajri, who secured a gold medal for his photograph 'Desert Saga', expressed his pride in this significant accomplishment.

Hajri noted that Omani photographers competed against entries from over 44 countries, including France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, India, Spain, Belgium, South Africa, Argentina, Aus-



tralia, Norway, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and Bahrain.

Registration for the competition was open from May until

July 1.

Hajri highlighted that ten Omani photographers were awarded gold medals, demon-

strating the talent and creativity present within Oman.

Among the winners are Muhannad Munir Abdullah al Badawi with *Start*, Khalid al Rawahi with *Equivocati*, Mahmood al Amri with *Angry Camel*, Ismail al Farsi with *Conflict*, Hatem al Rashdi with *The Start of Camels*, Khalid al Maawali with *The Decisive Moment*, Ahmed al Busaidi with *Faster*, Ahmed al Touqi with *Rising* and Yousuf al Muaini with *Training*.

"We will continue to create photographs that reflect Oman's heritage and origins, aiming to participate in international competitions and promote tourism in the sultanate," Hajri concluded.

Farsi wins silver at Asia Jiu-Jitsu championship

Our Correspondent
Muscat

Abdullah bin Khamis al Farsi, player and coach of the Omani national Jiu-Jitsu team, has brought laurels to Oman by winning the silver medal at the AJP Tour Asia Continental Jiu-Jitsu Championship for Professionals, held in Abu Dhabi from September 13 to 15.

In an interview with *Muscat Daily*, Farsi spoke about his success in the under-62kg weight category, where he faced elite international competitors. The championship saw participation of 3,000 players representing 73 clubs and academies from



across the world.

Other notable Omani competitors included Akram al Araiimi and Fahad al Araiimi in the purple belt under-77kg category,

and Faisal al Balushi and Talal al Balushi in the purple belt under-85kg category.

Farsi, a member and founder of the Omani Committee for Martial Arts and Self-Defence, commended the high level of competition and highlighted the event's growing importance on the world stage.

He emphasised Jiu-Jitsu's core philosophy of leveraging mental strength to gain an edge over opponents and acknowledged the increased responsibility this achievement brings.

Farsi is committed to training young athletes, conducting workshops, and further promoting Jiu-Jitsu in the sultanate.

MAFWR to help farmers by maintaining aflaj in S Sharqiyah

Muscat - The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Water Resources (MAFWR) is taking all measures to support Omani farmers and safeguard water resources by maintaining 65 aflaj in South Sharqiyah governorate.

With aflaj maintenance, the ministry aims to support the water sector and farmers in the sultanate to achieve water security. Aflaj are considered one of the major traditional irrigation systems on which Omanis have depended for ages. The aflaj types vary according to the geology and hydrology of the area. There are 4,112 aflaj across Oman.

'The Directorate General of Agricultural, Fisheries and Water Resources in the governorate is actively working on projects to rehabilitate and maintain these aflaj. This includes establishing new channels with depths ranging from 3m to 25m, designed with technical specifications to ensure durability and load-bearing capacity,' MAFWR stated.



مستشفى الحياة الدولي
AL HAYAT INTERNATIONAL HOSPITAL
Quality Care Without Compromise



NEW VISA MEDICAL SYSTEM "IGRA"

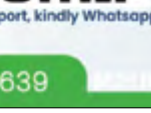
NOW AVAILABLE SAT - THU 8:00 AM-10:30 PM



SCAN FOR LOCATION



SCAN TO WHATSAPP



For Report, kindly Whatsapp us

قسم الاستقبال - أترافيتشيا فيريفا
Opp. Bank Muscat, Ghubra roundabout

MOH NO.- 1640238/24 2200 4040 9551 0632 9241 3639

Send your comments to muscatdaily@apexmedia.co.om



SULTANATE OF OMAN
MINISTRY OF CULTURE, SPORTS and YOUTH
MINISTRY OF CULTURE, SPORTS and YOUTH, Muscat, hereby give notice of tenders for the following projects

Tender No.	Project Category	Location	Grade In Tender Board Registration	Last day to purchase tender documents	Last date of tender submission
28/2024	Construction of ports roads bridge rail way dams and maintenance	Design And Build Contract Of Asphalt Roads And Allied Works In Camel Race Track At Al Mudhaibi In North Sharqiyah Governorate	first Grade	18/09/2024	28/10/2024
29/2024	Construction of ports roads bridge rail way dams and maintenance	Design And Build Contract Of Asphalt Roads And Allied Works In Camel Race Track At Bidiyah In North Sharqiyah Governorate	first Grade	18/09/2024	28/10/2024
30/2024	Construction & maintenance	Design And Build Contract Of Camel Race Track, Fencing And Gates At Al Mudhaibi North Sharqiyah Governorate	first Grade	18/09/2024	28/10/2024
31/2024	Construction & maintenance	Design And Build Contract Of Camel Race Track, Fencing And Gates At Bidiyah In North Sharqiyah Governorate	first Grade	18/09/2024	28/10/2024
32/2024	Services	Construction Of Synthetic Turf Football Pitch At Thumrait (Dhabhun)	Second Grade	18/09/2024	28/10/2024

Companies, which are registered with the Tender Board and engaged in same category with experience in and same Grade as noted above, can obtain the Tender Documents at the Tender Board E-tendering digital portal link (<http://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om>)

The last date of tender submission on above E-tendering site

INTERNAL TENDER COMMITTEE OF MINISTRY OF CULTURE, SPORTS and YOUTH
Any participants have doubt in adopting e-tendering can contact over the phone 24402200 or through email etenderhd@ita.gov.om

Oman's trade surplus hits RO3.6bn in H1

Our Correspondent
Muscat

Oman's trade balance recorded a surplus of RO3.658bn during the first half of 2024, compared to a surplus of RO3.704bn during the same period in 2023, according to preliminary statistics issued by the National Centre for Statistics and Information.

The statistics indicate that the total value of merchandise exports in the first six months of 2024 reached RO11.670bn, an increase of 6.7% over the same period in the previous year, when it was RO10.934bn.

Meanwhile, the total value of merchandise imports to Oman amounted to RO8.12bn, an increase of 10.8% by the end of June 2024, compared to the same period last year, which amounted to RO7.230bn.

The increase in the value of exports is mainly attributed to the rise in the value of Oman's oil and gas exports, which reached



RO7.228bn, up by 5.3% compared to the first half of 2023, when it was RO6.866bn.

Among oil and gas exports in the first half of 2024, the value of Oman's crude oil exports amounted to RO5.134bn, recording an increase of 7.2% over the

same period in the previous year. The value of refined oil exports increased to RO842mn, a rise of 12.8%.

The sultanate's liquefied natural gas (LNG) exports decreased to RO1.252bn, a decline of 5.7% compared to the first

half of 2023.

Non-oil exports rise 8.1%

The NCSI data revealed an increase in the value of non-oil merchandise exports by 8.1% in the first half of 2024, reaching

RO3.575bn, compared to RO3.307bn during the same period in 2023.

In the first half of this year, mineral products had the highest value among non-oil merchandise exports, amounting to RO1.304bn, an increase of 21.5%

over the same period in 2023. This was followed by base metals and their products, valued at RO671mn, an increase of 7.3%. The export of chemical products was valued at RO521mn, a decrease of 0.7%.

The value of Oman's exports of plastics and rubber rose to

Oman increased to RO867mn, a rise of 13.9% during the first half of 2024 compared to the same period a year ago.

On the other hand, mineral products had the largest value among merchandise imports to Oman, recording RO2.338bn in the first half of 2024, an increase

Value of non-oil exports increased to RO3.575bn in the first half of 2024, compared to RO3.307bn during the same period in 2023

RO473mn, an increase of 11.5%, while exports of live animals and animal products fell by 21%, reaching RO169mn. The value of exports of other products amounted to RO437mn.

The United Arab Emirates topped the list of Oman's non-oil trade partners in 2024, with trade valued at RO457mn, an increase of 8.9% compared to the first half of 2023.

The value of re-exports from

of 22.5%. Electrical machinery and equipment followed, with a value of RO1.324bn, recording growth of 20.2% by the end of June 2024. Base metals and their products came next, valued at RO752mn, a decrease of 4.1%.

Imports of chemical products recorded a value of RO750mn, a decline of 1.7%, while transport equipment imports rose to RO684mn, an increase of 4.9%.

Taageer Finance launches RO15mn bonds issue

Our Correspondent
Muscat

Taageer Finance Company opened the subscription for its inaugural Tier 1 perpetual bond issuance on September 16 for a period of two weeks.

The issue size is up to RO15mn, with a greenshoe option to increase the size to up to RO25mn, at an attractive coupon rate of 7.50%. The perpetual bonds will be denominated in Omani rial and listed on the Muscat Stock Exchange in compliance with applicable laws and regulations in Oman.

Perpetual bond issue size is up to RO15mn, with a greenshoe option to increase the size to up to RO25mn, at an attractive coupon rate of 7.50%

The perpetual bonds are being offered via private placement to prospective investors,

with a minimum investment amount of RO100,000, through a book-building process.

Bank Muscat's Investment Banking is the sole issue manager for the transaction. The subscription closes on September 26, 2024, with a tentative bond issuance date of October 2, 2024.

The proposed issuance is expected to further strengthen Taageer Finance's balance sheet and support the company's growth plans moving forward.

Taageer Finance, with a proven track record of more

than 20 years, is one of the largest and fastest-growing finance and leasing companies in Oman. Backed by strong Omani shareholders and a highly experienced management team, the company has delivered sustainable business and financial performance across market cycles.

The company serves diverse economic sectors through its wide range of innovative product offerings. Over the years, Taageer Finance has successfully diversified its funding sources, including bank borrowings, corporate deposits, and bonds.



Bank Muscat leads capital markets and investment sector with \$3bn AUM

Our Correspondent
Muscat

As the largest asset manager in Oman and a leading asset manager in the GCC region, with assets under management (AUM) exceeding \$3bn, Bank Muscat's Investment Banking and Capital Markets division is driving the development of the capital markets and investment sector in the sultanate.

Bank Muscat has played a significant role in Oman's capital markets, offering a diverse range of innovative investment products that reflect the latest trends in the evolving global and GCC markets.

As the largest financial advisory team in Oman, Bank Muscat's Investment Banking team has executed over \$40bn worth of transactions for more than 95

financial advisory and fundraising mandates over the past 15 years, the bank announced at a press conference on Wednesday.

With a proven track record of successful operations spanning almost three decades, Bank Muscat's Investment Banking division offers tailored investment solutions across various asset classes, including equity, fixed income, real estate, and private equity investments. Additionally, the bank's investment banking team leads the market in offering financial advisory and fundraising solutions, covering both debt and equity instruments.

Khalifa Abdullah al Hatmi, Deputy General Manager of Investment Banking and Capital Markets at Bank Muscat, said, "The accomplishments of the Investment Banking and Capital Markets department over the

years reflect Bank Muscat's commitment to incorporating its values into various businesses, working towards enhancing the bank's vision, and serving customers better every day. Bank Muscat invests heavily in expanding its financial advisory services, providing investment opportunities, and supporting Oman's economy by successfully completing several strategic transactions for major institutions across a range of economic sectors."

Bank Muscat's Investment Banking team leads the market in corporate finance and advisory solutions, including corporate finance, project finance, debt capital markets, debt refinancing and restructurings, IPOs, structured financings, quasi-equity financings, private placements, and mergers and acquisitions in Oman.

GET BACK TO GIGGING.

L1PRO PORTABLE LINE ARRAYS

With an L1 Pro, you have a system that's both uniquely portable and surprisingly powerful.

Light, so it's easy to pack.

Loud, so it easily satisfies any audience, inside or out.

Premium sound on stage.

Practical portability everywhere else.

It's the power to sound your best, connect with your music and audience, and simply perform.

REACH YOUR AUDIENCE, NEAR AND FAR

Every L1 Pro system delivers wide 180-degree horizontal coverage, delivering full-range sound, consistent tonal balance, and supreme vocal and instrument clarity.

PRO.BOSE.COM/L1

© 2021 Bose Corporation. Bose and L1 are trademarks of Bose Corporation.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

92311039 / 99347243

WE EXCHANGE TRUST

WE BUY & SELL GOLD & SILVER

1 gm to 1kg
24ct gold bars
available at best international rate.

WORLD WIDE REMITTANCE

Download it NOW!

+968 91787829 | 99849289

www.pkeschange.com

Iraq says cost dispute delays restart of key oil pipeline

Baghdad, Iraq – The restart of a key Iraqi oil pipeline that’s been shut for over a year is being held up by disagreements over costs, the nation’s prime minister told Bloomberg, a setback that’s inadvertently helping the country get closer to OPEC production limit.

Baghdad hasn’t been able to agree how much to pay international oil companies operating in the country’s north for their production. The federal administration’s budget allows it to pay \$8 for every barrel of oil produced, while contracts with the Kurdistan Regional Government give the firms \$26, Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammed Shia al-Sudani said. The impasse has hit output from the region and delayed the pipeline’s resumption.



We are committed to abide by the OPEC decisions and to preserve the price of oil in order to balance the interest of the users and the producers

IRAQI PRIME MINISTER MOHAMMED SHIA AL-SUDANI

“We have to look at how to balance those issues,” he said in an interview with Bloomberg TV in Baghdad on Sunday. “Do we look at the budget to see what we can do or we try and look at the prices?”

The closure of the pipeline that can transport almost half a million barrels a day of oil from Kurdistan to the Turkish coast is resulting in billions of dollars of lost revenue. Yet restarting it would pose a dilemma for Iraq, which has failed to adhere to its OPEC+ output limit amid pressing financial needs, but has repeatedly said it will compensate

for overproducing. The failure to meet the limits has been a point of contention with OPEC+ de facto leader Saudi Arabia.

“We are committed to abide by the OPEC decisions and to preserve the price of oil in order to balance the interest of the users and the producers,” Al-Sudani said.

Pipeline problems

Turkey halted the pipeline in March last year after an arbitration court ordered it to pay Iraq \$1.5bn in compensation for trans-

porting oil through the link without Baghdad’s approval. Ankara, which claimed the pipe was shut because it needed repairs after two massive earthquakes in February, said in October that it was ready for operations and it was up to Iraq to resume flows.

But financial and legal issues emerged, such as remunerating companies for costs. International firms have said they also want their past dues – including \$1bn for oil produced between September 2022 and March 2023 – cleared.

With exports shut, the companies have been producing some crude and selling it locally. Iraqi officials have previously said this output caused problems for complying with quotas set by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries.

Iraq has a production limit of 4mn barrels a day, but produced 4.32mn a day last month, according to data compiled by Bloomberg. The country, along with some others in OPEC+, will gradually raise these limits starting in December.

Al-Sudani is keen to increase production in the long-term after years of war and internal strife hit Iraq’s industry and oil output. BP Plc in August signed an initial agreement to help boost output from the Kirkuk region. Iraq has also been rehabilitating and upgrading damaged refineries to help cut fuel imports.

“Because of wars and siege over the last four decades, Iraq was late in really using the wealth that we have in terms of gas and oil properly,” the prime minister said. “And now we’re looking at how we can really exploit what we have in terms of new wealth and also to see how can use them effectively.”

But he said oil’s drop in London to around \$72 a barrel – near the lowest levels since 2021 – emphasised the need to diversify the economy. Iraq is OPEC’s biggest oil producer after Saudi Arabia and derives the vast bulk of its revenue from exporting the commodity. It needs prices far above where they are now to balance its budget.

The International Monetary Fund has long said the country needs to develop its private sector and that economic progress is held back by its huge public-sector wage bill, with successive governments doing little to check high pay rises.

(Source: Bloomberg)



OPAZ participates in Foodex Saudi 2024

Riyadh, Saudi Arabia – OPAZ is participating in Foodex Saudi 2024, which is taking place from September 16-19 at the Riyadh International Convention and Exhibition Center. This eleventh edition of the exhibition is one of the most significant global events in the food sector, attracting thousands of visitors and specialists from around the world.

At the event, OPAZ is showcasing investment opportunities and innovative projects that support the growth of the food sector, which plays a vital role in enhancing sustainable economic development within the sultanate’s zones.

OPAZ team has set up a dedicated area featuring presentations on the competitive advantages offered by special economic zones and free zones. They emphasised opportunities for developing

food supply chains and highlighted the role of these zones in meeting the increasing demand for food products. The OPAZ pavilion has seen substantial interest from both local and international visitors and investors.

To foster collaboration between national and international companies, Salalah Free Zone, Khazaen Economic City, the Special Economic Zone at Duqm, and SAMAC are joining OPAZ in their exhibition space. This event provides an excellent platform for exchanging ideas and experiences among local and international businesses.

Notably, the exhibition features brands from over 50 countries, enhancing the exchange of experiences and innovations, which contributes to a diverse range of offerings and enriches the visitor experience.

ADB pledges \$2bn annually to Pakistan for climate projects

Karachi, Pakistan – The Asian Development Bank (ADB) will provide \$2bn in annual assistance to Pakistan over the next three years to support infrastructure development and climate-resilient projects, the bank’s chief announced on Tuesday.

During a meeting with Pakistan’s President Asif Zardari in Islamabad, ADB President Masatsugu Asakawa highlighted that Pakistan is dealing with severe impacts of climate change, including accelerated glacier melt, and reaffirmed the bank’s commitment to addressing these challenges.

“Pakistan is facing the harsh realities of climate change, and we are committed to helping mitigate these effects,” Asakawa said in a statement released by the President’s Office.

The funds will be directed toward climate resilience and improving infrastructure, supporting the country’s recovery from recent devastating natural disasters.

President Zardari emphasized Pakistan’s urgent need for climate finance, citing the catastrophic floods of 2022, which



Pakistan is facing the harsh realities of climate change, and we are committed to helping mitigate these effects

MASATSUGU ASAKAWA

severely impacted the country’s economy and damaged its agricultural sector and infrastructure. He praised the bank’s continued assistance, especially in the aftermath of the floods, which caused widespread destruction.

The 2022 floods, described as

unprecedented, killed 1,700 people, affected 33mn, and caused an estimated \$30bn in losses across multiple provinces, including vast damage to farmland, roads, and schools.

Despite international pledges, Pakistan has only received \$10.9bn of the \$30bn required for post-flood reconstruction, according to a recent report by the Policy and Strategy Committee and the Oversight Board. The \$19.1bn shortfall has slowed efforts to rehabilitate flood-affected areas.

Zardari expressed gratitude for the ADB’s continued support, stressing the importance of their contributions in helping Pakistan overcome its economic and environmental challenges.

Anadolu Agency

Trump launches cryptocurrency venture

New York, US – Republican candidate and former US President Donald Trump announced his new cryptocurrency venture, World Liberty Financial, in a livestream recently.

“Crypto is one of those things we have to do,” Trump stated on X. “Whether we like it or not, I have to do it,” he added.

During the livestream, Trump was joined by his sons, Donald Trump Jr and Eric Trump, along with crypto entrepreneurs Chase Herro and Zachary Folkman.

Trump has been promoting the venture since August, although the specific purpose of World Liberty Financial remains unclear.

As of now, an official launch date for the cryptocurrency project has not been announced.

However, Trump gave very few concrete details about how the platform would work. World Liberty Financial is expected to be a crypto banking platform, where people can borrow, lend and invest in crypto.

Cryptocurrencies are forms of digital money that can be traded over the internet without relying on the global banking system. Exchanges often charge fees for withdrawals of Bitcoin and other



Crypto is one of those things we have to do. Whether we like it or not, I have to do it

DONALD TRUMP

currencies.

The new crypto platform is going to be controlled by the Republican nominee’s sons Eric and Donald Jr, who said it will “make finance great again.”

The project is going to issue a digital token called WLFI,

founders said on Monday evening. CNBC reported that 20% of the project’s tokens are allotted to the founding team, which includes the Trumps.

Crypto assets are traded using so-called smart contracts on a blockchain, leaving out bro-

kerages, banks and other intermediaries. This is called decentralised finance, often shortly called DeFi.

The trading often depends on online marketplaces that charge fees for transactions, so that the cryptocurrencies can be exchanged for US dollars and other currencies.

Critics say that these platforms are often prone to hacks, and that the system is far under-regulated in the US, compared to Europe where the Markets in Crypto-Assets Regulation is already in place.

Digital assets therefore are seen as highly risky compared to traditional investments. Despite the uncertainties, crypto is gradually increasing its fan club, according to data from the review website security.org, approximately 93 million people, 40% of adults in now own crypto in the US, up from 30% in 2023.

Agencies

Bank of England set to hold rates steady as it eyes stubborn inflation

London, UK – The Bank of England is set to announce its interest rate decision on Thursday, following the Federal Reserve’s move earlier in the week.

While the Fed is widely expected to initiate a rate-cut cycle with a significant 0.5% reduction, the BOE is unlikely to implement a second consecutive cut after its initial move in August, according to most analysts.

However, any unexpected rate cut could lead to significant market reactions, particularly affecting the pound.

A majority of analysts believe it would be premature for the Bank of England (BOE) to imple-

ment another rate cut in consecutive months.

In August, the BOE lowered the policy rate to 5% from a 16-year high of 5.25%, marking the first rate cut in over four years. The decision was narrowly passed by the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) with a 5-4 vote, signalling a cautious approach moving forward.

The economic landscape indicates that the BOE is likely to delay a second rate cut until November.

Inflation, wage growth, and labour market conditions are the three key indicators the bank monitors when adjusting monetary policy.

While all three metrics show signs of easing, recent data does not yet provide sufficient justification for an additional rate cut in



September.

In July, inflation in the UK rose to 2.2% year-on-year, after cooling to 2% in the two previous months. Despite a significant

drop in services inflation to 5.2%, it remains well above the BOE’s 2% target, potentially keeping overall inflation levels elevated.

Wage growth has also moderated, falling to 5.1% in the three months to July, compared with 5.4% in May.

However, this decline is unlikely to be sufficient to prompt the BOE to follow through with another rate cut this month. Additionally, the labour market remains tight, with the unemployment rate holding steady at 4.1% in the three months to July. This is a slight improvement from the 4.3% recorded in the second quarter.

The UK economy has shown signs of recovery in the first half of the year, following a technical recession in the final quarter of 2023.

Gross domestic product (GDP) grew by 0.6% in the second quarter, following a 0.7% increase in the first quarter. However, growth has stalled over the past two months, suggesting a potential slowdown in the third quarter, which further complicates the BOE’s decision on monetary policy.

As inflation cools, the labour market eases, and economic growth slows, global central banks have started, or are prepar-

ing, to enter a rate-cutting cycle.

Last week, the European Central Bank (ECB) cut interest rates for the second time, signalling that borrowing costs are on a “declining path”.

The Federal Reserve’s anticipated rate cut on Wednesday could add pressure on other central banks, especially if the Fed opts for a significant 0.5% reduction in interest rates, potentially front-loading its cuts.

This global shift could influence the BOE’s approach, as it balances domestic economic conditions with international monetary trends.

(Source: Euronews.com)



Muttrah Wali discusses educational services

Within continuous efforts to provide the best educational services to students and teachers, Dr Hamad bin Said al Mamari, Wali of Muttrah, chaired a meeting with school principals in Muttrah.

The meeting aimed to enhance cooperation between rel-

It meeting reviewed developments in the educational system and preparations for the year 2024/2025

evant government units and institutions, and improve the educational process, a press release said. It meeting reviewed developments in the educational system and preparations for the 2024/2025 academic year, as well as discussed the challenges that face the teaching and ad-

ministrative bodies, research solutions and proposals to address them and develop the educational process and study environment. The meeting also highlighted the simplification of administrative procedures to simplify work for teachers and admin staff.

Teachers in Muttrah trained on creating AIDS awareness

The Health Committee in Muttrah, in coordination with the Health Supervision Office, organised a training workshop, which aimed to prepare important points for awareness of acquired human immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS).

The workshop was held in the lectures hall of the Majan University College building, and was sponsored by Abdul Hamid bin Abdul Rahman al Kharousi, Deputy Wali of Muttrah. It is part of continuing efforts that began last year, to enhance the educational staff and teachers' capabilities to educate students about AIDS and promote general health awareness in the school community.

The workshop included various lectures and interactive sessions that addressed the topic of HIV awareness while its causes, transmission methods, and prevention methods were reviewed. The teachers' essential role in educating students about the



disease was also highlighted, as they are guides and advisors in health awareness. The importance of accurate health information and guiding teachers on best practices in the educating students' field about diseases in

a manner appropriate to their ages and social environments was also discussed. Kharousi stressed the importance of these initiatives to promote health awareness among students and society in general.

Meethaq Neswa offers benefits for Women

Meethaq Islamic Banking from Bank Muscat is dedicated to providing products and services that cater to the diverse needs and aspirations of its customers, including women.

In this regard, the Neswa savings account from Meethaq has been specifically designed for women, ensuring greater ease of access to various financial services and offering unique benefits tailored for everyday needs and personalised services, a press release said.

Neswa account holders can enjoy a wide range of features, including a Visa Debit Card with advanced security features for day-to-day payments, an ATM withdrawal limit of RO800, access to the largest network of ATMs and CDMs across Oman, complimentary Takaful life cover up to RO10,000, coverage up to RO1,000 for loss of wallet or handbag resulting in misuse of cards, and coverage up to RO100 for loss of ID cards and keys.

Account holders can also receive attractive indicative profit rates on their average monthly balance and are eligible for up to 50% discount on the first year's rental charge for safe deposit lockers. All Omani and resident women above the age of 18 are eligible to open a Neswa Savings Account with a minimum balance amount of RO300 or a minimum salary transfer of RO500.



Sami Bait Rashid, assistant general manager - Meethaq Personal Banking, said, "The Neswa Savings account has been designed in line with Meethaq Islamic Banking's commitment to provide services and offerings suitable for various segments of society to cater to their specific needs, as well as providing a seamless experience for their day-to-day transactions. We are pleased to see the positive response on the Neswa savings account and we will continue to develop Meethaq's various products, introducing new features in line with the global trends in the sector."

As the pioneer of Islamic banking in the sultanate, Meethaq has adopted industry best practices in Islamic banking and finance to provide a robust model that benefits its customers.

It remains dedicated to its customer-centric vision, understanding evolving needs, and aligning services with global trends to achieve both present and future goals.

Plans reviewed for UNESCO associated schools

The Sultanate of Oman, represented by the Ministry of Education and the Omani National Commission for Education, Culture and Science, is participating in the first meeting of the Board of Directors of the International Centre for UNESCO Associated Schools Network (ICUA), being held from September 13 to 21, in Hainan Province, Republic of China.

The meeting was chaired by Xie Jing, vice governor of Hainan Province, and the administrative and organisational regulations of the centre were approved, a press release said.

The centre is a Category II centre affiliated with UNESCO. During the meeting, the members of the Board of Directors discuss several main topics, in-



cluding: International partnerships, approving the centre's annual plans and programmes for the years (2024-2025), structuring the centre, the budget for the year (2025), recommenda-

tions of government institutions, regional and international organisations with which the centre works, implementing a number of seminars, and accompanying visits to some Chinese schools

affiliated with UNESCO to view their educational programmes, in addition to visits to some heritage sites registered on the UNESCO World Heritage List. The Sultanate of Oman is rep-

resented at the meeting by Yusraya al Harthi, director of the UNESCO associated schools, youth programmes and UNESCO Clubs Department, and a member of the centre's BoD.

OOC Board of Directors holds its 3rd meeting

The Board of Directors of Oman Olympic Committee (OOC) held its 3rd meeting this year, headed by Khalid bin Mohammed al Zubair, OOC chairman, where a number of main items on the agenda and priority topics during the next stage were discussed.

The issues discussed included the approval of the minutes of the 2nd Board of Directors meeting held on July 21, review of the decisions and recommendations issued by it, and review of the lat-



est developments in the draft amendments to OOC statute, a press release said.

The attendees also reviewed the letter received from the Olympic Council of Asia regarding the cancellation of the 6th Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games, which were supposed to be held in Thailand in November.

The latest developments in the OOC Museum project were also reviewed, which aims to document history of Olympics.

Shanfari stresses role of CFOs in tax legislation at Oman CFO Forum

Said Bin Ahmed al Shamanic, director of the Second General Directorate of Taxes at the Tax Authority, participated in the second session entitled 'Strategic Responses and Compliance: Dealing with the Evolving Tax Landscape and Emerging Trends' at the inaugural Oman CFO Forum hosted by Interactive Apex (Apex Media), which reviewed regulatory compliance challenges in today's ever-changing tax environment.

Shanfari stressed the importance of the role of CFOs as partners of the Tax Authority in the optimal application of tax legislation, and the importance of keeping tax legislation in line with the latest amendments to international accounting stan-



dards. He also pointed out that tax exemptions provided to taxpayers and e-services would contribute to simplifying procedures which will enhance tax-

payers' voluntary compliance. The event was held under the patronage of H E Nasser Bin Khamis al Jashmi, chairman of the Tax Authority, on Tuesday,

to empower CFOs to drive innovation and examine the challenges to unlock opportunities for sustainable growth in today's rapidly evolving business envi-

ronment. Over 200 delegates, including senior officials and leading CFOs, CEOs, finance heads, and industry professionals from sectors

such as the oil and gas, banking, finance, investments, consulting, insurance, manufacturing, communications, logistics, and the top government officials, partic-

ipated in the forum. The event celebrated and awarded the exceptional contributions of CFOs and finance teams in Oman.

INDIA

Union Cabinet approves 'One Nation, One Election' proposal

The proposal recommends simultaneous Lok Sabha and Assembly elections

New Delhi - The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved the government's 'One Nation, One Election' proposal which proposes simultaneous Lok Sabha and Assembly elections, with urban body and panchayat polls to be held within 100 days.

The recommendations were made in a report of a high panel committee led by former President Ram Nath Kovind.

Addressing a press conference in the national capital, Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said: "The Union Cabinet has accepted the recommendations by the high-level committee on 'One Nation, One Election'. Cabinet approved the proposal unanimously."

The Union Minister further said that the proposal will be implemented in two phases.

"In the first phase, Lok Sabha elections and Assembly elections will be held and in the second phase, local bodies elections



The recommendations were made in a report of a high panel committee led by former President Ram Nath Kovind

(Gram Panchayat, Block, Zila Panchayat) and urban local bodies (municipality and municipal committees or municipal corporations)," the Minister said.

Vaishnaw said that recommendations of former President Ram Nath Kovind's panel will be

discussed across India on various forums. "Implementation group to be formed to take forward recommendations of Kovind panel on simultaneous polls," the Minister said.

Vaishnaw further said that a large number of parties across

the political spectrum have actually supported the 'One Nation, One Election' initiative.

"When they interact with high-level meetings, they give their input in a very succinct manner and with a lot of clarity. Our government believes in cre-

ating a consensus on items that affect democracy and the nation in the long run. This is a subject, a topic that will strengthen our nation," the Union Minister said.

The Kovind-led High-Level Committee on 'One Nation-One Election' led by former President

Ram Nath Kovind in its report stated that frequent elections create an atmosphere of uncertainty and impact policy decisions, adding that holding simultaneous elections would bring enhanced certainty in policy making. The report, comprising 18,626 pages, is an outcome of extensive consultations with stakeholders, experts and research work over 191 days, since the constitution of the High-Level Committee on September 2, 2023.

While highlighting the advantages of simultaneous elections, the committee stated that 'One Nation One Election' ensures ease and convenience to voters, avoids voters' fatigue, and facilitates greater voter turnout.

The Committee was briefed by these bodies that intermittent elections had adverse consequences on economic growth, quality of public expenditure, and educational and other outcomes, besides upsetting social harmony.

The panel headed by former president Kovind had submitted the report in March ahead of the announcement of the Lok Sabha elections. The proposal will now be tabled in Parliament and must be cleared in both houses the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha - before it becomes the law.

ANI

After Moon and Mars, India sights science goals on Venus

New Delhi - The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the development of the Venus Orbiter Mission (VOM), which will be a significant step towards the government's vision of exploring and studying the planet Venus and extending India's space mission beyond Moon and Mars.

An official release said that Venus, the closest planet to Earth and believed to have formed in conditions similar to Earth, offers a unique opportunity to understand how planetary environments can evolve very differently.

The 'Venus Orbiter Mission' to be accomplished by the Department of Space is envisaged to orbit a scientific spacecraft in the orbit of planet Venus for a better understanding of the Venusian surface and subsurface, atmospheric processes and influence of the Sun on the Venusian atmosphere. The study of the underlying causes of transformation of Venus, which is believed to be once habitable and quite similar to Earth would be an invaluable aid in understanding the evolution of the sister planets, both Venus and Earth, the release stated.

ISRO will be responsible for the development of the spacecraft and its launch.

ANI

India notifies Pakistan to amend Indus water treaty

New Delhi - India is seeking changes in a six-decade-old Indus water treaty and has formally notified Pakistan to amend the pact. The longstanding dispute concerning Kishanganga and Ratle hydroelectric projects has prompted India to seek a modification in the treaty.

According to the treaty, the Indus, Jhelum, and Chenab waters were allocated to Pakistan, while India has rights over the Eastern rivers (Ravi, Beas, Sutlej). India has the right to produce electricity from run-of-the-river projects.

However, Pakistan has time and again objected to these projects, thus affecting the water flow to India.

According to sources, 'India



An aerial view of the Indus river amid the snow capped area of Ladakh

has served a formal notice to Pakistan on August 30, 2024, seeking review and modification of the Indus Water Treaty under Article XII(3) of the Indus Water Treaty (IWT). Under Article XII(3) of the IWT, its provision

may from time to time be modified by a duly ratified Treaty concluded for that purpose between the two Governments'.

India's notification highlights fundamental and unforeseen changes in circumstances that

require a reassessment of obligations under various Articles of the Treaty. Among various concerns, important ones include changes in population demographics, environmental issues - the need to accelerate the development of clean energy to meet India's emission targets - and the impact of persistent cross-border terrorism etc.

The notification was issued in the background of a separate prolonged controversy concerning Kishanganga and Ratle Hydro Projects.

In this regard, the World Bank has simultaneously activated both the Neutral Expert mechanism and the Court of Arbitration on the same set of issues.

ANI

ASSEMBLY POLLS HELD IN J&K



Voters show their ink-marked fingers after casting their vote for the first phase of the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly elections, at a polling station in Shopian on Wednesday (ANI)

Only consequential presidents get shot at: Trump

Washington, D.C., US - Former President and Republican candidate Donald Trump resumed his campaign in Michigan on Tuesday, just days after surviving a second assassination attempt.

Speaking at a rally in Flint alongside Arkansas Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders, he said: "And then you wonder why I get shot at. You know, only consequential presidents get shot at."

Trump reflected on the dangers of the presidency, adding 'it's a dangerous business, however, being president'.

Sanders condemned the attempt on Trump's life, calling it a 'horrific attack'.

She praised his resilience, saying 'you've literally taken a bullet for our country, and yet you keep fighting. You never give up. The reason that you're going to win in

Trump was the target of what the FBI described as 'an apparent assassination attempt' at his golf club in West Palm Beach, Florida on Sunday. The suspect was arrested and charged with firearms offences

November is because America needs a fighter'.

Trump also said that he had a 'very nice conversation' with President Joe Biden on Monday,



Donald Trump resumed his campaign in Michigan on Tuesday

adding that he also got a 'very nice call' from his Democratic rival, Vice President Kamala Harris, on Tuesday.

He also emphasised his plan

to impose a 200% tariff on Chinese-made vehicles manufactured in Mexico, rendering them 'unsellable' in the US market.

Trump was the target of what

the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) described as 'an apparent assassination attempt' at his golf club in West Palm Beach, Florida on Sunday.

Law enforcement officials in Florida said they apprehended the suspect after US Secret Service agents spotted him with an AK-47-style assault rifle outside Trump's golf club.

The suspect, identified as Ryan Wesley Routh, 58, was arrested and charged with firearms offences.

The incident occurred two months after Trump was wounded during an assassination attempt on July 13, when Thomas Matthew Crooks, a lone 20-year-old gunman, opened fire on him during a campaign rally in Butler County, Pennsylvania, grazing his right ear.

Anadolu Agency

Explosion at arsenal in Russia's Tver region

Moscow, Russia - A major Ukrainian drone attack triggered a huge explosion and forced the partial evacuation of residents near the site of a large Russian arsenal near the town of Toropets in Russia's western Tver region.

The Russian Defence Ministry said it had shot down 54 Ukrainian drones launched overnight, half of them over the Kursk border region, where Ukrainian forces have been waging a counteroffensive since August, but didn't mention Toropets.

Toropets has a population of just over 11,000 and is about 400km (250 miles) west of Moscow.

Firefighters were trying to contain the blaze, Igor Rudenya, the governor of the Tver region, said in a post on the region's Telegram messaging channel. He did not say what was burning.

NASA satellites picked up several heat sources emanating from the site in the early hours of Wednesday, and seismic monitoring stations picked up what sensors thought was a small earthquake in the area.

Power cuts were announced in parts of the Tver region on Wednesday, and schools and kindergartens were cancelled, the local administration said.

DW

Can West help deal Rohingya crisis?

Head of Bangladesh’s interim government Muhammad Yunus has strong ties to Western governments

Dhaka, Bangladesh - The head of Bangladesh’s interim government, Nobel Peace Prize laureate Muhammad Yunus, has called for an accelerated resettlement of Rohingya refugees to third countries as civil war rages in neighbouring Myanmar.

Bangladesh currently hosts nearly one million Rohingya, though some estimates put the number even higher. Rohingya are a Muslim minority group in Myanmar, and many of them fled the country following military-led violence in 2017. Another wave of migration occurred after the military coup in Myanmar in early 2021. In recent months, an additional 8,000 Rohingya have reportedly crossed the border into Bangladesh to escape violence committed by both the military and anti-junta forces.

West backs new government

Yunus, an internationally renowned economist and micro-finance pioneer, took over as head of Bangladesh’s interim government following the ouster of veteran Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

With strong ties to Western governments and the international donor community, Yunus took office last month, promising reforms and increased international engagement. However, it is not yet clear if his government will improve upon the previous regime’s handling of the Rohingya crisis.

“It is too early to tell whether the new government will do better than the previous regime regarding the Rohingya question,” Tazreena Sajjad, senior professorial lecturer at American University in Washington, DC, told DW.

In his first policy address in mid-August, Yunus reaffirmed Bangladesh’s commitment to



Bangladesh currently hosts nearly one million Rohingya, though some estimates put the number even higher

supporting Rohingya refugees.

“We need sustained international efforts for Rohingya humanitarian operations and their eventual repatriation to Myanmar, with safety, dignity, and full rights,” he said.

In September, Yunus urged global partners, including the UN’s International Organization for Migration, to provide more aid to support the refugees. He also called on international organisations to expedite the resettlement process for the Rohingya.

The EU has voiced support for Yunus’ administration. The bloc has also allocated around 35mn (US\$39mn) for humanitarian assistance to Bangladesh for 2024. In September, the EU released 5mn in humanitarian aid to for flood victims in Bangladesh, in-

cluding the Rohingya living in refugee camps.

“For the EU, it is important that we keep the focus on the Rohingya, especially during this critical political transition in Bangladesh,” an EU spokesperson told DW.

The spokesperson commended Bangladesh for its generosity in hosting over one million Rohingya and welcomed Yunus’ commitment to maintaining that support. However, Brussels still believes that any long-term solution must include improving conditions in Myanmar, which would then allow for the safe and voluntary return of the Rohingya.

But a European diplomatic source, speaking anonymously, expressed skepticism about the prospects for large-scale repatri-

ation. “The conditions for a conspicuous repatriation of Rohingya are just not there, and it is unlikely they will be in the foreseeable future,” the source said.

Targeting Rohingya

Civil war is still raging in Myanmar, and even before the 2021 coup, Rohingya were largely denied citizenship and other basic rights. According to the diplomatic source, one way forward would be for Bangladesh to engage with the Arakan Army, one of the most prominent ethnic militias that controls much of Rakhine state bordering Bangladesh.

Last month, Human Rights Watch accused both Myanmar junta forces and the Arakan Army of committing extrajudicial

killings and widespread arson against Rohingya.

“Both sides are using hate speech, attacks on civilians, and massive arson to drive people from their homes and villages, raising the spectre of ethnic cleansing,” said Elaine Pearson, Asia Director at Human Rights Watch, in a statement.

Earlier this month, Bangladesh’s de facto foreign minister Mohammad Tuhid Hossain called on the international community to increase pressure on the Arakan Army to cease attacks on Rohingya in Rakhine. Still, improved Bangladeshi cooperation with the Arakan Army could help secure the safety of Rohingya on both sides of the border and promote cross-border trade, a vital eco-

nomic lifeline for people living under the militia’s control.

Kristina Kironka, a Bratislava-based academic specialising in Myanmar, told DW that the Arakan Army’s will likely maintain control over the region in most post-coup scenarios.

This makes it ‘very worthwhile’ for Dhaka to negotiate with them, she said. While most Rohingya flee to Bangladesh, hundreds of thousands of them have also found safety elsewhere. Many Rohingya have also attempted to flee Bangladesh by sea, often facing perilous journeys to Southeast Asia.

India, Malaysia, and Thailand have together accepted approximately 345,000 Rohingya, according to the United Nations High Commissioner for

Refugees. The United States agreed to take in some Rohingya in 2022, but recent estimates suggest the number of refugees accepted remains limited, likely only in the hundreds.

Yunus is expected to attend the UN General Assembly in New York this month, where he will have a prominent platform to appeal for global support in resettling more Rohingya and providing additional aid to Bangladesh.

A promising area for engage-

We need sustained international efforts for Rohingya humanitarian operations and their eventual repatriation to Myanmar, with safety, dignity, and full rights

TAZREENA SAJJAD

AUKUS consulting with 4 nations

Istanbul, Turkey - The US, UK, and Australia have expanded their engagement under the AUKUS pact with at least four other nations with which they share ‘close bilateral defence partnerships’.

AUKUS, a defence pact under which Canberra will get nuclear-powered submarines, is ‘exploring opportunities to improve interoperability’ with Japan in maritime autonomous systems as an initial area of cooperation.

“We are (also) consulting with Canada, New Zealand, and the Republic of Korea (South Korea) to identify possibilities for collaboration on advanced capabilities under AUKUS Pillar II,” said leaders of the US, UK, and Australia in a joint statement on Tuesday.

In April, defence ministers of AUKUS announced principles for additional Pillar II partner engagement on specific projects



Canberra will get nuclear-powered submarines under AUKUS defence pact

where new partners could contribute to and benefit from AUKUS, aiming to bolster industry and innovation sector collaboration.

This September marks the third anniversary of AUKUS, which was launched by the US, UK, and Australia, despite Canberra witnessing domestic criticism for ballooning

expenditure and becoming a dump yard for nuclear waste of partnering nations.

Notably, the US, UK, New Zealand, Australia, and Canada are parties of the Five Eyes intelligence-sharing network.

The pact, aimed at fostering cooperation on nuclear submarine technology, positions Australia as the first country with

AUKUS is engaging with Japan, Canada, New Zealand, and S Korea to identify possibilities for collaboration on advanced capabilities under AUKUS Pillar II

nuclear submarines without having nuclear power, a strategic move seen as counterbalancing China’s influence in the Indo-Pacific region.

Former Australian Prime Minister Paul Keating has criticised the agreement, suggesting it could lead to Australia effectively becoming a US state.

Anadolu Agency

Biden urges Sudan’s warring parties to resume peace talks

Washington, D.C., US - US President Joe Biden urged Sudan’s warring parties on Tuesday to re-engage in negotiations and facilitate humanitarian access amid a war that has been ongoing for more than 17 months.

“I call on the belligerents responsible for Sudanese suffering - the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) - to pull back their forces, facilitate unhindered humanitarian access, and re-engage in negotiations to end this war,” Biden said in a rare statement addressing the war in Sudan.

“The RSF must stop their assault that is disproportionately harming Sudanese civilians. The SAF must stop indiscriminate bombings that are destroying



US President Joe Biden

civilian lives and infrastructure, he said.

Biden also called on both sides to ‘immediately allow unhindered humanitarian access to all areas of Sudan’.

“Let it be clear: the United States will not abandon our commitment to the people of Sudan,

who deserve freedom, peace and justice,” he said.

“We call for all parties to this conflict to end this violence and refrain from fuelling it, for the future of Sudan and for all of the Sudanese people.”

Since mid-April last year, the SAF and the paramilitary RSF have been engaged in a war that has resulted in more than 20,000 deaths and nearly 10mn displaced persons and refugees, according to the United Nations.

There are growing calls by the international community and the UN to end the war to prevent a humanitarian disaster that is pushing millions towards famine and death due to food shortages caused by the fighting, which has spread to 13 out of 18 states.

Anadolu Agency

6mn children affected by Typhoon Yagi in Southeast Asia, says UN body

Bangkok, Thailand - Nearly six million children were affected by the destruction caused by Typhoon Yagi in Southeast Asia, said UNICEF on Wednesday.

In a statement issued from Bangkok, UNICEF said floods and landslides triggered by Typhoon Yagi have ravaged Vietnam, Myanmar, Laos, and Thailand, affecting nearly six million children and compromising their access to clean water, education, health-care, food, and shelter.

“The most vulnerable children and families are facing the most devastating consequences of the

destruction left behind by Typhoon Yagi,” said June Kunugi, UNICEF regional director for East Asia and Pacific.

The most powerful storm that hit Asia so far this year, Typhoon Yagi brought torrential rains on top of existing seasonal rainfall, causing rivers to overflow and triggering deadly landslides in the region. In its wake, over 850 schools and more than 550 health centres were damaged, according to a report.

Only in Vietnam, the powerful typhoon affected three million children while casualties have



Most powerful storm that hit Asia this year, Typhoon Yagi brought torrential rains on top of existing seasonal rainfall

also climbed to 350 as the powerful storm caused US\$1.6bn in economic losses to the country, according to an official statement. In Myanmar, over 170 people were killed and more than 320,000 people were displaced by the typhoon while road networks, telecommunications, and electricity infrastructure suffered major damage across central Myanmar, said UNICEF.

However, according to local broadcaster DVB TV, around 300 people were killed in Myanmar ‘due to flooding and landslides since the remnants of

Typhoon Yagi arrived in the country on September 9’.

Myanmar has already been affected by the ongoing conflict since February 2021, with opposition armed groups attacking the junta forces that rule the Buddhist-majority Southeast Asian nation, primarily in northern Myanmar, including Shan and Rakhine states.

In northern Thailand, heavy rains and flooding have severely affected nearly 64,000 children, while in Laos around 60,000 children have been affected.

Anadolu Agency

Lebanon pager blasts: 12 people killed

The number of injured people ranges between 2,750 and 2,800, with around 300 reported as critical

Beirut, Lebanon - The death toll from Tuesday's pager explosions across Lebanon climbed to 12 people, including two children, Health Minister Firas Alabiad said on Wednesday.

"The number of injured people ranges between 2,750 and 2,800, with around 300 reported as critical," Alabiad added at a press conference in Beirut.

The health minister said at least 460 surgeries were performed on victims of the explosions, 'most of which involved face and eye injuries, with others for limb amputation'.

"Some 15 tonnes of medical aid have arrived from Iraq, and communication has been established regarding assistance with Egypt, Jordan, Turkey, and other countries," noted Alabiad.

The pagers, wireless telecommunications devices, exploded on Tuesday in several areas in Lebanon, including the capital Beirut, which local media suggested was an Israeli breach of the system.

Lebanese group Hezbollah



The pagers, wireless telecommunications devices, exploded on Tuesday in several areas in Lebanon, including the capital Beirut

Some 15 tonnes of medical aid have arrived from Iraq... communication has been established regarding assistance with Egypt, Jordan, Turkey, and other countries

FIRAS ALABIAD

confirmed that at least two members were killed and many injured in the explosions and held Israel fully responsible for the incident. Lebanese security sources said that Israel's spy agency

Mossad planted explosives inside the pagers used by Hezbollah members months before they exploded. Lebanese Ambassador to the UN, Hadi Hachem, described the pager blasts as an 'aggression which rises to a war crime' and warned that it would exacerbate the conflict.

There was no comment from Israel on the pager blasts, but Hezbollah vowed to retaliate against Israel following the explosions. The pager blasts came amid mounting border escalation between Israel and Hezbollah, which have been engaged in cross-border warfare since the start of Tel Aviv's deadly war on the Gaza Strip, which has killed over 41,200 people, mostly women and children, following a Hamas attack October 7 last year.

Voicing solidarity

Several Arab and Islamic countries have voiced solidarity with Lebanon and offered medical assistance following the pager explosions.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan had a phone call with Lebanese Prime Minister Najib Mikati during which he expressed sorrow over casualties in the blasts.

He described Israel's attempts to spread the conflict in the region as 'dangerous', stressing that efforts to stop Israel will continue.

Lebanese Foreign Minister Abdullah Bou Habib received a phone call from his Egyptian counterpart Badr Abdelatty, who expressed his country's solidarity with Lebanon following the blasts.

Abdelatty said Egypt is ready to provide every possible aid to Lebanon to treat the injured from the blasts.

Bou Habib also received another phone call from Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, who extended his condolences and offered help to provide medical attention to those injured in the explosions.

Lebanese Health Minister Firas Al-Abiad also had a phone call with his Iranian counterpart Mohammadreza Zafarghandi, who said that Iran was ready to provide medical aid and support to the victims of the blasts.

The Iraqi Health Ministry dispatched a shipment of medical aid and crews to help in efforts to treat the injured, the Iraqi state news agency INA reported.

A medical team of physicians and paramedics from the Iranian Red Crescent also arrived in Beirut to provide relief and medical care for the wounded, according to the state news agency IRNA.

Jordan King Abdullah II also ordered the dispatch of a C-130 aircraft to deliver urgent aid to Lebanon's health care sector in the aftermath of the explosions.

Anadolu Agency



'Hezbollah received 5,000 explosive-rigged pagers 5 months ago'

Beirut, Lebanon - A batch of 5,000 pager devices imported by Hezbollah five months ago was 'almost certain' to have been rigged with explosives before arriving in Lebanon, a former Lebanese brigadier general said on Wednesday.

The wireless devices 'were rigged with several grams of hard-to-detect explosives, placed in the battery in a way that ensures they can't be detected by sensors or any explosive detection tools', Mounir Shehada, the government's former coordinator with the UN peacekeeping mission UNIFIL, told Anadolu.

He said the type of explosives has not yet been confirmed, with laboratories still working on that, but they are 'sophisticated explosives made from modern materials that can't be detected by sensors'.

"Lithium batteries, if they catch fire or explode, do not cause such damage," Shehada said.

"Footage showed that there was a powerful explosion, whereas a lithium battery pro-

duces only a small flame and a very minimal explosion that wouldn't result in such a blast."

Regarding the location or country where the devices were rigged, Shehada said: "It is too early to discuss that, but the rigging could have taken place during the manufacturing phase or at other stages."

Taiwanese firm Gold Apollo denied making pager devices. The company said it has established a long-term private label authorisation and regional agency cooperation with BAC company

Hezbollah Secretary-General Hassan Nasrallah is set to give an address on Thursday at 17:00 local time (1500GMT) on the explosions, how the devices were rigged and his group's response to the blasts, Shehada said.

Meanwhile, the Taiwanese firm Gold Apollo on Wednesday denied making pager devices that exploded in Lebanon.

In a statement, the company said Apollo Gold Corporation has established a long-term private label authorisation and regional agency cooperation with BAC company, which has a license to use its brand.

"According to the agreement, we authorise BAC to use our brand trademark for product sales in specific regions, but the design and manufacturing of the products are entirely handled by BAC," it said. The BAC Consulting KFT is based in Budapest, the capital of Hungary.

"Regarding the recent media reports about the AR-924 pager, we clarify that this model is produced and sold by BAC. We only provide brand trademark authorisation and have no involvement in the design or manufacturing of this product," it further said.

Earlier, the company founder Hsu Ching-kuang also denied any involvement of his company in making of the said pager.

Anadolu Agency

'Slipping into a regional war': Egypt FM

Cairo, Egypt - Egypt affirmed its rejection on Wednesday of any Israeli military presence in the Philadelphi Corridor on the border with Gaza amid ongoing mediation efforts to reach a ceasefire deal in the Palestinian enclave.

Speaking at a joint press conference in Cairo with US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, Foreign Minister Badr Abdelatty said they discussed 'the urgent need for a ceasefire in Gaza and the necessity of quickly reaching an agreement'.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu insists on maintaining a military presence at the Philadelphi Corridor on the Egypt-Gaza border, a position vehemently rejected by Cairo.

The top Egyptian diplomat warned of the dangers 'slipping



into a regional war'.

The warning came one day after at least 12 people were killed and nearly 2,800 others injured in pager explosions across Lebanon.

Commenting on the blasts, Abdelatty condemned 'any escalation that threatens the stability and sovereignty of Lebanon'.

The Egyptian minister said he also discussed with Blinken 'the importance of reaching an agreement regarding the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam and ensuring that it does not harm Egypt, as well as the importance of supporting the unity of Somalia'.

lia'. Egypt sees the Ethiopian dam as an 'existential threat' to its water share from the Nile River. Years of negotiations between the two sides have failed to make any breakthrough.

Blinken calls for restraint

Meanwhile, Blinken called for restraint on Wednesday following pager explosions in Lebanon.

Speaking at the press conference, Blinken stressed the need to 'avoid taking steps that could further escalate conflict' between Israel and the Hezbollah group.

The top diplomat said the US is still gathering information on what happened in Lebanon.

"It's important to fully understand what happened there," Blinken added.

Anadolu Agency

Gaza: 20 more killed, death toll nears 41,300

Gaza City, Palestine - At least 20 more Palestinians were killed in relentless Israeli attacks in the Gaza Strip, pushing up the overall death toll since last October 7, to 41,272, the Health Ministry in the enclave said on Wednesday.

A ministry statement added that some 95,551 others have been injured in the ongoing assault. "Israeli forces killed 20 people and injured 54 others in two 'massacres' of families in the last 24 hours," the ministry said.

"Many people are still trapped under the rubble and on the roads as rescuers are unable to reach them," it added.

Flouting a UN Security Council resolution demanding an immediate ceasefire, Israel has faced international condemnation amid its continued brutal offensive on Gaza since an October 7, 2023 attack by Palestinian group Hamas.

The Israeli onslaught has dis-



placed almost the entire population of the territory amid an ongoing blockade that has led to severe shortages of food, clean water and medicine.

Israel faces accusations of genocide for its actions in Gaza at the International Court of Justice.

The Israeli army also contin-

ued on Wednesday to blow up homes and residential buildings around the Netzarim and Philadelphi corridors in the war-torn Gaza Strip, according to local sources.

Several buildings were detonated around the Netzarim Corridor in the Zeitoun

neighbourhood southeast of Gaza City and Al-Zahra town south of the city, one source told Anadolu. The Israeli army also destroyed several residential buildings near the Philadelphi Corridor in Rafah in southern Gaza near the border with Egypt.

Anadolu Agency

GOAL BLITZ IN MUNICH

Kane scores four as Bayern thrash Dinamo Zagreb 9-2

Munich, Germany - Bayern Munich striker Harry Kane scored four goals to lead his side to a 9-2 demolition of visitors Dinamo Zagreb on Tuesday and a record for the most goals by one team in a Champions League match after a scintillating performance.

Bayern struck three times in the first half with Kane converting a 19th minute penalty before becoming the highest scoring English player in European Cup history with 33 goals, breaking Wayne Rooney's mark of 30.

Kane, who scored three goals against Holstein Kiel in the Bundesliga on Saturday, also became the first player to score a hat-trick of penalties in a European Cup match.

The game had the second-biggest winning margin in Champions League history, with Liverpool and Real Madrid holding the record with 8-0 wins.

Borussia Dortmund's 8-4 win over Legia Warsaw in 2016 is the record for most goals overall in a Champions League match.

"It's the first time I've ever had three penalties in one game," said Kane. "It was a different feeling for me, but to score four goals is fantastic."

"To help the team in any way possible is important. Whether they're penalties or normal fin-



Bayern Munich's Harry Kane celebrates after scoring against Dinamo Zagreb on Tuesday



Everyone has a point to prove here and we've started the season that way. The way the coach wants us to press and be intense with and without the ball is important.

HARRY KANE

ishes I'll take them all. It was a great night for us."

Bayern are eager to bounce back after failing to win any domestic or international silverware last season.

"Everyone has a point to prove here and we've started the season that way," Kane said. "The way the coach wants us to press and be intense with and without the ball is important. We know we can dominate teams with the quality we have."

With Zagreb completely boxed in, Raphael Guerreiro, who had earlier put the ball in the net only to be ruled offside, drilled home from a superb Jamal Musiala assist in the 33rd and Michael Olise added another five minutes later.

The Croats briefly recovered by making the most of some

sloppy defending with goals from Bruno Petkovic in the 49th and Takuya Ogiwara a minute later to give themselves some hope.

It was, however, short-lived with Bayern upping the tempo instantly and scoring two more in a four-minute span through Kane and Olise to restore order.

In coach Vincent Kompany's Champions League debut on the bench, England captain Kane bagged his third and fourth goals with penalties in the 73rd and 78th.

Thomas Mueller also set a record with his 152nd Champions League appearance for Bayern, breaking Xavi's mark at Barcelona for the most matches in the competition with one club.

Substitutes Leroy Sane and Leon Goretzka also got on the scoresheet with late goals.



Kenan Yildiz of Juventus celebrates after scoring against PSV Eindhoven

Juventus ease past PSV

Turin, Italy - Juventus made a perfect return to the Champions League as they beat Dutch champions PSV Eindhoven 3-1 at home on Tuesday, helped by two quick-fire goals from Kenan Yildiz and Weston McKennie in the first half.

Yildiz and McKennie put Juve 2-0 up at the break in coach Thiago Motta's debut leading a side in European competition and Nicolas Gonzalez added a third

after the break before Ismael Saibari pulled one back for PSV in stoppage time.

Champions League regulars Juventus have returned to Europe's elite club competition following a one-year absence.

Juventus missed out for the first time since 2011-12 after having points docked in a case centred on the club's transfer dealings.

They were also banned from

European competition last term for breaching UEFA Club Licensing and Financial Fair Play rules, although Juve denied any wrongdoing.

PSV, who lead the Eredivisie standings with a perfect record of 15 points after five games, were left without first-choice goalkeeper Walter Benitez hours before the clash as he left Turin to be with his family following the birth of his son.

Nine goals a bit unusual but it was a lot of fun, says coach Kompany

Munich, Germany - Bayern Munich's 9-2 demolition of Dinamo Zagreb at the start of their Champions League opener on Tuesday was unusual, Bayern coach Vincent Kompany said, but still only earned three points.

Kompany, who took over at Bayern this season, enjoyed a winning Champions League debut as coach with striker Harry Kane scoring four times in a game with the most goals by one team in the competition's history and the second-biggest winning margin.

"It is about three points," Kompany told a press conference. "Nine goals is a bit unusual but it was a lot of fun. The energy was good, the team showed the right spirit. We have played just one game and not more than that. It is now about the next game, to keep going."

It was not all praise from Kompany, who saw his team lead 3-0 at halftime but concede two goals in two minutes shortly after the restart as the Croats tried to find a way back.

"We scored nine but we conceded two goals. We conceded



Bayern Munich coach Vincent Kompany with Thomas Mueller

We scored nine but we conceded two goals. We conceded those goals because we were a step too late.

VINCENT KOMPANY

those goals because we were a step too late. Still we stayed calmed and then had a good evening," said the Belgian.

Kane's four goals saw him set a record of 33 for an English player in the Champions League. The England captain also scored a hat-trick against Holstein Kiel in the Bundesliga on Saturday.

"He is motivated and for me as a coach it is easier because if you have a top player who is himself so motivated it makes things so much easier," Kompany said. "He is a leader, captain of the national team. Players like him, they know they have to rise at these moments and that is what he is doing."



Salvatore Schillaci

Italy's World Cup hero Schillaci dies aged 59

Rome, Italy - Former Italy striker Salvatore Schillaci, a star of the 1990 World Cup on home soil, has died at the age of 59, his former clubs Inter Milan and Juventus said on Wednesday.

Schillaci led Italy to their third-place finish in 1990, winning the Golden Boot for his six goals during the tournament, including in the semi-final against Argentina and in their third-place victory over England.

Schillaci, who was born in the Sicilian city of Palermo and was hospitalised there, suffered from colon cancer, Italian media reports said.

"A football icon is leaving us, a man who has entered the hearts of Italians and sports fans around the world," Italy's prime minister Giorgia Meloni posted on X.

"Salvatore Schillaci, known by everyone as Toto, the striker from the magic nights of Italia '90 with our national team. Thanks for the emotions you gave us, for having made us dream, celebrate, embrace, and wave our national flag. Bon voyage, champion."

The Sicilian's wide eyes as he celebrated his goals became one of the enduring images of that World Cup and his was the name on all Italians' lips, outshining more established players such as Gianluca Vialli and Roberto Baggio.

Villa return to European elite stage with blanking of Young Boys

Bern, Switzerland - Aston Villa made an impressive return to Europe's elite as they began their Champions League campaign with an accomplished 3-0 victory away to Swiss club Young Boys on Tuesday.

Youri Tielemans fired Villa in front in the 27th minute of their first game in Europe's top club competition for 41 years and after that the Premier League side dominated on the artificial turf of the Stadion Wankdorf.

Villa, European champions in 1982, doubled their advantage in

the 38th minute with Jacob Ramsey tapping in from close range after terrible Young Boys defending. The visitors had goals by Ollie Watkins and substitute Jhon Duran wiped off for handball but Amadou Onana drove in Villa's third late on to underline their superiority.

It proved a highly-satisfying night though for Unai Emery's side who will face stiffer tests against the likes of Bayern Munich, Juventus and Celtic in the competition's new format.

Villa's fans have waited a long



Youri Tielemans scored the opening goal for Aston Villa

time for glamour European nights on foreign soil and the 1,500 who made the trip were well-rewarded as their team turned on the style. It was a poignant night too with fans singing the name of Villa's European Cup winning striker Gary Shaw who died on Monday as a result of a fall, aged 63.

Sporting Lisbon win

Zeno Debast and Viktor Gyokeres fired Sporting Lisbon to a 2-0 Champions League win over 10-man Lille on Tuesday, as de-

fender Angel Gomes was sent off for a second yellow card.

Sporting created a number of dangerous chances in the first half but were denied by goalkeeper Lucas Chevalier until Gyokeres latched on to a delightful pass from Pedro Goncalves to open the scoring in the 38th.

Two minutes later, Lille were reduced to 10 players when midfielder Gomes was shown a second yellow card for tripping Gyokeres, after being booked earlier for a push on Francisco Trincao.

MADRID SURVIVE STUTTGART SCARE

Late goals hand defending champions win against the spirited German team

Madrid, Spain - Real Madrid started their Champions League title defence with a hard-fought 3-1 home win over Stuttgart on Tuesday thanks to late goals by Antonio Rudiger and teenaged substitute Endrick.

Stuttgart were arguably the superior side at a sold-out Santiago Bernabeu stadium, with Real Madrid goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois having to make a string of critical saves to deny efforts by the German side.

Real, however, got the lead in the first minute of the second half in a quick counter-attack when Rodrygo crossed for Kylian Mbappe to strike from close range.

Stuttgart found the equaliser with a header by Deniz Undav in the 68th minute but Real substitute Luka Modric lifted a corner

to meet Rudiger who nodded a header past the goalkeeper in the 83rd.

Eighteen-year-old Endrick slotted home a powerful shot from long range deep into added time to secure an edgy win for the local side.

“Those who watch Stuttgart closely know that they are an attacking side which scores a lot of goals but can be caught off guard; I’m glad that we managed to go out with a win,” player-of-the-match Courtois told Movistar Plus.

“They pressed hard against us in the beginning and we suffered, sometimes by our own mistakes, but we got better and should have scored on many occasions.

“I’m content with the way we responded after the equaliser because winning is very important



Real Madrid’s Kylian Mbappe (2R) celebrates with teammates after scoring against Stuttgart on Tuesday

Those who watch Stuttgart closely know that they are an attacking side which scores a lot of goals but can be caught off guard; I’m glad that we managed to go out with a win

THIBAUT COURTOIS

in this new format of the Champions League.”

Manager Carlo Ancelotti, faced with a selection puzzle in defence with David Alaba still recovering from an ACL tear sustained last season and Eder Militao struggling with a lingering leg muscle problem, started

out of position, giving the German side chances throughout the first half.

An inspired Courtois produced world-class saves from efforts by Jamie Leweling, Enzo Millot and Angelo Stiller within the first 20 minutes.

Real tried to hit back, with Mbappe, Vinicius Jr and Rodrygo all wasting good chances, but it was Stuttgart who came close to scoring through Undav in a counter-attack in the 29th minute when his strike was deflected on to the crossbar by Carvajal.

Ancelotti brought Militao off the bench at halftime, moving

Carvajal to his original fullback position in a bid to fix his side’s issues, and a defensive mistake by Stuttgart’s Maximilian Mittelstadt gave Real the opener in the first minute of the second half.

Aurelien Tchouameni sent a long ball towards Rodrygo on the right touchline that Mittelstadt failed to clear, leaving the Brazilian forward unmarked and able to control the ball in his stride before crossing to Mbappe who tapped into the empty net from the far post.

Real Madrid kept piling on the pressure, with Rodrygo missing a couple of chances and Vinicius Jr

hitting the crossbar from the edge of the box in the 59th minute.

Stuttgart were still dangerous on the break and Courtois had to make a couple of saves from efforts by Leweling before Undav’s header from a corner levelled the match.

Stuttgart kept threatening a chaotic Real defence but the Spanish side got the lead again through Rudiger.

Vinicius Jr missed a sitter one-on-one against Stuttgart goalkeeper Alexander Nuebel in the 93rd minute, two minutes before Endrick’s rocket strike from way outside the box.

Ancelotti: Endrick ‘able to do things no-one can think of’

Madrid, Spain - Real Madrid’s teenaged striker Endrick has unique gifts that set him apart, manager Carlo Ancelotti said on Tuesday after the Brazilian scored the final goal in their 3-1 win over Stuttgart in the Champions League.

“He is able to do things that no-one can think of,” Ancelotti said after the 18-year-old Endrick became the youngest Real Madrid player to score in any official international competition.

Deep into added time, Endrick burst up the Santiago Bernabeu pitch in a quick counter-attack and unleashed a 30-metre daisy-cutter into the back of Stuttgart net, just inside the left post.



Endrick

He has the gift that strikers dreams of, the gift of being very effective, decisive. You can see that he has something special

CARLO ANCELOTTI

“He has the gift that strikers dreams of, the gift of being very effective, decisive,” Ancelotti said. “You can see that he has something special, something I have never seen. And he has such a strong and very fast shooting.

“Endrick had courage because it was the last ball of the game. The best solution was to take advantage of the three against one, with Vinicius and Rodrygo open in the wings, but he did it very well, even though it was perhaps the most complicated solution.”

Ancelotti said he was content with his side’s start to their Champions League defence despite Stuttgart dominating the game early

“If anyone thinks that winning games is easy, they are wrong. I have coached more than 200 games in the Champions League and I can’t remember a game without suffering,” Ancelotti said.



Daniele De Rossi

Roma sack De Rossi

Rome, Italy - AS Roma have sacked head coach Daniele De Rossi after the club went winless in their first four league matches of the season, the Serie A side said on Wednesday.

De Rossi, who spent nearly two decades at Roma as a player, took over as head coach in January after Jose Mourinho was fired. He signed a contract extension until 2027 in June.

A club statement read: “The decision is made in the best interests of the team, to get back on the desired path as soon as possible at a time when the season is still in its early stages.

“A heartfelt thank you to Daniele, who will always be at home at the Giallorossi club, for the work he has done in recent months with passion and dedication.”

De Rossi was sent off at the end of Roma’s 1-1 draw at Genoa on Sunday leaving the club 16th in the Serie A table. The midfielder was adored by Roma fans and had an illustrious career with the club.

Liverpool celebrate Champions League return with win over Milan

Milan, Italy - Liverpool celebrated their return to the Champions League after a year’s absence with a 3-1 victory over AC Milan at San Siro on Tuesday, overcoming a shaky start with goals from Ibrahima Konate, Virgil van Dijk and Dominik Szoboszlai.

Liverpool got off to an awful first few minutes in the battle between the two European heavyweights as Christian Pulisic fired Milan in front from a quick counter-attack in the third minute, aided by Liverpool’s disorganised defending.

But the visitors quickly regrouped and stamped their authority on the game, with both Liverpool’s centre backs getting on the scoresheet before half-time and Szoboszlai wrapping up the win after the break.

“A great way to spend my birthday,” said Liverpool manager Arne Slot, who turned 46 on Tuesday and was serenaded post-game by the Liverpool fans. “You wouldn’t have said this after five minutes, but after we



Liverpool’s Virgil van Dijk scores against AC Milan at San Siro

did well.”

Pulisic netted after sprinting down the right side virtually unchallenged to fire home from a tight angle.

The home side’s celebration was short-lived, however, as Liverpool turned things around, dominating for much of the remainder of the game.

“Shaky start with the goal that we conceded,” Van Dijk told Amazon Prime. “But after that,

the way we stayed calm, kept playing, kept looking for the solution, I think that was very good to see.”

Konate equalised in the 23rd minute when he leapt high above a crowd of defenders to head in Trent Alexander-Arnold’s free kick, with his first goal in two-and-a-half years coming after Davide Calabria’s tackle on Cody Gakpo led to the set-piece.

Skipper Van Dijk put Liverpool ahead to the delight of some 4,400 travelling fans when he nodded home Kostas Tsimikas’ corner just before halftime.

Szoboszlai sealed the victory in the 67th minute, slotting into the far corner from Cody Gakpo’s cross after Milan gave up possession and Liverpool broke quickly.

The night marked Slot’s first Champions League game at the helm of the Merseyside club since he replaced Jurgen Klopp, and it was a terrific response from his team after their shock 1-0 loss to Nottingham Forest in the Premier League on Saturday.

Young sailors all set for 13th Mussanah Race Week

Muscat - The 13th edition of Oman Sail’s Mussanah Race Week gets underway on October 4 when 100 sailors from nine countries will come together at the Barcelo Mussanah Resort for a week of competition, camaraderie and knowledge sharing.

This year there will be a programme for local schools which, for the first time in event history, offers 75 students the chance to race for three days during the competition.

Sailors from Oman, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, India, Kuwait, United Arab Emirates, Iraq, Singapore and Thailand will compete in Optimist, ILCA 4, ILCA 6 and ILCA 7 classes, as well as the para inclusive RS Venture Connect classes. School students will compete on a special course with the best performers gaining the opportunity to

take part as Juniors in future editions of Mussanah Race Week.

Competition will be held over



Around 100 sailors from nine countries will compete at the Mussanah Race Week

12 races in each class. Racing will take place following three practice days, on October 4-7, to allow sailors the chance to hone their skills, gain experience on the water and test themselves ahead of competitive

sailing. Prizes will be awarded for the overall top three in each class, as well as the Junior top three for sailors under the age of 12, and the girls’ top three, as well as the overall Team Racing competition.

Abdulaziz al Shidi, Oman Sail’s Acting Sailing Director, said, “Mussanah Race Week is a much anticipated and much-loved fixture in Oman’s sailing calendar. We are delighted to welcome sailors from around the world to experience our nation and build lifelong relationships within the sport.

“This year’s event introduces the first schools programme which aims to share the competitive atmosphere with new sailors and help them discover the joy of sailing, kickstarting a long-term opportunity for students by promoting the sport within local schools.”

'WE DON'T FEAR ANYONE, WE RESPECT EVERYONE'

India won't be complacent against Bangladesh, says coach Gambhir

Chennai, India - A series sweep against Bangladesh will cement India's place atop the World Test Championship (WTC) standings but the team under Rohit Sharma are guarding against any complacency in the two-match home series beginning in Chennai on Thursday.

Bangladesh, led by Najmul Hossain Shanto, are on a high after their memorable 2-0 series victory in Pakistan, a team they had never beaten before in a Test match.

The task will be tougher against India, who have prevailed in 11 of the 13 previous encounters between the neighbours - the other two were draws - and have not lost a home Test series since 2012.

"I have been big believer that we don't fear anyone but we respect everyone," India head coach Gautam Gambhir told reporters on Wednesday. "I congratulate them for what they did in Pakistan but this is a new series and they are a quality side and we want to play good cricket."

India are hoping to make the WTC final for the third time in a row and are eyeing a strong start to their season, which also includes three home tests against New Zealand followed by five in Australia.

They have been reinforced by wicketkeeper-batter Rishabh Pant's return to the side after a horrible crash in December 2022.

Dhruv Jurel, who impressed both behind and in front of the



India coach Gautam Gambhir with captain Rohit Sharma during a training session

I congratulate them for what they did in Pakistan but this is a new series and they are a quality side and we want to play good cricket

GAUTAM GAMBHIR

stumps in the home series against England earlier this year, will have to wait for his turn.

"Jurel is a phenomenal player but when Pant is coming in,

sometimes people have to wait," Gambhir said.

Mohammed Shami will miss the series as he recovers from an ankle surgery but Bangladesh batters will still have to deal with the cunning and craft of India's pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah and the lively pace of Mohammed Siraj.

The series will literally be a dif-

ferent ball game altogether for Shanto and his men.

Used to playing with the Kookaburra ball, they will have to adjust to the SG variety with pronounced seam in India.

Kamindu ton powers Sri Lanka to 302-7

Kamindu Mendis maintained his red-hot form and struck a majes-

tic 114 to power Sri Lanka to 302-7 on the opening day of the first Test in Galle on Wednesday.

Electing to bat in the first match of the two-Test series, Sri Lanka slumped to 106-4 but Kamindu's fourth Test hundred rescued the hosts. Ramesh Mendis was batting on 14 at stumps with Prabath Jayasuriya yet to open his account.



Al Manar Racing by Getspeed head to Monza for GTWC this weekend

Feeney to join Al Zubair and Baumann for Fanatec GT World Challenge at Monza

Monza, Italy - Australian racer Broc Feeney will join forces with Oman's Al Faisal bin Khalid al Zubair and Austrian Dominik Baumann to compete for Gold Cup honours at the fourth round of the 2024 Fanatec GT World Challenge powered by AWS Endurance Cup at Monza this weekend.

Feeney replaces Canadian Mikaël Grenier in the Al Manar Mercedes-AMG GT3 Evo as the new racing combination aims to close the nine-point gap on the Saintéloc Racing trio of Paul Evrard, Gilles Magnus and Jim Pla in both the Team and Gold Cup Championships. Saintéloc Racing won rounds one and three at Paul Ricard and the Nürburgring, while the Al-Manar Racing by Getspeed crew prevailed at the prestigious CrowdStrike 24 Hours of Spa.

Feeney, 22, is a well-known young Australian racing driver who competes in the Repco Supercars Championship and was also the winner of the 2021 Dun-

lop Super2 Series in a VF Commodore. He started karting 11 years ago and won numerous state and national championships before graduating to the Toyota 86 Racing Series Australia.

The Gold Coast youngster is also a class winner at the Bathurst 12-Hour and finished third, fifth and sixth overall on his last three outings in a Triple Eight Race Engineering Mercedes-AMG GT3 Evo.

Al Faisal said: "Looking forward to this weekend's race in Monza. It is the penultimate round of the championship before Jeddah. We are currently second in the championship, nine points behind the Saintéloc Audi. Anything is really on and it is still possible to win the title. This weekend we have a good package with the Mercedes for Monza.

"We will have Broc Feeney joining us instead of Mikaël Grenier, as Mik has a race in the IMSA Championship."



Al Hilal's Joao Cancelo celebrates with teammates after scoring against Al Rayyan on Tuesday

Al Hilal beat Al Rayyan in Asian Champions League

Doha, Qatar - Saudi Arabia's Al-Hilal cruised to a 3-1 win over Al-Rayyan of Qatar on Tuesday as Jorge Jesus' side made an ominous start to the league phase of the Asian Champions League Elite at Ahmad bin Ali Stadium.

Sergej Milinkovic-Savic powered through the penalty area to meet Malcom's cross in the 15th minute with a firm header that gave Al-Hilal the lead.

Two goals in two minutes at the end of the half put the Saudi side in control, Joao Cancelo

Earlier in the evening, Al-Wasl of the United Arab Emirates picked up a 1-0 win over Uzbekistan's Pakhtakor in Tashkent, with Moroccan defender Soufiane Bouftini heading in the game's only goal

latching onto Malcom's through pass to thump his shot home in the 42nd minute to double the lead. Cancelo turned provider in the 44th minute, the Portuguese fullback setting up Marcos

Leonardo to score from the edge of the six-yard box. Al-Hilal could have won by a larger margin, but Aleksandar Mitrovic saw his 71st minute penalty saved by Paulo Victor while Malcom also

hit the post for the Saudi Pro League champions.

Earlier in the evening, Al-Wasl of the United Arab Emirates picked up a 1-0 win over Uzbekistan's Pakhtakor in Tashkent, with Moroccan defender Soufiane Bouftini heading in the game's only goal in the 64th minute. The wins for Al-Hilal and Al-Wasl see them join Iran's Esteghlal and Al-Ahli of Saudi Arabia as the only teams to pick up three points from their opening game in the league

phase in west Asia.

Twelve clubs from the eastern and western halves of the continent will play eight games using the Swiss League format in the opening phase of the competition, with the top eight sides on each side of the draw advancing to the knockout rounds.

The last 16 will be played in March with the quarter-finals, semi-finals and final, which will be held on May 4, all due to be played on a centralised basis in Saudi Arabia.

Man United thrash Barnsley to progress in League Cup

London, England - Manchester United's Marcus Rashford, Alejandro Garnacho and Christian Eriksen all scored twice as the Old Trafford side roared into the last 16 of the League Cup with a 7-0 rout of third-tier Barnsley on Tuesday.

United were joined in the fourth round by fellow Premier League sides Brentford, who beat third-tier Leyton Orient 3-1, and Crystal Palace after they edged Queen's Park Rangers 2-1.

Top flight Fulham were knocked out in extraordinary fashion by second-tier Preston North End after the match ended 1-1 -- the home side prevailing 16-15 in a 34-penalty shootout, the longest-ever in the competition.

United manager Erik Ten Hag has endured a rocky time since taking over in 2022 but enjoyed the biggest win of his reign.

England forward Rashford ended a six-month goal drought at the weekend when he scored against Southampton in the Premier League and needed only 16 minutes to strike against Barnsley. His silky finish high into the



Manchester United's Marcus Rashford (L) and Alejandro Garnacho celebrate a goal against Barnsley

net paved the way for United to demolish Barnsley who were no match for Ten Hag's side.

Antony added the second from the penalty spot in the 35th minute and Garnacho poked home United's third in first-half stoppage time to put the hosts in complete control.

Garnacho side-footed his second from Rashford's pass just

after the restart and returned the compliment as Rashford made it 5-0. Eriksen scored his first United goal for more than a year in the 81st minute, slotting in Bruno Fernandes's cross. Eriksen then fired in from the edge of the area to complete United's biggest-ever League Cup win and their biggest margin of victory since Ten Hag took charge.



Marco Silva

Silva rues missed opportunities in Fulham's 34-kick shootout defeat at Preston

London, England - Fulham manager Marco Silva said his team should have won before the penalties, after Championship side Preston North End beat them 16-15 in the League Cup's longest shootout after Tuesday's third-round clash ended 1-1 in regular time.

Silva, who had made 11 changes from Saturday's starting line-up against West Ham United, was left frustrated as his men missed chances despite getting 16 shots against hosts Preston who only had seven, with Fulham's Harrison Reed hitting the crossbar.

"I'm sure that we did enough during the 95 minutes to win the game," Silva told reporters.

'Al Hilal had to work hard for victory against Al Rayyan'

Doha, Qatar - It may have looked like a cruise but Al Hilal SFC head coach Jorge Jesus said his side had to work hard for their 3-1 win over Al Rayyan SC in their AFC Champions League Elite opener on Tuesday.

"Today's match was between two teams with top-level players. The opposing team forced us to be focused throughout the match, and to take advantage of all our chances. Although we reached the opponents' goal in the second half, we did not succeed in scoring from the opportunities," said Jesus.

"In the first half, we succeeded in scoring three goals, and Al Rayyan had an advantage in the second half, but whoever scores the most wins, which is what happened today."

The victory at the Ahmad Bin Ali Stadium kept Al Hilal's start to the season perfect, having opened their Saudi Pro League 2024/25 campaign with four wins and Jesus said his side have to remain focused. "We succeeded in achieving an important victory against a strong competitor today but we have important



Jorge Jesus

matches ahead of us and we must focus on them in order to continue achieving victories."

Al Rayyan head coach Poya Asbaghi was generally satisfied with his side's performance despite the result.

"I am proud of the level the team presented despite the loss. Many times during the match, we were the better side and we played with high fighting spirit

and tried to achieve a better result," said Asbaghi. "The result does not reflect the reality of the level we presented, so we feel disappointed because of this loss because we were certainly aspiring for a better result."

Al Rayyan travel to face Saudi Arabia's Al Nassr on September 30 while Al Hilal will welcome Al Shorta FC of Iraq to Riyadh on October 1.



14

CHICKEN PARTS
Wing, thigh or breast, what's your take on chicken recipes?



15

IN TOWN
Onam celebrations by the Keralites and Hamed al Harthi's Leh trail run



16

ADVERTORIAL
'Oman now plays a strategic role in DSV's regional operations'

ART

'EN

PLEIN

AIR'

GRASSROOTS OMANI ART TAKES SHAPE IN THE LUSH GREEN FIELDS OF WALES THIS WEEK AS FOUR OMANI ARTISTS HAVE BAGGED A PRESTIGIOUS OPPORTUNITY TO HONE THEIR SKILLS IN THE UK

Four talented young Omani artists have swapped the heat of Oman for the frosty British autumn... The group were carefully selected from a large number of excellent applicants and are in Wales for the last two weeks to develop their artistic skills.

Despite the cold weather, the artists have been painting 'en plein air' and have enthusiastically embraced the opportunity to develop their oil painting techniques.

One of the participants, Majid al Amri, who is a teacher at Al Khoud School in Muscat, said, "This place is amazing. We have been working hard to develop our artwork. It has been a fantastic opportunity."

The visit has been arranged by the British Omani Society to support emerging Omani artists, building on the close cultural and artistic links between Oman and the UK. It has been made possible through sponsorship from Renaissance Services Group, The London Speakers Bureau, as well as the support of the Ministry of Culture Youth and Sport.

Ahmed al Qasimi from Al Suwaiq, who teaches at the Ibn Duraid School, highlighted the benefits of the trip, saying, "Coming to Wales has helped me develop my composition and perspective. It has also improved how I extract colours from what I am painting. I have learnt to be bold and brave in my painting and look forward to bringing what I have learned back to Oman when we all return."

The artists have been studying with renowned British landscape artist Lucy Corbett, at The Welsh Academy of Art as part of their month-long visit to the UK.

Lucy has been impressed by the talent and commitment of her Omani pupils. "It has been a pleasure to work with such talented, creative and charming young artists," she said.

The artists will spend the final 2 weeks of their visit in London, where

they will visit a wide range of galleries and art establishments to further inspire their creative spirit and build their understanding of the art world.

There will be an exhibition of their work at the British Omani Society in Piccadilly, London, from 25-27 September. The exhibition is being organised by the newly founded BOS Art Group, which was launched at The British Embassy in Muscat in January 2024.

The art project

The aim of the visit is to support art in Oman and the bilateral relationship between Britain and Oman. The trip will offer the artists the opportunity to develop their skills and show their work to an international audience.

This year, the visit is focused on traditional art, and the artists will be working in oil or acrylic. Their time in this trip (September 2 - 30) provides a unique opportunity in Wales to practice the classical methods of drawing and painting. The artists will study landscape, portrait and still life painting, and conduct a programme of visits. There will also be

time to create new works which will be included in an exhibition.

The group is being led by British artist Polly Gedney and her husband Major General (Retd) Felix Gedney, who have both spent a number of years living and working in Oman, the latter as the Chief British Loan Officer to Oman.

Also, Robin Start, Art Advisory at The Park Gallery in London, developed an incredible programme in London for the artists to showcase Oman's emerging artists globally and help strengthen the arts in the sultanate.

The artists on this trip were chosen by a selection committee that included Sarah Al Aulaqi and Ali al Jabri, who both represented Oman at this year's Venice Biennale, together with Lucy Corbett, founder of the Welsh Academy of Art.

The exhibiting Omani artists



Al Muntasir Nasser

I am deeply passionate about personal development. I have a keen interest in philosophy, finding inspiration in exploring fundamental questions about existence and meaning.



Sara al Hosni

My journey in the art world began when I was around five years old, drawing little girls in beautiful dresses, and later moving on to animals and nature. Throughout my school years, my art teachers supported me immensely.



Majid al Amri

I am inspired by impressionist artists such as Paul Cézanne, Henri Matisse, and Vincent Van Gogh. Additionally, I have a strong appreciation for classical painting, nature painting, portrait painting, and figurative art



Ahmed al Qasimi

As a visual artist specialising in oil painting, I have participated in numerous local and international art events and exhibitions. This opportunity will allow me to embark on a new artistic journey, immerse myself in the rich culture of the UK, and explore its traditional arts.



Photos: Polly Gedney

cook-up



Pan-seared Chicken Breast

- Ingredients
- 4 boneless, skinless chicken breasts

1tbsp kosher Salt

½ tbsp black pepper

½ tbsp garlic powder

1tbsp olive oil

1tbsp butter
- For the sauce
- 1tbsp butter

3 garlic cloves - minced

2tbsp cornstarch

1 ½ cups chicken stock

1tbsp lemon juice

1 cup, half and half

½ grated parmesan cheese

½ tsp garlic powder

Salt and Pepper, to taste

Parsley, chopped, for garnish (optional)

- Method
- Pat the chicken dry with a paper towel and arrange on a plate. Season both sides of the chicken evenly with salt, pepper and garlic powder. Heat the oil and butter in a large skillet over medium high heat. Place the chicken in the skillet and cook until golden brown, approximately 5-7 minutes. Flip the chicken over and sear on the opposite side. Continue to cook until the chicken is golden. Transfer the chicken to a platter and keep warm. Turn the heat to medium low and add the butter to the pan. Once melted, stir in the garlic and cook for 30 seconds. Sprinkle the cornstarch in the pan and cook for an additional 30 seconds. Turn the heat to low and whisk in the chicken stock continuing to whisk until slightly thickened. Stir in the lemon and the half and half.

Continue to simmer for 3-4 minutes until the sauce begins to thicken. Stir in the cheese and garlic powder. Continue to stir until the sauce is smooth. Season with salt and pepper. Return the chicken to the pan and cook on low for 5 minutes until the chicken is warmed through.



Crispy Baked Chicken Thighs

- Ingredients
- 6 skin-on, bone-in chicken thighs

Salt and ground black pepper - to taste

1 pinch garlic powder, or to taste
- Method
- Preheat oven to 245° C. Set a wire rack inside a broiler pan or baking pan. Pat chicken thighs dry with paper towels. Lift up skin gently; sprinkle salt, pepper, and

- garlic powder under the skin. Replace skin. Season skin and underside of the thighs with salt, pepper, and garlic powder.

Arrange on the rack. Roast in the preheated oven until golden, about 20 minutes. Reduce oven temperature to 200° C. Continue roasting until juices run clear, about 30 minutes more. Let rest for 5 minutes before serving.

Add red chilli flakes for a more spicy treat.

Wing, thigh and breast

ENJOY DIFFERENT PARTS OF A CHICKEN IN DIFFERENT WAYS TO SUIT YOUR OWN TASTE

Sticky Spicy Chicken Wings

- Ingredients
- For chicken wings

1kg chicken wings

1tbsp baking powder

1tbsp rice flour

1tsp sea salt

½tsp freshly ground black pepper

½tsp paprika

For lime sauce

1tsp garlic powder

1tsp onion powder

1tsp chipotle powder

1tsp paprika

- 1 lime zest

1 lime juice

5tbsp honey

2tbsp hot sauce

¾tsp fine salt

For dipping sauce

2tbsp sour cream

2tbsp mayo

¼tsp garlic powder

A pinch of sea salt

- Method
- Preheat the oven to 220°C. Whilst the oven is preheating, split the chicken wings in half into the drumette and wingette (flat). Remove the wing tips. Dry the chicken wing parts with a paper towel to ensure they are completely dry. Put the spices and baking powder in a small bowl and pour over the chicken wings in a freezer bag. Seal the freezer bag with air in like a pillow and shake the wings in the spices to ensure they are evenly and fully coated.

Place the spice coated wings onto a lightly greased wire rack over a baking sheet lined with foil or parchment paper. Bake the wings in the oven for 40-50 minutes turning half way through, until the wings are super crispy and golden.

For the chipotle lime sauce, place all the ingredients for the chipotle lime sauce in a small skillet. Mix together the ingredients and warm together over medium high heat. Reduce by about a third until almost the thickness of honey, about 2-3 minutes. Toss the baked wings in the sauce in a large bowl and serve whilst hot, sticky and still crispy with the dipping sauce.

For the creamy dipping sauce, stir together the ingredients for the creamy dipping sauce until fully combined.



CLASSIFIEDS

SITUATION WANTED

An experienced Indian male with over 15 years of experience in civil projects, fitout project management, and planning engineering, along with a valid Oman driving licence, is seeking a suitable placement.

Contact: +968-98908664

Knowledge of SAP FICO, ERP, GPS, Tally) Total experience of 22Yrs+ in MIS, Budget, Cash-flow,Treasury, Banking,Tax, Audit. Smart, honest & efficient male looking for senior position in Accounts & Finance. Contact 91468679, Email: amitpandit007@gmail.com.

Chief Acct/ Manager:
Chief Acct/ Manager (20 yr Exp of Oman) Finalisation of account, MIS, Audit, Tax, VAT, LC, LTR & Oracle ERP, Tally ERP Gsm 92383882



FOR RENT/SALE

Available 2100 sq meter best in class Warehouse cum office Space, fully furnished ready to use, Located at Prime area of Ghala in the heart of the city having easy access to airport & express Way.

Contact: Mr.Sumit Mudgil - 95616835
Girish Sewani - 93893596



Quality car rentals at competitive prices.

Muscat 9014 6672, 9679 0684
Sohar 9731 6218 | Salalah 9429 9325
www.orbit-oman.com

- WJ Towell Group Company

Fleet of 2,000 vehicles

Choose from a wide range of brands & models

PDO, OXY and BP spec vehicles available

Attractive rates for short-term & long-term lease
- أوربت ORBIT

Car Rental & Lease

عيادة فصول السنة للطب الهندي التقليدي

ALL SEASON AYURVEDA CLINIC

The most efficient and authentic Ayurvedic Treatment & Medicine, Yoga, Kalari, Panchakarma, Massage, Dhara etc... Rehabilitation, Beauty therpay & post Delivery Care

Zaher Building, 1st Floor, Flat 8A, Al Khuwair Service Road ,near Al Zawawi Mosque & Burger-king Tel:24475280, GSM: 95371664 , 92504980 , Website:www.siddhayur.com

SEND YOUR REQUEST FOR
Birthday/Anniversary wishes to wish@apexmedia.co.om
with your resident card copy
(It's free of cost)

take a break

IN TOWN

Onam celebrations



Keralites in Oman celebrated the annual harvest festival - Onam, participating in the traditional lunch 'Onasadhya'



Photos: V K Shafeer

Khhardung La Challenge



Veteran Omani trail runner Hamed al Harthy finished the Khhardung La Challenge, in Leh, in north India, on September 6



YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE



ARIES MARCH 21-APRIL 19

If you're still feeling as if your mind is a big fog bank and your emotions are hailstones, you might not be quite ready to face the usual demands you juggle from day to day, much less any extra responsibilities. Keep your cool if your partner volunteers your services for a fundraiser or your kids tumble in with hungry friends looking for dinner.



TAURUS APRIL 20-MAY 20

Now that you've got your outbursts under control, you can begin to examine the cause. You are obviously feeling uncharacteristically vulnerable and sensitive, but what triggered this reaction? Perhaps a combination of small events built up before you could adequately deal with them and the pressure broke through your self-control. Look to your inner self for the reassurance you need.



GEMINI MAY 21-JUNE 21

There's nothing flighty in your approach today. You're all business and have both the concentration and the mental sharpness to develop a full understanding of the task facing you. Not afraid to ask questions and dig beyond superficial answers, your probing puts you far ahead of the pack and significantly along the path to success. If only you could bring this same kind of focus to bear every single day.



CANCER JUNE 22-JULY 22

If it seems that everyone knows something you don't, perhaps you need to probe the reasons why that is. Burying your head in the sand effectively keeps you out of the loop and in the dark. It might not be easy to find out what's swirling around in these waters, but an innocent sounding question posed to a well-placed source could clear things up.



LEO JULY 23-AUGUST 22

You may have the chance to pick up terrific deals at an auction or estate sale. Thoroughly examine the pieces that interest you, however, and make your own valuations. The sellers may exaggerate age or history in the hopes of attracting higher bids. Check online if you aren't sure about authenticity. Someone may approach you and offer to purchase something you've bought.



VIRGO AUGUST 23-SEPTEMBER 22

Wise words sometimes come from unexpected sources. Listening to someone who has already found their way could help you find yours. Keep your ears open so that you can add these jewels to your treasure box. Strive each day to add at least one new insight to your growing collection. You can take them out one by one.



LIBRA SEPTEMBER 23-OCTOBER 22

Financial considerations could tempt you to throw away donation requests from worthy nonprofits that you've supported in the past. Overcome your overly cautious approach to cutting back expenses. Even if you're in a bit of a financial bind at the moment, you can still contribute something and spread some good in the world.



SCORPIO OCTOBER 23-NOVEMBER 21

Vast reserves of inner strength keep you going, and minor setbacks don't have the slightest chance of dimming your resolve. It helps that positive strokes far outnumber the few negative barbs you might have to pull from your hide. But even naysayers are captivated by your optimism and begin to drift over to your way of thinking.



SAGITTARIUS NOVEMBER 22-DECEMBER 21

Vast reserves of inner strength keep you going, and minor setbacks don't have the slightest chance of dimming your resolve. It helps that positive strokes far outnumber the few negative barbs you might have to pull from your hide. But even naysayers are captivated by your optimism and begin to drift over to your way of thinking.



CAPRICORN DECEMBER 22-JANUARY 19

All kinds of breakthroughs and positive developments can be yours if you concentrate on strategies related to your property, investments, products, or services. An especially keen insight and plenty of background information could turn difficult decisions into child's play - transforming a hobby into a moneymaking opportunity.



AQUARIUS JANUARY 20-FEBRUARY 18

Every now and then events really hit home and cause you to critically examine your place in this world. Perhaps it's time for you to take a more active role in community affairs, or maybe you have your sights set even higher. If you make commitments, however, you must be determined to follow through with them.



PISCES FEBRUARY 19-MARCH 20

Pushy people may be goading you beyond your endurance. It's wise to remember that no one can take advantage of you unless you allow them to. If you find that everyone is taking you for granted and expecting more and more, it could be time to go on strike. You don't have to be unpleasant to make them listen.

BOGGLER

G	B	D	L
E	N	E	I
L	T	A	D
S	I	O	Qu

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

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

TRIVIA QUIZ - FOR TEENS

1. Which tomato is ideal for making salsa or sauces?
- A. Roma Tomato
B. Cherry Tomato
C. Grape Tomato
D. Red Beefsteak tomato

2. Hugh Grant made his acting debut with which feature film?



- A. Privileged
B. Maurice
C. Sense and Sensibility
D. Four Weddings and a Funeral

3. Which of these islands of Oman are part of Khuriya Muriya islands?

- A. Masirah
B. Damaniyat
C. Al Hallaniyah
D. Al Qibliyah

Answers
1. D
2. A
3. C

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

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

entertainment



SHOGUN, THE BEARS GET RECORD HAULS AT 76TH EMMYS

At the 76th Emmys — meaning both last weekend's Creative Arts ceremonies and Sunday night's Primetime ceremony — two shows, both from Disney's resurgent FX division, had record-breaking hauls: the limited-turned-drama series *Shogun* took home 18 prizes, more than any other show in a single cycle; and the second season of *The Bear* bagged 11, surpassing by one its own record for most wins by a comedy in a single cycle. And yet, oddly enough, there was less of a dominant sweep of the genres at the 76th Emmys than there had been at the 75th.

The Bear, even with its incredible accumulation of wins — which included prizes for directing (Christopher Storer, for the off-the-wall *Fishes* episode) and three for its regulars (actor Jeremy Allen White and supporting actor Ebon Moss-Bachrach for the second consecutive year, plus supporting actress Liza Colón-Zayas) — still came up short for best comedy.

BRAD PITT ON 'LAST LEG' OF HOLLYWOOD CAREER

Brad Pitt teased his upcoming retirement from Hollywood in a 2022 interview, and the A-list actor is elaborating on what he meant by his comments. Although the 60-year-old actor previously hinted he's in the last stretch of his career, Pitt explained he's "just trying to work less."

"I'm still kind of on the same trajectory. I feel the same," Pitt shared in a recent interview with GQ. "I'm really just trying to enjoy the people that I love around me and just living."



Genre: Animation
Starring: Chris Hemsworth, Scarlett Johansson, Brian Tyree Henry
Language: English



TRANSFORMERS ONE

TRANSFORMERS ONE is the untold origin story of Optimus Prime and Megatron, better known as sworn enemies, but once were friends bonded like brothers who changed the fate of Cybertron forever. In the first-ever fully CG-animated Transformers movie.

CHARLIE HUNNAM TO STAR IN SEASON 3 OF 'MONSTER'

Ryan Murphy has found his next *Monster* in Ed Gein... and Charlie Hunnam. The *Sons of Anarchy* star is set to play the serial murderer and body snatcher, often referred to as "the Butcher of Plainfield," in a third cycle of the Netflix anthology series *Monster*.

Murphy announced the casting, as well as plans to start production next month, before a Monday screening of the series' latest effort — *Monsters: The Lyle and Erik Menendez Story*. Each cycle of the *Monster* franchise intends to tackle a different true-crime story after the massive success of the 2022 debut about serial killer Jeffrey Dahmer.



IMRAN KHAN TO PRODUCE HIS OWN COMEBACK FILM

By now it's known that Bollywood actor Imran Khan is all set to make his comeback on screen with an upcoming project. The actor is will be seen finally returning to films after a hiatus of nine years. The actor has long been dropping multiple hints about his comeback ever since August 2023. However, there has been no clarity on what the project will be. While some sources claim it will be a web series, others suggest it will be a rom-com film. There have been multiple speculations and reports surrounding the *Katti Batti* actor's return. Most recently there were reports claiming that the actor's comeback project will be produced by his uncle and superstar Aamir Khan.

However, latest reports have dismissed the earlier reports. While Imran Khan's comeback project is very much on the cards, it has no connection to Aamir.

STREE 2 SURPASSES JAWAN AS HIGHEST HINDI GROSSER

Stree 2, the Shraddha Kapoor-Rajkummar Rao starrer has scripted history at the Bollywood box office, according to trade analysts. The horror-comedy movie, a sequel to the 2018 film directed by Amar Kaushik, has been drawing audiences to houseful theatres in just 35 days of theatrical run, and has become the highest-grossing Hindi film ever, beating the Atlee-directed *Jawan*, the analysts say. As of this week, the film has amassed a staggering Rs5.86bn at the Indian box office.

Hyunjin now brand ambassador for Cartier



Girlies! I am shookh! Hyunjin of *Stray Kids* has broken and shattered expectations as the first 4th generation K Pop star to become the brand ambassador for Cartier! Squeee...

My baby (The rapper and lead dancer for 'Stray Kids') is so grown up, he had worn the brands' jewellery over the past few events, but now that the official conformation is here, me and his fans are abuzz with excitement!

When *Stray Kids* went viral for including five consecutive No 1 rankings on the Billboard 200, we fans streamed like crazy. As the group is killin it with their third world tour, 'dominATE', Hyunjin ate the first photo-shoot he did under the Cartier banner.

With Milan Fashion week around the corner, you bet Cartier is gonna push their best face forward. And we girlies are going to eat good this season.

Remember when *BTS*'s Jimin and Suga were made global ambassadors for Dior and Valentino? The excitement for Hyunjin is matching that level of frenzy.

KILLING SPREE AT THE BALL



HOLLYWOOD MOVIE REVIEW: CINDERELLA'S CURSE

Genre: Horror Starring: Kelly Rian Sanson, Chrissie Wunna, Lauren Budd

Some consider it a decent watch, some see it as a waste of time, but *Cinderella's Curse*, directed by Louisa Warren, has been making audiences sit on edge as the desperate Cinderella summons her fairy godmother from an ancient

flesh-bound book, seeking revenge on her evil stepmother and stepsisters who abuse and torment her daily.

The bedtime fairytale is well known - this beautiful, simple, young woman, who dreams of finding love and happiness, unfortunately, is mistreated and

abused by her evil stepmother and stepsisters on a daily basis and has no way of escaping their cruelty.

However, the fairytale turns into a nightmare when she discovers a flesh bound ancient book that can summon a fairy godmother, and her luck changes for the 'better' as the fairy godmother grants Cinderella a wish, and she chooses revenge.

With the help of a bunch of Cenobites and an ugly ass witch, Cinderella goes on a killing spree



at the ball.

The movie gives you what you want - Cinderella killing people, as some critics say - and the kills are quite bloody and the effects are better than expected. Whether intentional or not, the characters are seen backstabbing each other.

The entire movie shows a bunch of crazy ladies shouting, killing, fighting, torturing, screaming, and slaughtering with satisfaction... from the beginning to the end, as if this is what comprises horror. Watch it only if you are a horror-freak.

Rating ★★★★★