

# \$172.5mn deals for local content in energy sector

Our Correspondent  
Muscat

Ministry of Energy and Minerals launched the Majd Local Content Programme on Sunday aimed at increasing local content in the sultanate's energy and minerals sectors. The initiative, which focuses on engaging local businesses and talent, saw 12 agreements worth more than \$172.5mn signed at its launch.

The event was attended by senior officials, including H E Dr Said bin Mohammed al Saqri, Minister of Economy, and H E Salim bin Nasser al Aufer, Minister of Energy and Minerals. Representatives of major oil, gas, renewable energy and mining companies were also present, alongside key figures from the public and private sectors.

H E Saqri highlighted the government's strategic push towards national industries and economic diversification. He informed that in 2023, 16% of the oil and gas sector's spending was directed towards small and medium enterprises, reinforcing the importance of local businesses in driving growth.

One of the key messages at the launch was the focus on cre-



H E Dr Said al Saqri (L) and H E Salim al Aufer at the launch of Majd Local Content Programme on Sunday

ating jobs for Omani youth. "We are committed to localising industries and nurturing national talent through the Majd Local Content Programme," said H E Aufer.

He added that since its inception in 2013, the local content initiative in energy and minerals has contributed over US\$33bn to Oman's economy, created over 3,000 jobs and supported more than 100 industrial facilities.

The agreements signed during the launch cover various sectors, from construction to integrated drilling services. Nama Dhofar Services and Galfar Engineering & Contracting SAOG signed a deal to develop a water treatment plant, while Oxy Oman secured a contract with Jalmood National Company for drilling and development services.

Petroleum Development Oman (PDO) inked agreements

with local companies to supply gaskets and industrial fasteners. "These contracts demonstrate our commitment to promoting local manufacturing capabilities," stated a PDO representative. In addition, Occidental Oman signed a significant deal for reinforced thermoplastic pipes with Duqm HongTong Piping, boosting local manufacturing capacity.

Continued on Page 03

## National AI programme launched to secure global digital leadership

Our Correspondent  
Muscat

The National Programme for Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Advanced Digital Technologies was launched on Sunday to enhance the role of information and communications technology (ICT) in the economy as part of efforts to meet Oman Vision 2040 objectives.

Running from 2024 to 2026, the programme includes a series of initiatives designed to align Oman with global advancements in AI.

At the heart of the programme is a national open data platform aimed at supporting entrepreneurs, investors and decision-makers by making valuable data more accessible. In addition, a national research centre for AI will be established to assist researchers and academics in exploring cutting-edge technologies. A collaborative AI 'studio' will also be set up to offer technological solutions to specialists and organisations.

An Omani language model is on the cards, which will utilise generative AI technology to integrate the country's cultural, historical and scientific content. Additionally, a centre for Fourth Industrial Revolution technologies will be set up in partnership with World Economic Forum, besides quantum computing initia-



Our aim is to ensure that AI becomes integral across sectors, localising advanced technologies and strengthening Oman's position in global rankings

H E SAEED AL MAWALI

tives undertaken aimed at boosting awareness and research in this area.

Launching the programme, H E Saeed bin Hamood al Mawali, Minister of Transport, Communications and Information Technology, said it builds on a programme launched in 2022. He emphasised the government's commitment to using AI and digital technologies to create a robust digital economy that can support sustainable development. "Our aim is to ensure that AI becomes integral across sectors, localising advanced technologies and strengthening Oman's position in global rankings."

The programme aims to raise Oman's ranking in the global Government Readiness Index for

AI and increase the digital economy's contribution to the country's GDP from 2% in 2021 to 10% by 2040.

Highlighting the programme's importance in driving economic growth, H E Dr Ali al Shidhani, Undersecretary for Communications and Information Technology in Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology, said, "The vision, axes and objectives of the programme will provide additional impetus to boost the digital economy's contribution to the GDP, integrate AI technologies across economic and development sectors, and localise these technologies in the sultanate."

Other government efforts to boost the ICT sector include the AI Makers Initiative and the National Research Centre which will offer opportunities for startups and innovators. Additionally, AI-driven tools will automate tasks such as data analysis and translation, boosting workplace efficiency.

The national programme also focuses on enhancing digital skills among Omani youth. Specialised training in AI and data analysis will be introduced in schools with new curriculum. "This is about preparing the next generation of innovators and creators as Oman positions itself as a regional leader in AI development," H E Mawali informed.

## GCC calls for international support for UN resolutions on Palestine

New York, US - Jassem Mohamed al Budaiwi, Secretary-General of Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), emphasised the importance of the international community's support in implementing United Nations resolutions regarding the Palestinian issue.

This statement was made during Budaiwi's meeting with UN



Jassem Mohamed al Budaiwi (L) and António Guterres

Secretary-General António Guterres on the sidelines of the 79th session of the UN General Assembly in New York City. The two leaders discussed ways to enhance cooperation between the GCC and the UN across various fields, particularly in supporting sustainable development efforts and addressing the latest

regional and international developments, including the crisis in Gaza and other Palestinian territories.

Budaiwi praised the efforts of the UN General Assembly in preparing for the 79th session, recognising its significant role in tackling current regional and international issues, promoting

peace and development, and enhancing global cooperation to address crises.

In response, Guterres commended the GCC countries for their regional and international contributions, highlighting the national achievements of member states that have positioned them among the leading nations.



GOLF LINKS

The Luxury of Nature

Ocean and golf at your door

Elegant 4 bedroom residences

Integrated open-plan living

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

الموج  
al mouj  
مسقط muscat



THE DIFFERENCE..  
OUR RELATIONSHIP  
WITH YOU

With **120+** branches  
More than **360** ATMs and CDMs  
we are always at your service.

f X IG IN bankdhofar 2479 1111 www.bankdhofar.com



# WAY FORWARD WITHOUT DISRUPTIONS

The sultanate is targeting Omanisation rates between 50% and 100% in communications and IT sectors by 2026. How can the government make this an easy transition, particularly for SMEs? Here's what *Muscat Daily* readers said -

**Ahmed al Balushi**  
Business owner

This is a very good move. The ministry can support this by investing in specialised training programmes and workshops that are tailored to industry needs, particularly for SMEs. Offering grants or subsidies for SMEs to hire and train Omanis would also ease the financial burden during the transition.

**Fatma al Habsi**  
IT professional

For the Omanisation initiative to succeed, the government should focus on developing a skilled workforce through educational reforms. Universities and vocational institutes need to align their IT and communications syllabus with industry demands, offering

practical, hands-on training. I also think that internship programmes with big corporates can be encouraged to allow students to gain real-world experience in SMEs before entering the workforce.

**Samuel Jacob**  
Cashier

Creating partnerships between larger corporations and SMEs facilitating knowledge-sharing will help small businesses adopt best practices and push innovation.

**Rajesh Verma**  
Business owner

As an expatriate business owner in Oman, I

YOUR  
SAY



believe that the government can facilitate this transition by implementing gradual Omanisation quotas for SMEs. This will give companies time to train Omani employees without disrupting operations. I also feel that it will be nice if the government can introduce initiatives that promote knowledge transfer from expatriate professionals to Omani workers.

**Salim al Kindi**  
HR manager

It's crucial that Omanisation is seen as an opportunity for growth, not a burden for businesses. The government can host workshops and seminars to educate SME owners on the benefits of Omanisation and share short and long-term strategies for successfully integrating local talent into their operations.

**Santosh Iyer**  
IT consultant

Collaborating with educational institutions to introduce courses focused on emerging technologies like AI, cloud computing and cybersecurity will ensure that Omani graduates are prepared for the demands of the job market. For SMEs to successfully meet Omanisation targets, the government should also consider offering financial assistance and resources for training purposes.

? NEXT ON  
YOUR SAY

Oman is blessed with a vast coastline. What can be done to boost cruise and marine tourism?

SEND YOUR COMMENTS

Share your comments in not more than 50 words along with your full name and profession before next Sunday, 10am, via WhatsApp, Facebook or Instagram

SEND US ON OUR  
NEW  
WHATSAPP NO  
91953774

The views stated here are those of the respondents and not endorsed by *Muscat Daily*. If you feel strongly about the issues discussed here, you can email your comments to [muscatdaily@apexmedia.co.om](mailto:muscatdaily@apexmedia.co.om) You can also log on to our Facebook page or tweet us your comments on the issue.



Recall

2023  
Jeep Wrangler(JL)  
Jeep Gladiator (JT)

Recall Date: 23 September 2024

| Brand of Commodity                         | Year of Production | Number of Affected Commodities |
|--------------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------|
| Jeep Wrangler (JL) and Jeep Gladiator (JT) | 2023               | 8                              |

Recall consequence

About 700 of the above vehicles may have been built with a steering column control module (SCCM) with an insufficient weld between an internal flexible flat cable (FFC) and busbar. The SCCM may not allow a deployment signal from the Occupant Restraint Controller to reach the driver airbag module, preventing airbag deployment. An airbag that does not deploy when intended may result in increased risk of injury to the driver in a crash.

Recall Action

Use WiTech to perform SCCM Serial Number Validation. If the SCCM fails the validation, replace the SCCM.

To check the serial numbers of the affected commodities, please visit the website for Recalls & Warnings: <http://recall.jeep.gov.om>



## New initiative launched to boost tourism, economy in Musandam

Our Correspondent  
Muscat

Musandam has introduced an initiative called 'Musandam Lodges' to enhance the tourism sector and stimulate the local economy.

The announcement was made during a workshop organised by Oman Tourism College in collaboration with Ministry of Heritage and Tourism and Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry's Musandam Branch on Sunday.

Sayyid Ibrahim Said al Busaidi, Governor of Musandam, highlighted the initiative's goal of encouraging residents to invest in

world-class tourist lodges while utilising the governorate's rich natural diversity. "This project aims to improve tourism infrastructure, attract local investments and address the growing demand for tourist accommodation."

Key objectives include promoting both local and international tourism through diverse lodging options, boosting Musandam's reputation as a prime tourist destination, and supporting small and medium enterprises in the governorate. Additionally, the initiative is expected to generate new job opportunities in the hospitality and tourism sectors.

portunities in the hospitality and tourism sectors.

The governor urged local investors to capitalise on available opportunities and benefit from incentives for lodging projects. Musandam International Company will manage the development of investment, financing and commercial models alongside urban and architectural plans for participating companies.

The workshop included presentations on the importance of developing tourist lodges as a fundamental element of tourism growth.

## 'A Journey to Explore Oman' tourism campaign in India in Jan '25

New Delhi, India - The Embassy of Oman in India hosted a ceremony on Saturday to unveil a tourism campaign - 'A Journey to Explore Oman' - set to take place from January 10 to 18, 2025.

The campaign is being organised in collaboration with IBEX Expeditions from India and Bait al Qanoon Foundation from Oman. The latter is dedicated to opening new off-the-beaten-track destinations each year and creating programmes that offer exciting and immersive experiences.

The foundation works to introduce destinations based on recommendations made by members of its Fellowship Committee. These members are typically from diverse countries and varying economic and cultural backgrounds, ensuring they serve as ambassadors for the countries they visit.

This partnership is expected to enhance Oman's appeal as a tourist destination, particularly among travellers who adopt a sustainable and responsible approach to tourism.

# MoHERI launches Tamkeen programme to enhance research and innovation in Oman

Our Correspondent  
Muscat

The Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation (MoHERI), on Sunday embarked on a special programme to boost the central role of research and innovation in domestic development.

The ministry launched Tamkeen at the Research and Innovation Lab, with its focus on analysing the current performance of national research and innovation system. It also seeks to identify key challenges and proposing solutions to address them during the lab, which will last until October 3.

Tamkeen will act in partnership with all stakeholders to achieve integration and common goals, the ministry said.

The programme, which stems from the drive to achieve Oman



*This initiative is essential for supporting economic growth and achieving comprehensive, sustainable national development*

**H E DR RAHMA AL MAHROUQI**

Vision 2040, aspires to place the Sultanate of Oman among the top twenty countries in the Global Innovation Index.

The Global Innovation Index



an important source of information for decision-makers. It enables them to measure economic competitiveness in comparison to leading international models.

The new programme calls for efforts to achieve comprehensive and sustainable national development through knowledge, research and innovation.

In her speech, H E Dr Rahma Ibrahim al Mahrouqi, Minister of

Higher Education, Research and Innovation, said that the research and innovation lab aims to set up a national system in Oman and consolidate its role in economic and social development.

She outlined the foundation of the Scientific Research and Innovation Empowerment Clinic, emphasising its alignment with the priorities of Oman Vision 2040.

The clinic is built on four key pillars: Innovative and digital research structures, scientific and technical capabilities, legal and legislative frameworks, and funding.

Highlighting the importance of collaboration among all stakeholders, H E Dr Rahma noted that the clinic plays a crucial role in strengthening the national system for scientific research and innovation. This initiative is essential for supporting economic growth and achieving comprehensive, sustainable national development.

The clinic also addressed significant challenges within its strategic direction, particularly concerning research and innovation infrastructure, funding sources, legislative frameworks, and the development of human capabilities. Diverse funding avenues - including government support, private sector contributions, endowment funding, and international funding opportunities - also came up for discussion which can eventually bolster research and innovation efforts.

To tackle existing challenges, technical working groups were formed, bringing together representatives from academia, government, and the private sector - to analyse the current system.

The findings from these efforts will be compiled into a comprehensive document.

## EA invites investments to boost ecotourism in Dhofar

Our Correspondent  
Salalah

The Environment Authority (EA) opened a tender for the development of the Khor al Qurm al Kabir Reserve in Salalah in Dhofar, to boost the site's appeal - both for tourists and investors.

EA is seeking proposals from investors for the management and development of the reserve, with a focus on creating preliminary designs and strategies to attract more tourists.

All development plans must align with the policies set by the EA, the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism, and other relevant bodies, the authority stated.

Khor al Qurm, which boasts a

rich variety of plant life, is located along the road connecting Salalah and Raysut. Investors have until October 10 to submit their bids for this project.

The EA reported that six of Oman's nature reserves attracted a total of 83,414 visitors in 2023. These reserves, known for their natural beauty and diverse ecosystems, offer visitors the chance to explore scenic landscapes, camp, and dive.

According to the EA's 2023 annual report, Daymaniyat Islands Nature Reserve welcomed 71,261 visitors, followed by Al Saleel Nature Park - 10,024 visitors, Arabian Oryx Reserve - 1,059, Qurm Nature Reserve - 416, Ras al Shajar Reserve - 413

and Wadi Sireen Reserve with 241 visitors.

The report also highlighted the EA's efforts to conduct scientific research and improve tourism facilities in these reserves.

It stressed that Oman's 26 nature reserves play a crucial role in preserving biodiversity and boosting the country's reputation as an ecotourism destination. These reserves contribute significantly to domestic tourism and national revenue.

Looking ahead, the EA plans to develop nine new nature reserves to further promote ecotourism. In addition, new investment guidelines for these reserves have also been issued.

## 2.3mn visitors recorded till July

Our Correspondent  
Muscat

Oman recorded arrival of approximately 2.3mn visitors till the end of July this year, reflecting a 2.4% increase compared to the number of visitors coming to the country during the first seven months of 2023.

However, July itself saw a slight decrease in arrivals, with 371,394 visitors, 1.3% down from July 2023, which registered 376,376 persons entering the country. According to the latest report from the National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI), Gulf visitors constituted the majority of arrivals in July 2024, making up 56% of the total with 208,485 visitors.

This was followed by 89,007 visitors from Asia, 48,221 from other Arab countries, 13,379 from

Europe, 6,092 from Africa and 5,271 from the Americas, alongside 939 visitors from Oceania.

In terms of accommodation, hotels classified as 3- to 5-stars reported revenues to the tune of RO132.3mn by the end of July this year, marking a 7.9% increase from the same period last year. Room revenues rose by 8.3%, reaching RO76.6mn, while revenues from other sources increased by 7.3% to RO55.7mn.

The total number of hotel guests rose by 9.3%, totalling 1,204,426 guests, with room-night bookings rising by 8% to reach 1,676,773 nights.

The overall hotel occupancy rate till the end of July stood at 46.7%, with North Batinah recording the highest occupancy rate at 49.7%, followed by Dhofar at 46.5%, and Muscat at 40.2%.

## \$172.5mn deals for local content

Continued from Page 01

SMEs were supported through several agreements, including a contract between Daleel Petroleum and Al Nujum Professional Energy Services, which employs a fully local workforce. Nama Water Services partnered with Al Ansi Trading and Contracting Company for water network maintenance across several governorates.

In an effort to address employment, two agreements focused on training programmes were signed. PDO and BP Oman signed agreements with Oman Energy Association (OPAL) to equip Omani graduates with the skills required for the energy sector. More than 380 job opportunities are expected to be created through these programmes.



المها  
al Maha  
معكم أينما كنتم  
With you everywhere

## Tender Announcement

Al Maha Petroleum Products Marketing Company SAOG invites Bidders to submit their proposal for the below detailed tender:

| Tender No.             | Description                                                                        | Tender Fee (Nonrefundable) OMR | Tender Purchase deadline | Clarification deadline | Tender Submission Date |
|------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| TENDER/2024/09/ENG/016 | Construction of New Filling Station at Sandan City in Al Batinah South Governorate | 50/-                           | 30.09.2024               | 03.10.2024             | 08.10.2024             |

Bank Name & Account NumberBank Muscat (0423005687760617)

**The Conditions:**

- Collection of Tenders:** Interested, specialized companies and establishments registered under grade 3 and above (in C.R) with minimum of 3 years' experience in the same field. Bidders can collect the tender documents from the procurement department by sending a copy of the payment slip to [procurement@almaha.com.om](mailto:procurement@almaha.com.om)
- Bank Guarantee:** The bidder should enclose a bank guarantee issued by any bank in the Sultanate of Oman for an amount equivalent to (1%) of the tender value, with a validity of (90) Days from the last date of submission and addressed to Al Maha Petroleum Products Marketing Company SAOG.
- Offer Submission:** Tender bid should be submitted a sealed envelope and addressed to the Chairman of Tender Committee, Al Maha Petroleum Products Marketing SAOG marked with tender number and subject. Other marks or any reference must not be printed outside the envelope. The exterior of the envelope containing the tender document must not reveal the identity of the bidder.
- Submission Location:** The bid should be deposited in the tender box at Al Maha Petroleum Products Marketing SAOG head office located in Ghala before 01:00 PM on the submission date.
- Any bid received after the specified date or if it does not meet the conditions will not be considered.
- Each bid shall be signed and stamped with the signature of the authorized person.
- Al Maha Petroleum Products Marketing Co SAOG reserves the right to accept, reject or cancel the tender without giving any reasons.
- Al Maha Petroleum Products Marketing Co SAOG reserves the right to add or cancel some of the works mentioned in the tender if necessary.
- Al Maha Petroleum Products Marketing Co SAOG is not bound to accept the lowest bid or any other bid without giving any reasons.
- For any enquiry email us at ([procurement@almaha.com.om](mailto:procurement@almaha.com.om)) or by calling 24610289/24610287/24610355

### BUY BAHAR



### OWN YOUR DREAM



### TESLA

MODEL Y

### 75 GRAND PRIZES

15 iPhone 15

10 Samsung S24

5 iPhone 14

20 Washing Machines

25 Gift Vouchers worth RO 50 each



### EVERYONE IS A WINNER

(32,000+ SCRATCH & WIN PRIZES)

Promotion period: 25th July – 7th October 2024  
Draw dates: 2nd September & 9th October 2024

Buy any BAHAR, No. 1, Farah, Pinex, Spark products worth RO 3, get a coupon to participate in the raffle draw

Images shown for illustrative purposes only. Prizes available only in selected outlets in Oman.

# OQEP's \$2bn IPO to open on September 30

Our Correspondent  
Muscat

OQ Exploration and Production (OQEP), Oman's government-owned oil and gas exploration and production company, announced that the subscription period for its initial public offering (IPO) will commence on September 30.

The offering comprises of a total of 2,000,000,000 shares, representing 25% of OQEP's total issued share capital. The IPO is expected to raise up to RO780mn (equivalent to \$2.026bn) at the top of the price range, valuing OQEP up to RO3.120bn (equivalent to \$8.104bn).

OQEP on Sunday announced the offer price range and IPO subscription details. The IPO prospectus has been approved by the Financial Services Authority (FSA).

**Biggest IPO in Oman's history**

In a press statement, Ashraf Hamed al Mamari, Group CEO of OQ, said that the OQEP's initial public offering marks the largest IPO in Oman's history and the first of its kind in the exploration and production sector. It follows the successful listings of Abraj Energy Services and OQ Gas



*The IPO is expected to raise up to RO780mn (equivalent to \$2.026bn) at the top of the price range, valuing OQEP up to RO3.120bn (equivalent to \$8.104bn)*

Networks.

Ahmed al Azkawi, CEO of OQEP, said, "We are delighted to announce the receipt of the FSA's administrative decision and the issuance of the prospectus for the upcoming IPO of OQEP. Through the publication of the prospectus, we offer the public a rare opportunity to invest in a leading

Omani oil and gas explorer and producer in what is set to become the largest IPO in the country's history. We are also extremely pleased to have a strong compilation of reputed Omani institutions as Anchor investors. We also highlight our commitment to transparency, sustainable practices and our

continued endeavour to maximise shareholder value."

OQEP said that the IPO will be conducted in the manner approved by the FSA and will be offered in a parallel offering. The offering will include a Category I offer for institutional investors representing 40% of the total offer size, a sale to Anchor In-

vestors representing 20% of the total offer size and a Category II offer for retail investors in Oman representing the remaining 40%.

The subscription price for the Category I offer will be between 370bz and 390bz per share, with the final price to be set through a book-building exercise.

The subscription price for Omani individuals in the Category II offer will be set at a 10% discount to the final Category I subscription price. Therefore, the maximum subscription price for

Omani individuals in the Category II offer will be 351bz per share, reflecting a 10% discount to the maximum Category I subscription price. The subscription price for non-Omani individuals in the Category II offer will be set at a maximum of 390bz per share.

The subscription periods open on September 30, 2024, with the Category I offer closing on October 10, 2024 and the Category II offer closing on October 9, 2024. OQEP shares are expected to commence trading on the Muscat Stock Exchange on or around October 28, 2024, under the trading symbol 'OQEP'.

Al-Hosn Investment Company has committed to purchase 120,156,047 offer shares, BankDhofar has committed to purchase 20,806,242 offer shares, Mars Development and Investment has committed to purchase 52,015,605 offer shares, Oman National Investments Development Company has committed to purchase 20,806,242 offer shares, Salim & Partners LLC has committed to purchase 26,007,802 offer shares, and Social Protection Fund has committed to purchase 160,208,062 offer shares.

OQEP has adopted a quarterly dividend distribution policy to pay dividends after the IPO. The company said it has a track record of robust and sustainable cashflow generation and intends to maintain a dividend policy designed to return substantially all of its distributable free cashflow after providing for growth opportunities and investments.

The company expects to pay the first dividend distribution of approximately RO57.7mn (\$150mn) in or around December 2024 in respect of Q3 2024 and approximately RO57.7mn (\$150mn) in or around March 2025 in respect of Q4 2024, equivalent to an annualised dividend payment of approximately RO230.7mn (\$600mn).

**Anchor investors**

OQEP announced that six Anchor investors – Al-Hosn Investment Company, BankDhofar, Mars Development and Investment, Oman National Investments Development Company, Salim & Partners LLC, and Social Protection Fund – have irrevocably committed to subscribe for an aggregate of 20% of the offering at the final subscription price, not exceeding 390bz per share.

As per the offer details, 400,000,000 offer shares have been allocated for Anchor investors, being 20% of the offer (for up to RO156mn).

## GCC growth expected to rebound in 2025

**Muscat** – The latest ICAEW Economic Insight report for the Middle East, prepared by Oxford Economics, said that the GCC region is poised for a significant rebound next year, with growth projected to more than double to 4.4% in 2025.

The report highlighted that while economic growth in the Middle East is projected at 2.1% in 2024, a significant acceleration to 3.7% is expected in 2025.

The report emphasised the resilience of the GCC's non-energy sectors, which are expected to expand by 4.2% this year and 4.4% in 2025.

Recent Purchasing Managers Index (PMI) readings suggest strong domestic activity, and anticipated interest rate reductions are expected to further bolster consumption and private investment, Oxford Economics said in the report.

"These sectors, including tourism, trade, and finance, are becoming crucial growth



drivers in the region's economic diversification efforts," it added.

Scott Livermore, ICAEW Economic Advisor, and Chief Economist and Managing Director of Oxford Economics Middle East, said, "The GCC's proactive and strategic investment in non-oil sectors, alongside the gradual recovery of oil

production, is paving the way for robust growth in 2025, where the resilience of the GCC stands out."

Hanadi Khalife, Head of Middle East of ICAEW, said, "The report underscores the importance of resilience in navigating global economic and regional geopolitical headwinds. We are

confident that the Middle East's business community, supported by the expertise of the accountancy profession, will continue to demonstrate its ability to innovate and thrive amid these challenges."

Oxford Economics lowered its 2024 inflation forecast for the GCC by 0.5 percentage

*GCC's proactive and strategic investment in non-oil sectors, alongside the gradual recovery of oil production, is paving the way for robust growth in 2025*

**SCOTT LIVERMORE**

point, to 1.7% this year, but still expect it to rise to 2.1% next year.

"Recent readings show inflation is below 2% in all GCC countries except Kuwait and the UAE. In Saudi Arabia, inflation has hovered around 1.5% in recent months despite continued upward pressure from housing rents, which are seeing double-digit annual increases," the report said.

## Arab bourses' market cap hit \$4.2tn in August

**Abu Dhabi, UAE** – The market cap of Arab stock exchanges reached \$4.268tn at the end of August 2024, marking a growth of 0.52%, equivalent to \$22bn, compared to \$4.246tn at the end of July 2024, according to the Arab Monetary Fund (AMF).

The Arab Monetary Fund's monthly bulletin data said that the market value of the Abu Dhabi Securities Exchange reached \$763.9bn.

The market value of the Dubai Financial Market stood at \$197.4bn, and that of the Saudi Exchange 'Tadawul' was \$2.727tn, remaining the biggest market in the Arab world.

The market value of the Qatar Stock Exchange was \$162.5bn, the Boursa Kuwait was about \$138.8bn, the Casablanca Stock Exchange



was \$73.8bn, the Muscat Stock Exchange was \$63.8bn, and the Egyptian Exchange was \$43.36bn.

The market value of the Amman Stock Exchange was \$23.7bn, the Bahrain Bourse was \$20.19bn, and the Beirut Stock Exchange was \$19.2bn. On the other hand Tunis Bourse's market value stood at \$8.52bn, the Damascus Securities Exchange was \$5.95bn, and the Palestine Exchange was \$4.07bn.

WAM

## Oil prices gain after US rate cut

**Muscat** – Oil prices gained during the week ending September 20 despite a fall on Friday following the US Federal Reserve's 50-basis-point rate cut on Wednesday, its first in four years.

The International benchmark Brent crude traded at \$74.58 per barrel on Friday, up by around 4.14% relative to the closing price of \$71.61 a barrel last week.

West Texas Intermediate (WTI), the American benchmark, traded at \$70.89 a barrel at the same time on Friday, an increase of about 4.63% from last Friday's session, which closed at \$67.75 per barrel.

Oil price gains were limited by rising demand concerns after weekend data from China revealed economic weakness in the world's biggest oil importer. August figures showed industrial production falling short of expectations, alongside increasing unemployment and further declines in house prices, casting doubt on



future oil demand.

Hurricane Francine's impact on the US Gulf Coast, a major energy hub, increased oil prices as production disruptions curtailed supply.

Data from the American Petroleum Institute (API) released late on Tuesday showed a rise of 1.96 million barrels in US commercial crude oil inventories, contrary to market expectations of a 100,000-barrel drop. The re-

serve rise reflected market perceptions of weakening domestic demand, driving prices down.

On Wednesday, the Fed lowered its interest rate by 50 basis points to a range of 4.75%-5.0%, starting its monetary easing aggressively. The move marked the first rate cut by the central bank in more than four years, since the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic.

Agencies

## Saudi Arabia leads G20 in tourism growth

**Riyadh, Saudi Arabia** – Saudi Arabia tops the list of G20 countries in the indicators of the growth rate of the number of international tourists and the growth rate of international tourism revenues according to the latest data for the first seven months of the year compared to the same period in 2019.

The kingdom achieved an increase of 73% in the number of international tourist growth, while international tourism revenues recorded an increase of 207%, according to the latest UN Tourism Barometer report issued this week at the G20 Tourism Ministerial Meeting in Belem, Brazil.

Several tourist destinations in Saudi Arabia witnessed a significant increase in the number of international tourists this year, with 17.5mn tourists during the first seven months of 2024, according to a press release.

The kingdom achieved a growth of 56% in the number of



international tourists during 2023 compared to 2019, with 27.4mn tourists, and travel receipts recorded a historical surplus of SAR48bn during 2023, an annual increase of 38%.

In its September report after the conclusion of the "Article IV Consultation 2024", The International Monetary Fund (IMF) praised the unprecedented achievements made by the kingdom's tourism sector under Saudi Vision 2030.

Diversifying the economic sectors, in which travel and tourism emerged as the most important – recording the highest level in the

number of visitors, spending, job creation and contribution to GDP.

These achievements reinforce Saudi Arabia's position as a leading global destination, and the continuous growth in the number of inbound tourists reflects in the Kingdom's attractive options and diversity for visitors.

# Global GDP growth likely to slow to 2.9% this year: IIF

Washington, US - Global economic growth is projected to slow marginally to 2.9% in 2024 and 2025, down from 3.1% in 2023, according to a report released by the Institute of International Finance (IIF).

"Geopolitical tensions remain elevated, shaped by ongoing conflicts in the Middle East, the protracted war between Russia and Ukraine, and a noticeable cooling in relations between Western democracies and China," said the report.

These developments, the report said, are occurring simultaneously, adding layers of complexity and uncertainty to the global landscape. "In such a volatile environment, political events gain heightened importance."

The IIF said the US general election in November stands out as the most significant political event of this year on a global scale, as its outcome could have "far-reaching" implications for both domestic and international policy, influencing many areas from trade relations to military engagements.

The association of international financial institutions added that global economic activity is projected to decelerate, largely due to weakening economic performance in major economies like the US and China.

"In the United States, the ef-



The IIF projects China's economic growth to slow at 4.7% in 2024

*Global economic activity is projected to decelerate in 2024 and 2025, largely due to weakening economic performance in major economies like the US and China*

fects of the Federal Reserve's aggressive past monetary tightening are expected to lead to a slowdown in corporate hiring, suppressing household income growth and curtailing consumer spending," the report said.

Although the IIF estimates in-

flation in the US easing significantly to around 2.4% this year, down from 3.7% last year, it said inflationary risks still remain in the world's largest economy in its services sector and wage growth, which could keep inflation slightly above target.

The IIF expects the Fed to deliver two additional 25 basis points of rate cuts in November and December.

"Similarly, China's economic momentum has faltered, with recent data highlighting a broad-based slowdown across key sectors," said the report.

The association projects China's economic growth slowing to 4.7% in 2024, down from 5.2% in 2023, driven by continued softness in domestic de-

mand, especially in consumer spending and real estate, which have struggled to gain momentum despite support.

"However, the Chinese government is expected to deploy additional fiscal stimulus and further monetary easing in the second half of 2024 to support growth, aiming to keep the economy close to its official target," the report said.

"While these measures may help stabilise activity, structural challenges such as ageing demographics, high youth unemployment, and ongoing tensions with the United States are likely to constrain China's growth prospects over the medium term," it added.

Anadolu Agency

# India accounts for 25% of global IPOs in H1: Report

New Delhi, India - The initial public offering (IPO) market in India has turned out to be an outlier in itself and is bucking the subdued global public issue trends.

A report released by wealth management firm Angel One Wealth noted that while the global IPO market peaked in 2021, India has been the outlier with public listings in the last year because of strong demand and domestic inflows, with emerging sectors and companies.

Most notably, in the first half of 2024, India captured a quarter of global IPO volumes, and in the process, the country now has the highest number of mainboard listed companies globally at over 5,450.

For global markets, 2021 was the watershed year for new listings as 2,388 companies raised \$453.3bn via IPOs, the highest in the past 20 years, the report noted citing various open sources.

In 2023, 178 companies made their debut in the stock exchanges, followed by China at 103, the US at 21, and the UK at 22, the report noted.

"BSE IPO index with 348% absolute gains has outperformed benchmark BSE 500 index's 165% gain by wide margin, thanks to strong listing gains," the report said, explaining how IPOs performed versus the broader market.

Among the IPOs, SME IPOs



have trumped mainboard IPO in listing gains, the report showed. "Average listing gains in SMEs have skyrocketed from 2% in 2019 to 74% in 2024, while average listing gains in mainboard IPOs peaked out in 2020 and have been range bound around 30% since then," the report read.

Companies in consumer products and retail; diversified industrial products; financial services; healthcare were some of the sector who tapped the IPO the most, as per the report.

Earlier, a study conducted by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) recently found a strong disposition effect among investors, who displayed a greater tendency to sell shares

from IPOs that recorded positive listing gains compared to those that listed at a loss.

The disposition effect refers to the tendency of investors to sell assets that have increased in value while holding onto assets that have decreased in value.

Given the increasing participation of retail investors and the heightened oversubscription in recent IPOs, SEBI undertook an in-depth study to analyse investor behaviour in IPOs. The study covered data from 144 IPOs listed between April 2021 and December 2023. The study also found that returns on shares influenced investor selling behaviour.

ANI



# World Bank provides record \$42.6bn in climate finance

Washington, US - The World Bank Group has said it delivered a record \$42.6bn in climate finance in fiscal year 2024, which covers July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024.

The amount, which increased 10% compared to the previous fiscal year, supported efforts 'to end poverty on a livable planet, investing in cleaner energy, more resilient communities, and stronger economies,' it said Thursday in a report.

The World Bank Group said it committed to increasing its climate finance to 45% of total lending for fiscal year 2025, which runs from July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025.

International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and International Development Association together delivered \$31bn in fiscal year 2024 in climate finance, of which \$10.3bn specifically supported investments in adaptation and resilience, said the statement.

International Finance Corporation, the private sector arm of the World Bank Group and the largest global development institution focused on the private sector in emerging markets, provided \$9.1bn in long-term climate finance.

Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency, the World Bank Group's political risk insurance and credit enhancement arm, delivered \$2.5bn in climate finance.

"Taken together, World Bank Group climate financing was 44% of total financing in fiscal

year 2024, which reached \$97bn,' the statement said.

Some of the climate projects included building over 900 new cyclone shelters and rehabilitating 900 more in Bangladesh, as well as supporting the country for constructing coastal embankments, enhancing early warning systems, and investing in erosion control to protect thousands of people from storm flooding.

*The World Bank Group said it committed to increasing its climate finance to 45% of total lending for fiscal year 2025*

It also included reducing methane emissions while helping farmers adopt sustainable practices to produce higher quality rice in Viet Nam's Mekong Delta, which is home to 1.4mn rice-farming households.

'In Dakar, Senegal, and Cairo, Egypt, fully electric Bus Rapid Transit systems are helping to reduce reliance on fossil fuels and cut emissions. Dakar's BRT, the first in West Africa, is projected to reduce 1.2mn tonnes of carbon dioxide over its lifetime, while Cairo's introduction of 100 electric buses lays the groundwork for a larger fleet to further decrease vehicle-related pollution,' said the statement.

Anadolu Agency

# ECB expects inflation to hit 2% target next year

Frankfurt, Germany - European Central Bank President Christine Lagarde has hailed the "remarkable" unwinding of price pressures that have gripped the global economy over the past three years, emphasising its minimal impact on employment and predicting that European inflation will return to target by mid-2025.

"It is rare to avoid a major deterioration in unemployment when central banks rise interest rates in response to high energy prices," Lagarde said.

However, Lagarde cautioned that "uncertainty ahead is still profound", as the global economy is currently facing "transformational changes".

Lagarde delivered these comments during her keynote speech at the 2024 Michel Camdessus Central Banking Lecture organised by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in Washington, an institution she led during pivotal moments such as the aftermath of the Great Financial Crisis and the Eurozone sovereign debt crisis. In her remarks, Lagarde stressed the need for adaptive monetary policy in an era of structural change.

In her speech, Lagarde outlined the immense challenges that the global economy has



*Our monetary policy strategies have proved effective, mitigating trade-offs between inflation and employment*

CHRISTINE LAGARDE

faced in recent years.

"Four years ago, we confronted the worst pandemic since the 1920s, the worst conflict in Europe since the 1940s, and the worst energy shock since the 1970s."

She explained that shocks have fundamentally altered the

economic landscape and complicated the transmission of monetary policy.

She acknowledged that clearly defined inflation targets, flexible policy tools, and analytical frameworks capable of assessing and responding to economic shifts have enabled

monetary policy to restore price stability without imposing excessive costs on the economy.

"Our monetary policy strategies have proved effective, mitigating trade-offs between inflation and employment," she stated.

Structural economic shifts: Parallels between the 1920s and 2020s

Drawing historical parallels, Lagarde pointed to striking similarities between the post-World War I economy of the 1920s and the current decade.

Both periods saw setbacks in global trade integration paired with strides forward in technological progress. However, Lagarde acknowledged that today's challenges - such as climate change and ageing populations - are unique to our times.

In the 1920s, the collapse of the Pax Britannica and the rise of economic nationalism led to a sharp fragmentation of the global economy.

Trade as a share of GDP plummeted, contributing to deflation and economic instability. At the same time, rapid technological advancements, such as the rise of the assembly line and the internal combustion engine, propelled productivity but also fuelled speculative bubbles, culminating

in the 1929 stock market crash.

Lagarde sees a similar fragmentation today as global value chains (GVCs) are being restructured.

Both Europe and the United States are diversifying their supply sources, with many firms embracing near-shoring strategies to mitigate vulnerabilities in global supply chains.

In parallel, technological advancements in artificial intelligence (AI) and fintech are reshaping industries, offering faster and cheaper credit access, while posing new challenges for monetary policy transmission.

Looking ahead: The need for flexibility and adaptation

Lagarde concluded by emphasising the importance of adaptability in monetary policy as the global economy continues to evolve. The ECB's upcoming 2025 strategy review will focus on understanding the long-term structural shifts in the post-pandemic world, with a specific emphasis on how these changes affect monetary policy transmission.

Artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning will play a critical role in improving forecasting models, especially for inflation nowcasting.

(Source: Euronews.com)

# Fed's rate cut 'very positive sign' for economy: Yellen

Washington, US - US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said Thursday that the Federal Reserve's interest rate cut of 50 basis points is "a very positive sign" for the American economy.

Yellen said the Fed's jumbo cut "reflects confidence" for the central bank that inflation has come down significantly and is on a path back to the bank's 2% target.

Risks regarding inflation have "meaningfully diminished," she told the Atlantic Festival 2024 in Washington, D.C.



Janet Yellen

The Treasury head said wages are rising at a good pace, faster than inflation, so employees are getting ahead in real terms.

Fed Chair Jerome Powell told a post-meeting news conference Wednesday that the labor market is in "solid condition" and the US economy is in "good shape."

"The upside risks to inflation have diminished and the downside risks to employment have increased, as inflation has declined and the labor market has cooled," he said.

The Fed on Wednesday lowered its interest rate by 50 basis points to a range of 4.75%-5.0%, starting its monetary easing in an aggressive way. The move marked the first rate cut by the central bank in more than four years, since the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic.

Except for the emergency rate cuts during the start of the pandemic, the last time the Fed delivered a 50 basis point rate cut was during the global financial crisis in 2008.

Anadolu Agency

# MoE delegation visits vocational training institutes in N Batinah



A delegation from the Ministry of Education (MoE) visited private training institutions to follow up on the progress of technical and vocational education in engineering and industrial specialisations in North Batinah.

The ministry's team consisted representatives of the School Education Development and Restructuring Project Management Office, the Engineering and Industrial Specializations Team,

and members of the Oman Energy Association (OPAL), the strategic partner in implementing these specialisations, a release stated.

The visiting team met with the students studying there and listened to their opinions and suggestions regarding the curricula of engineering and industrial specialisations, transportation, and training workshops. The team also discussed procedures

to enhance joint cooperation between these institutions and the Directorate-General of Education in the governorate and the schools applying technical and vocational education in these specialisations, and to enhance the role of the coordinator between the two parties to follow up on the regularity of students.

The meeting also included the directors of the schools applying technical and vocational educa-

tion in these specialisations; to discuss developmental aspects and enhance the role of the school administration in following up on the application of these specialisations.

During this academic year, the ministry is implementing engineering and industrial specialisations from vocational and technical education in six different fields. 'These fields are - engineering maintenance,

mechanical manufacturing engineering, occupational health and safety, maintenance of solid structures, lifting and lowering operations, welding and metal forming', the ministry informed.

In all, 600 students in ten government schools in the governorates of Muscat and North Batinah are studying these specialised subjects two days a week in private training institutions, it further stated.



# Omantel finishes laboratory trial of 5G RedCap

Reflecting its unwavering commitment to enhancing Oman's digital infrastructure, Omantel has successfully conducted a laboratory trial of RedCap, an advanced 5G technology.

This innovation promises higher speeds and greater efficiency for the 5G network at a lower cost, adding significant value to the services offered to Omantel customers.

This initiative aligns with Omantel's strategic goal of providing unparalleled digital solutions. Developed in collaboration with Huawei, RedCap represents a significant advancement in 5G technology, aimed at improving internet connectivity and expanding the range of applications available to users.

Dr Ali bin Said al Hashmi, General Manager of Infrastructure Planning and Design at Omantel, said that his team in Omantel is excited to pioneer advanced technological solutions within the Sultanate of Oman.

"Our efforts contribute to accelerating the digital transformation process and fostering a knowledge-based economy, in line with Oman Vision 2040's objectives for the technology sector. Our goal is to elevate service standards for both business and individual subscribers, ensuring access to world-class services."

Dr Hashmi noted that the successful trials of RedCap's 5G technology mark a significant milestone in Omantel's journey toward a thriving digital future for Oman.

"We believe this technology will revolutionise the telecom-

munications sector and unlock new opportunities for innovation and business growth," he added.

Designed to meet the evolving demands of Internet of Things (IoT) applications, RedCap offers high speeds and energy efficiency, making it ideal for a range of devices, from smart wearables to advanced industrial equipment. This technology ensures fast and seamless user experiences while extending the battery life of connected devices, thereby reducing operational and maintenance costs.

The benefits of RedCap technology extend beyond superior internet speeds. It paves the way for diverse applications, including remote monitoring, industrial process optimisation, and enhanced healthcare solutions, among others.

Through the integration of its operations, processes, and extensive expertise in communications and digital technology, Omantel has established itself as a leading telecommunications company in Oman and beyond.

The company's innovative approaches have delivered state-of-the-art solutions to various consumer and business sectors. Committed to delivering exceptional customer experiences and exceeding expectations, Omantel invests in emerging technologies to help advance Oman Vision 2040.

This includes cutting-edge ICT solutions such as cloud computing, AI, smart solutions, cybersecurity, and more, driving innovation and leadership in new and advanced technologies.

## YUSUFF ALI FELICITATED

Sheikh Saud Bin Mohammed bin Saud Al Hinai, Governor of Mudhaibi, presenting a replica of boat, which was made in the port city of Sur, to Yusuff Ali M A, Chairman of Lulu Group on the occasion of inauguration of Lulu Hypermarket in Mudhaibi. Port City of Sur is renowned for its shipbuilding heritage and maritime history



# Bank Muscat announces 'Spend & Win' on e-payments

In line with its customer-centric vision 'To serve you better, everyday', Bank Muscat, the leading financial services provider in the Sultanate of Oman, has launched an exclusive offer for its customers who use their Bank Muscat debit, credit and prepaid cards to pay on international websites and applications with a minimum value of RO5.

During the promotion period, customers will get the chance to enter a draw to win cashback on the total amount of their transactions, up to a maximum of RO50. There will be 500 winners by the end of the campaign. The offer is valid until September 30.

Bank Muscat offers a variety of cards carefully curated to fit the needs of its customers offering a myriad of benefits, rewards and offers available throughout the year. The bank is committed to development of its products and services in order to keep up with industry trends and create a memorable experience for all customers.

"The launch of this exclusive offer came as part of Bank



Muscat's strategy to provide special offers that cater to the needs of our esteemed customers and enhance the use of electronic payment for a variety of purposes, including international e-commerce transactions," said Abdulnasir al Raisi, General Manager for Personal Banking, Bank Muscat.

"We are always pleased to see the positive response to the

bank's card offers. I would like to take this opportunity to invite our customers to take advantage of this special offer and be one of the 500 winners."

The bank caters to the largest customer base in Oman, offering a diverse selection of credit, debit and prepaid cards with perks tailored to the needs of different customer segments.



# Al Maha celebrates success in khareef campaign, gives away 54 valuable prizes

Al Maha Petroleum Products Marketing Company announced remarkable success of its promotional campaign during the khareef festival this year.

The campaign featured a total of 54 valuable prizes, including the grand prize of a Changan CS85 - awarded to Sarhan Abdullah; and a Changan Alsvin car - won by Shamsa al Hashimi.

In addition to these grand prizes, ten lucky winners re-

ceived iPhone 15s, while another 10 were awarded 10th-generation Apple iPads. The campaign also included a draw for all-inclusive family trips for eight families, each consisting of four members.

Ahmed al Shanfari, Head of Marketing and Business Development at Al Maha, expressed his delight at the enthusiastic participation in the promotion.

"We are thrilled with the strong response to our 'AL MAHA

*The grand prize of a Changan CS85 was awarded to Sarhan Abdullah, a Changan Alsvin car was given Shamsa al Hashimi, while ten lucky winners received iPhone 15s*

PLUS' app. Our loyal customers are at the heart of everything we do, and they drive us forward. This promotion, which attracted hundreds of thousands of entries, was our way of showing genuine appreciation for their unwavering support and loyalty to our brand."

Al Maha extends heartfelt thanks to all participants in the promotion and is excited to announce that more promotions will be unveiled in the near future.

# Oman Sail team cleans Mussanah beach



Oman Sail reinforced its commitment to preserving the environment and keeping the nation's beaches clean by organising a clean-up operation at Mussanah Public Beach to mark the UN World Clean Up Day.

A team of 60 volunteers from Oman Sail, Barcelo Mussanah Resort, Environment Society of Oman, Al Shirs School and the local community came together to remove 47 full black sacks from the beach.

The most common item found in the sand was plastic water and soft drink bottles, which can be fully recycled. In addition, volunteers removed two large fishing nets and ropes and five car tyres. Unfortunately, a dead Loggerhead Turtle was also found and taken away. Oman is home to several species of endangered



turtles who use the warm waters to feed and sandy beaches to lay their eggs. Plastic and fishing debris in the water is one of the main causes of injury to sea turtles who mistake it for food and get caught in the nets.

Wahida al Zadjali, corporate affair officer at Oman Sail, said,

"We are in a unique position to see the impact on our seas and oceans from waste that should be disposed of responsibly but, unfortunately, is not. The amount of rubbish removed from the beach this time is both disappointing and encouraging.

"We hope that in showing how much has been left behind, we can help to educate communities on the impact of leaving small - and much larger - pieces of waste behind, and the role they can have in preserving our natural environment for the benefit of our unique species, families and sailors."

Oman Sail has always taken great pride in its environmental conservation efforts and has set two Guinness World Records for the nation. In 2021, when representatives from 73 different na-

tions at the Youth Sailing World Championships in Mussanah and in 2023 when volunteers collected over 32,316 plastic bottles to create the largest sentence formed from empty plastic bottles.

On behalf of the nation, Oman Sail also signed the United Nations' #CleanSeas campaign to reduce plastic use and promote community awareness about environmental conservation.

Operating under Oman Tourism Development Company, Oman Sail is tasked with rekindling the country's maritime eminence, promote the Sultanate around the world through sailing, contribute to the sustainable prosperity of the nation and provide long-term learning opportunities for the youth.

Since 2008, Oman Sail has

built a solid foundation around Sailing, Tourism, Commerce, Health and Environment, all underpinned with competency-based development for its workforce. Committed to offering both men and women equal opportunities to learn, Oman Sail's programmes focus on nurturing young talent to develop the sailing champions of tomorrow, increasing revenue in the tourism, activity and experiential learning markets and gaining prominent international exposure for the country.

The company has a strong track record in delivering a portfolio of events across the sultanate to showcase Oman's natural beauty, tourism potential, the people's hospitality, and the infrastructure readiness for business opportunities.

## ROHM donates portion of sales proceeds for Palestinians' cause

The Royal Opera House Muscat (ROHM), in collaboration with the Oman Charitable Organisation (OCO), has successfully completed its donation in support of the people of Palestine.

A significant part of the funds raised from the 2023-24 season ticket sales has been directed to support the people of Palestine, in close partnership with the Oman Charitable Organisation.

The OCO has been at the forefront of providing crucial assistance to the people of Palestine through initiatives such as fundraising and establishing humanitarian air bridges.

'Royal Opera House Muscat



would like to thank its guests who contributed to this donation and helped make a meaningful impact,' a release stated.

## Seeb parents' council meeting held

The wali of Seeb on Sunday held a meeting of the parents' council headed by him to discuss several issues related to education for the academic year 2024-25.

The meeting - held in Seeb by Sheikh Ahmed bin Ali al Shehhi, the wali of Seeb - reviewed the proposed plan to activate the parents' council for the 2024-25, its implementation to achieve the desired aims, and the newest legal developments, which are related to the council's endowment building.

The meeting discussed the problem of student overcrowding in schools, which is considered one of the most noticeable challenges that face educational institutions.

The meeting concluded with



an agreement to have field visits in some schools, headed by the wali of Seeb and many council members.

It will be done in coordination with the General Directorate of Education in Muscat Governorate, a release said, adding

that the proposal to make school visits came to evaluate the situation and work to find appropriate solutions.

## LG unveils 98" QNED AI smart TV at Lulu in Oman Avenues Mall

LG Electronics (LG) has launched its 98-Inch QNED AI 4K Smart TV at a special event held at Lulu in Avenues Mall, Bowsher, Oman.

Sudhir M, CEO of OTE and Shabeer K A, Regional Director of Lulu Group, inaugurated the event and were treated to a first look at the brand's biggest TV, set to revolutionise home viewing with its immense size, advanced AI features, and stunning picture quality.

The 98" QNED AI 4K offers maximum immersion with an expansive display that commands attention. Combining LG's QNED Colour technology with a 3840 x 2160 resolution, the TV delivers an incredibly rich and vibrant palette, while Precision Dimming Technology ensures ultra-sharp, defined details in every scene. This results in a breathtaking visual experience that draws viewers into their favourite content



like never before.

At the heart of this technological marvel is LG's alpha 8 AI Processor 4K, a powerful chipset that enhances both sound and picture quality. This processor uses AI-driven algorithms to ensure that every frame bursts with clarity, making it the perfect companion for an immersive, cinematic experience. AI Customization, AI Super Upscaling,

*The ultra-large display promises an unparalleled home entertainment experience with cutting-edge AI technology for LG's Omani customers*

AI Picture, and AI Sound Pro further tailor the experience to each room's layout and the viewer's position, delivering premium picture and sound optimised for the 98" screen. The LG QNED AI 4K also comes equipped with LG's Magic Remote and is fully compatible with ThinQ AI, offering users seamless control over smart features. With the intuitive webOS platform, users can effortlessly explore a wide range of entertainment options, from

streaming services like Netflix, Prime Video, Disney+, YouTube, and Apple TV+, to personalized sports updates and tailored content recommendations.

This makes it easy to find the perfect show or movie for any occasion, transforming family entertainment into an effortless and enjoyable experience.

With the unveiling of the 98-Inch QNED AI 4K Smart TV, LG continues to push the boundaries of home entertainment, offering Omani consumers an experience that merges the latest in AI-driven technology with stunning visual and audio performance. OTE Group is the authorised distributor of LG TVs, Audio, IT, Appliances and Air Conditioners in the Sultanate of Oman. The 98" QNED TV is priced at RO2049.9 with Free LG Premium Sound Bar as a launch offer. This offer is valid until September 30, or till stocks last.

UN chief ‘deeply alarmed’ over situation in El Fasher, Sudan

Washington, D.C., US - UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres is ‘gravely alarmed’ by reports of a full-scale assault on the city of El Fasher, the capital of Sudan’s North Darfur State, by paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF), his spokesman said on Saturday.

Guterres ‘calls on Lt General Mohamed Hamdan ‘Hemedti’ Dagalo to act responsibly and immediately order a halt to the RSF attack,’ Stephane Dujarric said in a statement.

“It is unconscionable that the warring parties have repeatedly ignored calls for a cessation of hostilities. Any further escalation will also threaten to spread the conflict along intercommunal lines throughout Darfur,” he added.

Underscoring that a ceasefire is ‘not only necessary, but is an urgent imperative’ both in El Fasher and across all other conflict zones in Sudan, the spokesman said the humanitarian situation in this area is ‘already catastrophic’ with



UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres

hundreds of thousands of people in acute need.

‘Clear obligations’

Stressing that the parties to the conflict have ‘clear’ obligations under international humanitarian law to protect civilians, he said attacks must not be directed against them or civilian infrastructure and constant care must be taken to spare them.

Guterres ‘recalls that his Special Envoy, Ramtane Lamamra, continues his efforts to advance

peace’, Dujarric said, adding the UN chief stands ready to support ‘genuine efforts’ to halt the violence and move toward peace.

“Humanitarian organisations also stand ready to rapidly scale up assistance in El Fasher and other areas of need across Sudan,” he added.

Sudan has been mired by fighting between the army, led by General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, who is the head of the ruling Sovereign Council, and the RSF led by his former deputy Dagalo.

At least 12,260 people have been killed and more than 33,000 injured in the conflict that started in April 2023, according to UN figures.

A humanitarian crisis continues to worsen as nearly 6.8mn people have fled their homes seeking safety in Sudan or neighbouring countries.

Several ceasefire agreements brokered by Saudi Arabia and US mediators have failed to end the violence.

Anadolu Agency

Quad is here to stay, says US president

US President Joe Biden hosted the leaders of Australia, India and Japan for a Quad alliance gathering

Washington, D.C., US - US President Joe Biden hosted the leaders of Australia, India and Japan for a Quad alliance gathering on Saturday.

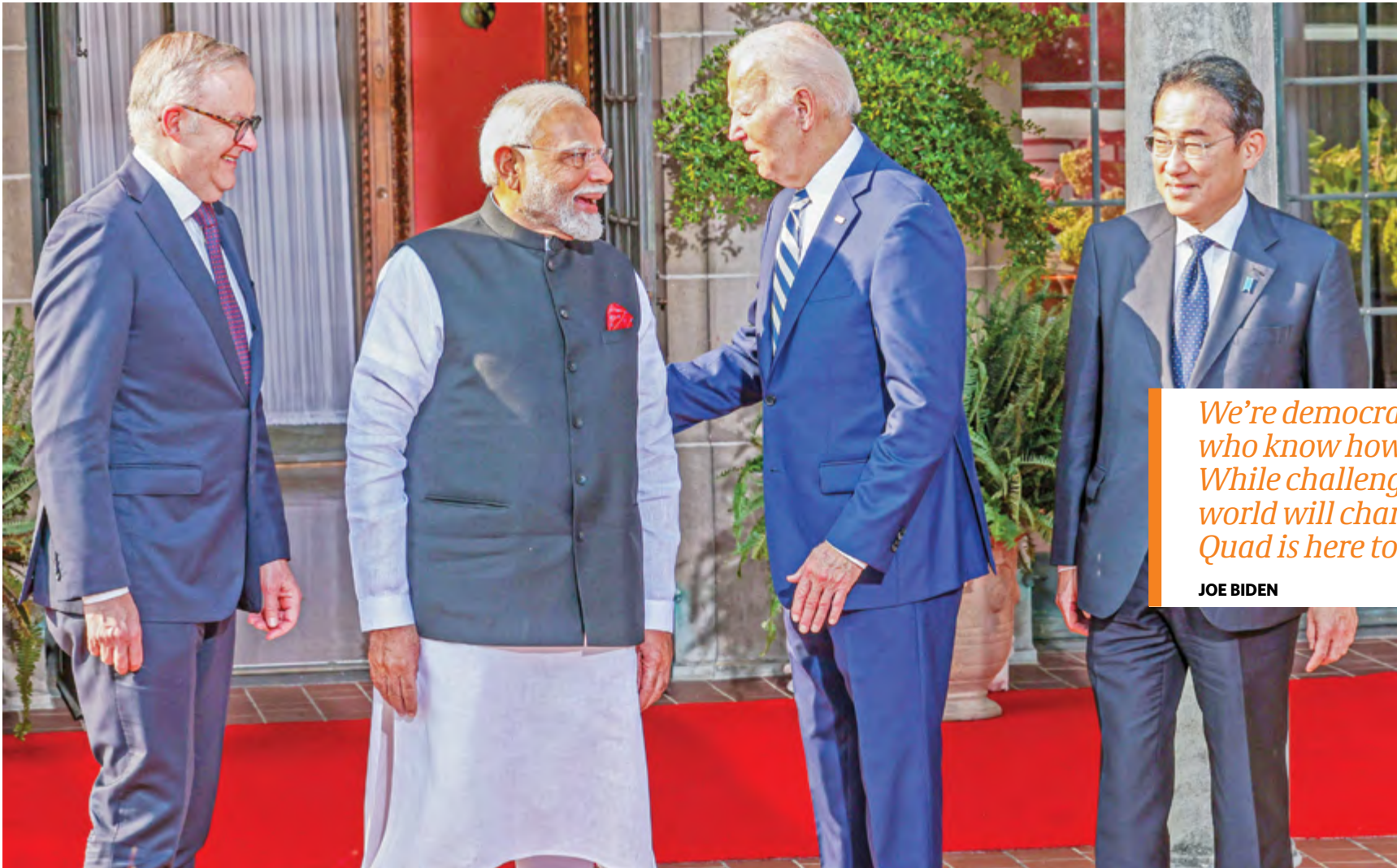
“Welcome to the border of Wilmington, Delaware. I’m really pleased that you were able to be in my home, and, and see where I grew up,” Biden said in remarks at the opening of the gathering.

The US president highlighted democracy during his remarks, stressing that the Quad is ‘here to stay’.

“We’re democracies. Democracies, who know how to get things done. While challenges will come, the world will change, because the Quad is here to stay, I believe. Here to stay,” said Biden.

US National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan, said earlier that China is not the focus of the Quad, but later Biden told Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida that ‘China continues to behave aggressively, testing us all across the region’.

“And it’s true in the South



Australian PM Anthony Albanese, Indian PM Narendra Modi, US President Joe Biden and Japanese PM Fumio Kishida ahead of the Quad Leaders’ Summit, in Wilmington on Saturday (ANI)

We’re democracies. Democracies, who know how to get things done. While challenges will come, the world will change, because the Quad is here to stay, I believe

JOE BIDEN

China Sea, the East China Sea, South China, South Asia and the Taiwan Straits,” he was caught saying on a hot mic, outside the meeting.

“We believe (Chinese President) Xi Jinping is looking to focus on domestic economic challenges and minimise the turbulence in China diplomatic relationships. And he’s also looking to buy himself some diplomatic space, in my view, to aggressively pursue China’s interest,” he added.

White House issued a lengthy joint statement with Quad members following the meeting that said that the nations ‘have built a vital and enduring regional grouping that will buttress the Indo-Pacific for decades to come’.

“As four leading maritime democracies in the Indo-Pacific, we unequivocally stand for the maintenance of peace and stability across this dynamic region, as an indispensable element of global security and prosperity,” it

said.

“We strongly oppose any destabilising or unilateral actions that seek to change the status quo by force or coercion. We condemn recent illicit missile launches in the region that violate UN Security Council resolutions. We express serious concern over recent dangerous and aggressive actions in the maritime domain,” according to the statement.

The leaders also pledged to partner in health security, hu-

manitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR), maritime security, quality infrastructure, critical and emerging technologies, climate and clean energy, cyber domain, space and regional and global issues.

**Global issue**

The leaders said they would recommit to working in partnership with Pacific island countries to achieve shared aspirations and address shared challenges and they remain committed to

strengthening cooperation in the Indian Ocean region.

For Russia’s war against Ukraine, the leaders expressed their ‘deepest concern over the war raging in Ukraine including the terrible and tragic humanitarian consequences’, said the statement.

It said they condemned North Korea’s ballistic missile launches and its continued pursuit of nuclear weapons in violation of multiple UN Security Council resolutions.

Regarding the Middle East, they said they share great interest in achieving peace and stability in the region, according to the statement.

“The large-scale loss of civilian lives and the humanitarian crisis in Gaza is unacceptable. We affirm the imperative of securing the release of all hostages held by Hamas, and emphasise that the deal to release hostages would bring an immediate and prolonged ceasefire in Gaza,” it

said.

The Quad leaders have met six times, including twice virtually, and Quad foreign ministers have met eight times in the last five years, according to the statement.

“Quad country representatives meet together on a regular basis, at all levels, including among ambassadors across the four countries... extensive diplomatic networks, to consult one another, exchange ideas to advance shared priorities, and deliver benefits with and for partners across the Indo-Pacific region,” said the statement.

“Each of our governments has committed to working through our respective budgetary processes to secure robust funding for Quad priorities in the Indo-Pacific region to ensure an enduring impact,” it added.

Anadolu Agency

Trump says it’s ‘too late to do another’ debate

Washington, D.C., US - Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump said on Saturday it is ‘too late to do another’ debate after his contender Vice President Kamala Harris accepted an invitation from CNN to have a faceoff with the former president on October 23.

“I will gladly accept a second presidential debate on October 23. I hope @realDonaldTrump will join me,” Harris wrote on X.

The vice president is ready for another opportunity to share the stage with Trump, campaign chair Jen O’Malley Dillon said in a statement. “Donald Trump should have no problem agreeing to this debate. It is the same format and setup as the CNN debate he attended and said he won in June, when he praised CNN’s moderators, rules, and ratings,” she added.

During a rally in the state of North Carolina, Trump said, however, it is ‘too late to do another’ debate.



US Vice President Kamala Harris and former President Donald Trump

Vice President Kamala Harris accepted an invitation from CNN to have a faceoff with Trump on October 23

“She’s done one debate. I’ve done two. It’s too late to do another. I’d love to, in many ways,

but it’s too late. The voting is cast,” said Trump.

“She’s had her chance to do it with Fox. You know, Fox invited us on, and I waited and waited, and they turned it down. They turned it down, but now she wants to do a debate right before the election with CNN because she’s losing badly,” said the former president.

After a poor showing in the June debate against Trump, President Joe Biden exited the presidential race.

Anadolu Agency

Pakistan: Gwadar’s fishermen aspire for transformation of industry under CPEC

Gwadar, Pakistan - Sitting at his jetty, surrounded by colourful boats adorned with traditional designs, in Gwadar city of Pakistan’s southwest Balochistan province, Jalil Afzal gazed thoughtfully at the towering cranes of the China-constructed Gwadar port.

“My grandfather was a fisherman, my father was a fisherman, and I am a fisherman as well. Around 80 per cent of Gwadar’s population relies on fishing, but I want a different future for my children. The port, right in front of me, symbolises the city’s transformation and is a beacon of hope. I hope it changes my children’s fate,” Afzal told Xinhua.

Afzal explained that, despite many young fishermen graduating from colleges and universities, they often prefer to return to fishing due to the lack of career opportunities linked to the fishing industry.

“This is our heritage, our identity. Yet, if Chinese companies



People buy fish in a fish market in southwest Pakistan’s Gwadar (Xinhua)

invest in Pakistan’s fishing industry, it could be a win-win for both Pakistani fishermen and Chinese investors,” he said.

In conversations with Xinhua, fishermen and community representatives expressed optimism about Gwadar’s rapid development, driven by the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

Launched in 2013, CPEC, a flagship project of the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative, is a corridor linking the Gwadar Port in Pakistan with Kashgar in northwest China’s Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, which highlights energy, transport, and industrial cooperation in the first phase, while in the

new phase expands to fields of agriculture and livelihood, among others.

The fishermen said that while CPEC has already created numerous job opportunities, they hope the project will soon bring business prospects for their industry.

Xinhua

# Attacks in Lebanon put spotlight on Israel's history of cyber operations

**Istanbul, Turkey** - A recent cyber-attack in Lebanon has reignited discussions about Israel's history of cyber operations, such as the Stuxnet virus and the Pegasus Project.

At least 37 people were killed and more than 3,250, including children and women, were injured as 'pagers' and 'ICOM' wireless communication devices exploded on Tuesday and Wednesday in Lebanon.

Lebanese officials have blamed Israel for the explosions of the devices that were reportedly used by Hezbollah.

Faik Tanrikulu, a lecturer at Istanbul Medipol University, told Anadolu that Israel is a major global player in cybersecurity, frequently ranking high in global innovation indices. Israel has around 450 cybersecurity companies, making it the second-largest country in the sector after the US, said Tanrikulu.

There has been no statement by Israeli authorities about the attacks, though Tel Aviv is known for conducting attacks of a similar nature.

"It has built a comprehensive cyber ecosystem through state-backed projects and private sector cooperation, investing heavily



Israel has around 450 cybersecurity companies, making it the second-largest country in the sector after the US

*At least 37 people were killed and more than 3,250, including children and women, were injured as 'pagers' and 'ICOM' wireless communication devices exploded on Tuesday and Wednesday in Lebanon*

in high-tech and cyber defence," he said.

Tanrikulu emphasised that Israel's focus on cybersecurity began early, recognising its importance as a critical tool.

He noted that Unit 8200, an elite division of the Israel Defence Forces (IDF), played a pioneering role in Israel's cybersecurity ad-

vancements and many of the unit's veterans have transferred their knowledge to the civilian sector, leading to innovations in commercial cybersecurity.

### Stuxnet hit Iran's nuke programme

One of the most prominent examples of Israeli cyberactivity

was the 2010 Stuxnet virus, which targeted Iran's nuclear programme, according to Tanrikulu.

The virus was designed to sabotage centrifuges at the Natanz nuclear facility, he said, adding that Stuxnet is one of the first concrete examples that demonstrated the effectiveness and destructive potential of cyberattacks.

### Pegasus spyware scandal

Tanrikulu highlighted the widespread effect of Israel's Pegasus spyware, developed by the NSO Group. "Pegasus can infiltrate targeted individuals' smartphones, gaining access to personal data such as messages, emails, photos and even live conversations. The 2021 Pegasus Project investigation revealed that over 50,000 phone numbers worldwide were monitored by this software, causing a major scandal," said Tanrikulu.

He pointed out that an investigation said targets included French President Emmanuel Macron, associates of slain Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi and opposition leaders in India.

The scandal led to the US blacklisting the NSO Group and

legal action from companies like Apple and WhatsApp, he said.

The use of Pegasus to spy on journalists, activists and politicians heightened concerns about cybersecurity and privacy, he said. Tanrikulu stressed that cybersecurity has become a strategic necessity for nations, warning that digital attacks now target critical infrastructures, banking systems, energy grids, defence mechanisms and even election processes.

In Turkey, efforts are being made to bolster cybersecurity, with defence industry companies like ASELSAN, TUBITAK and HAVELSAN developing solutions, he noted. Tanrikulu urged, however, a more comprehensive national strategy, calling for mobilisation to address the growing threats in the digital age.

"We need to prepare our public institutions and private sector for the threats of this new era. Time is working against us, so swift action is essential," he said.

He referenced an update error in the CrowdStrike security software, which caused disruptions at many companies; and issues with Israel's Heron UAVs, which Turkey had leased.

Anadolu Agency



## Death toll from Israeli airstrike in Beirut rises to 45

**Beirut, Lebanon** - The death toll from Friday's Israeli airstrike on the southern suburbs of Beirut has risen to 45, the Lebanese Health Ministry said on Sunday.

In a statement, the ministry said that recovery efforts, co-ordinated with relevant security agencies, continued for the third consecutive day.

Forensic teams have begun collecting samples from the bodies of unidentified victims in hospitals for DNA testing, it added.

The Lebanese news agency reported that the targeted building was hit by four rockets, causing the collapse of neighbouring structures as well.

The Israeli army said that the strike also resulted in the assassination of a prominent Hezbollah military leader, Ibrahim Aqil, along with other senior commanders.

Hezbollah confirmed that at least 16 of its members, including senior leader Ibrahim Aqil and top commander Ahmed Wahbi, were killed in the Israeli strike.

This strike marked the third Israeli attack on Beirut's southern suburbs, Hezbollah's stronghold in Lebanon, amid ongoing exchanges of fire over the past year.

Previous notable assassina-

tions include Hamas political bureau deputy chief Saleh al-Arouri in January and Hezbollah leader Fouad Shukr in July.

The attack occurred against the backdrop of a 'new wave' of Israeli escalation in Lebanon, as Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant announced on Thursday the war with Hezbollah has entered a 'new phase'.

Hezbollah and Israel have been engaged in cross-border warfare since the start of the Israeli war on Gaza.

Meanwhile, another Hezbollah fighter was killed in clashes with Israel, the Lebanese group said on Sunday as cross-border fighting continues to flare between the two sides.

The group identified the slain fighter as Ali Muhammad Benjak, 32, from the town of Shaitiya in southern Lebanon, without providing any details about the circumstances of his death.

The new fatality brought the number of Hezbollah fighters killed in cross-border clashes with Israel to 502 since October 8, 2023, according to an Anadolu tally.

Lebanese media, meanwhile, reported Israeli airstrikes in several towns in southern Lebanon.

Anadolu Agency

## At least 17 Palestinians killed as Israel launches fresh airstrikes in Gaza Strip

**Gaza City, Palestine** - At least 17 Palestinians were killed and dozens injured in fresh Israeli airstrikes in the war-torn Gaza Strip on Sunday, according to medical sources.

Six people lost their lives and several others were injured in an Israeli strike targeting Kafr Qasim School, where thousands of displaced civilians have sheltered in the Shati refugee camp, west of Gaza City, a medical source said.

Four more people were killed and 15 others injured in another airstrike on a house in the central city of Deir al-Balah, the source added. Several people were also injured in another Israeli strike in the same city.

An Israeli airstrike on a house killed four more people north of Rafah in the southern Gaza strip, another medical source said.

Two more people were killed in artillery shelling in the town of Khuza'a, east of Khan Younis in southern Gaza, medics said.



One civilian was also killed and another injured when an Israeli drone shelled a group of civilians west of the Nuseirat refugee camp in central Gaza, a local source said. Meanwhile, a Palestinian child was injured by Israeli fire on Sunday in a military raid in the West Bank city of Nablus, according to medics.

The Palestinian Red Crescent Society said a 15-year-old boy was shot and injured in his foot by Israeli soldiers and was hospitalised for medical attention.

Witnesses reported clashes between stone-throwing residents and Israeli forces during the raid in the old town of Nablus.

Tension has been running high

across the occupied West Bank amid a brutal Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip.

At least 716 Palestinians have since been killed, nearly 5,750 others injured and over 10,800 arrested in the occupied territory, according to Palestinian figures.

The escalation follows a landmark opinion last July by the In-

ternational Court of Justice that declared Israel's decades-long occupation of Palestinian land unlawful and demanded the evacuation of all settlements in the West Bank and East Jerusalem.

### 990 medics killed

More than 990 Palestinian medics have been killed in Israeli attacks in the Gaza Strip since October 7, Palestinian Health Minister Majid Abu Ramadan said on Saturday.

Abu Ramadan said in a statement that more than 300 health care workers have been arrested, and hospitals destroyed or rendered inoperable in strikes.

He said the Israeli bombardment has forced 130 ambulances out of service. Five Health Ministry personnel were killed early on Saturday in an attack on the agency's storage facilities in the southern Gaza city of Rafah.

Anadolu Agency

## Israeli forces close Al Jazeera's office in Ramallah

**Ramallah, Palestine** - Israeli forces raided and closed the office of Qatar-based Al Jazeera television in the West Bank city of Ramallah early on Sunday, in what has been described as an 'arbitrary military decision'.

The Palestinian news agency Wafa reported that Israeli authorities ordered the staff to leave the premises before shutting down the office.

This came amid escalating tensions in the region, with increased scrutiny on media organisations covering Israel's ongoing war on Gaza.

Israeli forces confiscated documents and equipment from the Al Jazeera office, Wafa said. The army also imposed a 45-day ban on the channel's operations in the area, citing security concerns.

"A large Israeli force stormed the Al Jazeera office, broke down the outer door, and handed us an



Israeli authorities ordered staff to leave before shutting down the office

order to close it for 45 days," said Al Jazeera bureau director in the Palestinian territories, Walid Al-Omari.

"They prevented us from approaching the office and informed us that all equipment inside would be confiscated," he added.

Omari said Israeli soldiers tore

down images of Al Jazeera reporter Shireen Abu Akleh, who was killed by Israeli gunfire in Jenin on May 11, 2022. He called the office closure 'a violation of press freedoms' and a continuation of Al Jazeera's prohibition from operating in Jerusalem and Israel since May 5.

Footage aired by Al Jazeera

*Israeli forces confiscated documents and equipment from the Al Jazeera office. The army also imposed a 45-day ban on the channel's operations*

showed Israeli forces entering the office and delivering the military order to Omari.

The Palestinian Foreign Ministry condemned the Israeli closure of Al Jazeera office as a 'flagrant violation of international laws'.

In a statement, the ministry called for the swift implementa-

tion of a recent UN General Assembly resolution calling for an end to Israeli occupation.

On Wednesday, the UN General Assembly voted in favour of a resolution calling for Israel's withdrawal from occupied territories within 12 months.

The ministry warned that the international community's silence emboldens Israel's far-right government to commit further violations and 'crimes'.

The Palestinian Journalists Syndicate condemned the Israeli raid and closure of the office, calling it a 'new attack on journalism and media freedom'.

The syndicate urged international organisations and institutions that advocate for journalists' rights and safety to take immediate action to denounce the Israeli decision and ensure it is overturned.

Anadolu Agency

INDIA

# Quad to jointly tackle cervical cancer

PM Modi announces US\$7.5mn support of sampling kits, detection kits and vaccines for nations

Wilmington, US - Emphasising India's vision of 'One Earth One Health', Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday (local time) announced a US\$7.5mn support of sampling kits, detection kits and vaccines for nations to fight cervical cancer.

During the Cancer Moonshot event in Delaware, PM Modi highlighted the initiatives taken by India to fight cervical cancer and said India is ready to share its experience and expertise.

He also stressed on an 'integrated approach of prevention, screening, diagnosis and treatment' to reduce the cancer burden. The Cancer Moonshot is a White House initiative to bring renewed leadership to the fight against cancer, facilitate new collaborations, and drive progress across the cancer journey utilising all facets of the oncology community - federal agencies and departments, private companies, healthcare providers, patient groups, philanthropies, and all Americans.

"I want to thank President Biden for organising this event. This reflects our shared determination to provide affordable, accessible and quality health care. During the COVID pandemic, we had taken the Quad Vaccine initiative for the Indo-Pacific and I am glad that in the Quad, we



Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses the Cancer Moonshot event, in Delaware, US, on Saturday (ANI)

have decided to jointly tackle challenges like cervical cancer. In cancer care, collaboration is essential for cure," Modi said.

"An integrated approach of prevention, screening, diagnosis

and treatment is necessary to reduce the burden of cancer. In India, a very cost-effective cervical cancer screening programme is being carried out," he added.

The Prime Minister said India

has developed its own vaccine for the disease and new treatment protocols are being introduced with the help of AI. He also said that a very cost-effective cervical cancer screening

programme is being carried out in the country.

"Along with this, India is running the world's largest health insurance scheme and special centres have also been set up to

*An integrated approach of prevention, screening, diagnosis and treatment is necessary to reduce the burden of cancer*

NARENDRA MODI



"India will also cooperate in radiotherapy treatment and capacity building. I am happy that India will contribute 40mn vaccine doses for Indo-Pacific countries under GAVI and QUAD initiatives.

These 40mn vaccine doses will become a ray of hope in the lives of crores of people. As you can see when the QUAD acts, it is not just for nations. This is the true essence of our human-centric approach," Modi further stated.

The Cancer Moonshot has spurred tremendous action across the US government and from the public and private sectors, building a strong foundation for the work ahead.

To date, the Cancer Moonshot has announced more than 95 new programmes, policies, and resources to address five priority actions. 170 private companies, non-profits, academic institutions, and patient groups have also stepped up with new actions and collaborations.

The US Embassy in New Delhi facilitated the first ever US-India Cancer Moonshot Dialogue on August 5-6 at the National Institute of Immunology, New Delhi and hosted by the Department of Biotechnology (DBT).

ANI

## Strong India-Japan ties are great for global prosperity, says Modi

Wilmington, US - Prime Minister Narendra Modi met with his Japanese counterpart Fumio Kishida on the sidelines of Quad Leaders' Summit in the US. The two leaders reviewed the India-Japan relationship and talked about ways to expand bilateral relations.

"Had a very good meeting with PM Kishida. Discussed cooperation in infrastructure, semiconductors, defence, green energy and more. Strong India-Japan ties are great for global prosperity," Modi posted on X.

During their September 21 meeting in Wilmington, Delaware the two leaders recalled their many interactions, especially since their first Annual Summit in March 2022.

Modi thanked Kishida for his unwavering dedication and leadership in advancing the India-Japan Special Strategic and Global Partnership over the last few years.



PM Narendra Modi meets with Japanese PM Fumio Kishida on the sidelines of the Quad Leaders' Summit, in Delaware on Saturday (ANI)

In a post on X, Kishida said: "In the meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi of India, I noted that my first bilateral visit as PM was to India, and spoke to the various accomplishments to date. I conveyed that Japan and India will continue the coordination to advance global governance."

"We confirmed that we would continue our work together on specific initiatives in a wide range of fields, taking into consideration that Japan will be welcoming Prime Minister Modi for the annual reciprocal visit," he added.

As per a statement from the Ministry of External Affairs

(MEA), the two leaders noted that the India-Japan Special Strategic and Global Partnership is in its 10th year and expressed satisfaction at the progress made in the relationship.

The two prime ministers reviewed the multi-faceted relationship between the two countries and exchanged views to deepen cooperation further, including defence and security ties and business to business and people-to-people collaborations. Modi bid farewell to the outgoing Japanese Prime Minister, and wished him success and fulfilment in his future endeavours. Kishida is set to step down as prime minister after his LDP's leadership election on September 27.

Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri said that the meeting between Modi and the Japanese PM was mainly like a farewell meeting.

ANI



## 'No dialogue with Pakistan'

Rajouri, Jammu and Kashmir - Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Sunday that the central government will not hold any conversation with Pakistan until terrorism is eliminated.

Addressing an election rally in Nowshera in the run-up to the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly elections, Shah stressed against revoking Article 370 in the valley as demanded by the opposition, including the National Conference and Congress.

"Farooq Abdullah says that they will bring back Article 370.

Farooq Sahab, nobody can bring back Article 370. Now, bunkers are not needed because no one can dare to fire bullets. They want to bring back Shiekh Abdullah's flag.

"Only our tricolour will wave in Jammu and Kashmir. Terrorism continued in Jammu and Kashmir for 30 years, curfew was imposed in Jammu and Kashmir for 3000 days in 30 years, 40,000 people were killed. Farooq Sahab, where were you during those days? Let me tell you, when Kashmir was

burning, Farooq Sahib was comfortably holidaying in London," Shah said.

"They want us to have a dialogue with Pakistan. Let me be clear, we will not hold conversations or dialogue with Pakistan till terrorism is eliminated. They want to free the terrorists from jails. Modiji came, and we wiped out the terrorists one by one. No terrorist or stone pelted will be freed from jail. BJP assures you, no terrorist will walk free in Jammu and Kashmir," he added.

ANI

### 50 killed in Iran mine explosion

Tehran, Iran - At least 50 people died and 20 injured in a devastating mine explosion in eastern Iran. The incident has also sparked fears that many more workers may be trapped beneath the rubble, according to a report by Al Jazeera.

A methane gas leak caused a deadly explosion at a coal mine in Tabas, located 540km southeast of the Iranian capital Tehran, Al Jazeera said, citing the IRNA news agency. The blast occurred on Saturday night, endangering 69 miners in one of the tunnels.

ANI

## Sri Lanka: Leftist Anura Dissanayake declared president-elect

Colombo, Sri Lanka - Sri Lanka's election commission said late on Sunday that Marxist-leaning candidate Anura Kumara Dis-sanayake and his party had won general elections with 42.31% of the votes cast on Saturday.

Sri Lanka authorities conducted a second round of counting for the first time in the country's history after top candidates failed to secure a majority solely from people's first-preference votes in the presidential race. Dissanayake and opposition leader Sajith Premadasa had come out on top in the first round but neither won the mandatory 50% of first-preference votes necessary to be declared winner at the first count.

Premadasa made up ground when counting voters' second preferences, but Dissanayake's



Anura Kumara Dis-sanayake and his party won general elections with 42.31% of the votes cast on Saturday

initial lead proved unassailable as anticipated. Premadasa's party finished on 32.76% of the vote, results on the election commis-

sion website showed, an improvement of around 5%, but almost 10% adrift.

Turnout was put at almost

80%, with just over 13.6mn ballots cast in the island country. Sri Lanka's instant run-off counting mechanism does not require a

party to secure 50% support, only to maintain the lead after also counting other preferences.

It was already clear after the initial vote count, announced earlier on Sunday, that all remaining candidates other than Dis-

sanayake and Premadasa had been eliminated from contention.

*Dissanayake and opposition leader Sajith Premadasa had come out on top in the first round but neither won mandatory 50% of first-preference votes necessary to be declared winner*

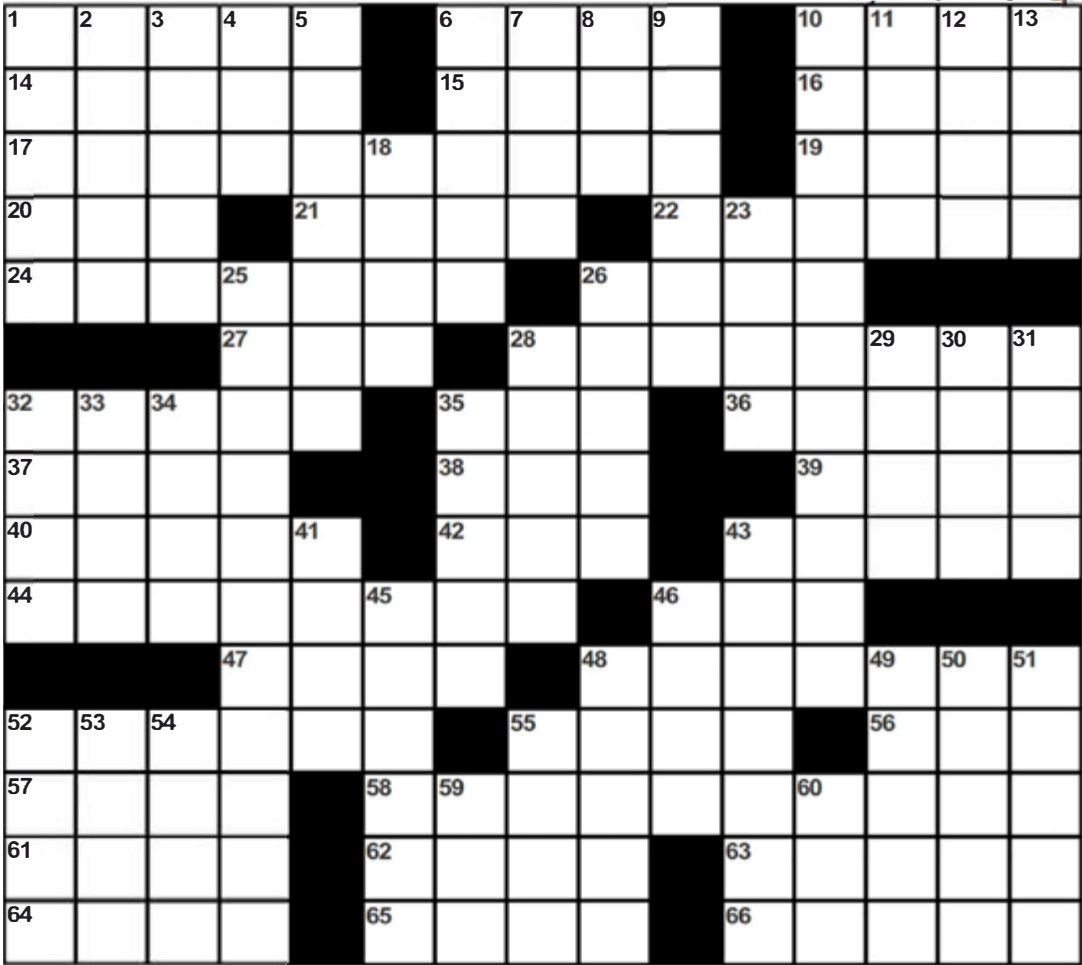
The Election Commission told reporters that Wickremesinghe, who took office at the height of Sri Lanka's 2022 economic collapse and imposed tough austerity policies, would come a distant

third. His party ultimately won just 17.27%. Wickremesinghe did not immediately concede. However, Foreign Minister Ali Sabry said it appeared clear that Dissanayake had won.

"Though I heavily campaigned for President Ranil Wickremesinghe, the people of Sri Lanka have made their decision, and I fully respect their mandate for Anura Kumara Dis-sanayake," Sabry said on social media.

DW

DAILY CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- 1) Tacked on
- 6) Food thickener
- 10) Made the scene
- 14) "Do-re-mi"
- 15) Put together
- 16) River to the Caspian sea
- 17) Politically like-minded auto mechanics?
- 19) Banjoist Fleck
- 20) "Born," in some no-tices
- 21) Earnhardt Jr. of-NASCAR
- 22) Tall Ships gathering, for short
- 24) Regardless of
- 26) "Peter Pan" beast, briefly
- 27) "... Miz"
- 28) Seaplane attachment
- 32) Fast food chain with "the meats"
- 35) Stick up
- 36) North African capital
- 37) "Va va..."
- 38) "... I saw Elba"
- 39) Starbucks size
- 40) "Miami Vice" star Edward James
- 42) Happy hour site

DOWN

- 1) Add a clause to
- 2) Charity recipient
- 3) Old Venetian officials
- 4) "Boola Boola" collegian
- 5) Fashionable dressers
- 6) Easy gait
- 7) Powerful wind
- 8) "Without further..."
- 9) Guinness Book listing
- 10) Preteen lobbyists?

DOWN

- 11) Line of work
- 12) Timbuktu's land
- 13) Tel Aviv airline
- 18) Greasy spoon sign
- 23) After-dinner wine
- 25) Fabulous beast on the Mayflower?
- 26) Prefix with "space" or "cafe"
- 28) Bar mitzvah dances
- 29) "Piece of cake!"
- 30) "... the ump!"
- 31) Cruise ship's stop
- 32) Door-to-door cosmetics company
- 33) Lincoln, to Day-Lewis
- 34) Box office flop
- 35) Counter, in a debate
- 41) Purplish fruit
- 43) Sops up
- 45) The Beaver State
- 46) Snack in a shell
- 48) Ad emblems
- 49) More than enough
- 50) Feudal lord
- 51) Rainbow-shaped
- 52) Pledge drive gift, maybe
- 53) Jannings of old movies
- 54) Roof overhang
- 55) Provide temporarily
- 59) P in Greece
- 60) "Fer sure!"

NOTE PAD



YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE



**ARIES** MARCH 21-APRIL 19

A new person in your life is sparking some questions in your mind. Where are you going? How soon do you need to get there? Answers won't come easily, and they shouldn't. If they do, you're probably just telling yourself what society expects of you. Just let these questions simmer for a while and don't put too much pressure on yourself to find answers right now. Sooner or later you will come to some conclusions that will give you a firm foundation and a plan of attack.



**LEO** JULY 23-AUGUST 22

Everywhere you go will be crowded and active today, so get ready for some sensory overload. To some extent, you'll get a rush from the crowds. But when you need a break, you'll really need a break, so pay attention to your feelings as the day progresses. All the activity may challenge your ability to concentrate on a developing issue with a friend. Put off making your next move until things settle and you can get some quiet time to figure out exactly what you want.



**SAGITTARIUS** NOVEMBER 22-DECEMBER 21

Whether you realize it or not, you're in the midst of some amazing changes right now. Trouble is that the most productive ones usually take the longest to complete. Luckily, if you keep your eyes and ears open today, you'll find a few sweet shortcuts that will help you skip all of the boring stuff and jump right to all the fun stuff. These shortcuts will require a heavy amount of bravado on your part, but if you know how to fake it till you make it, you'll be all set!



**TAURUS** APRIL 20-MAY 20

Plans are shifting out of place today, but don't waste time trying to figure out why. Instead, you should direct your energy toward formulating the most effective reaction to the new situation. Simply put, you can't afford to have a "whatever" attitude about any surprises throughout the day. If something is bothersome or frustrating, you can take charge, get rid of it, and put things back on track.



**VIRGO** AUGUST 23-SEPTEMBER 22

Everyone is taking their own journey through life, and that's liberating, but it can also be isolating, because no one else can truly understand what you're experiencing. Take this fact to heart when those in the know offer you unsolicited advice today. They have your best interest at heart, but in the end their thoughts are based on their own goals, not yours. Stick to what you feel. This is no time to start navigating by someone else's maps. You could get lost.



**CAPRICORN** DECEMBER 22-JANUARY 19

Sharing your life can be tricky, but you're handling the balancing act quite well, especially now. The only thing you may want to watch out for is spreading yourself too thin. Unless you get enough time to yourself, you may lose focus on what it takes to make yourself truly happy. Feel free to back off on social plans or reschedule social events to get the downtime you need. Clear communication is essential. Let your loved ones know what's going on with you.



**GEMINI** MAY 21-JUNE 21

When you aim at your target today, switch off your emotions. Doubt, fear, even confidence must get pushed aside or else you may miss your mark. Approach everything with an analytical eye and there will be no doubt you can't explain away. Nothing in life is 100 percent certain, but if you put your brain to work now, you can get things close enough. Passion isn't going to be as powerful as intellect, at least not for a while.



**LIBRA** SEPTEMBER 23-OCTOBER 22

If social juggling were an Olympic sport, you'd snag the gold for sure. Finalize tentative plans with a friend today. This marathon game of phone tag needs to come to an end. Take out your calendar and book a date today, because tomorrow you'll be grateful for the excuse to say no. Luckily, everyone else is busy too, and that will make tying up these details a lot less painful. Joy and laughter are coming your way. Bring other friends into the mix to make the most of it.



**AQUARIUS** JANUARY 20-FEBRUARY 18

You're not weak if you ask for help. Before things get to the panic phase, seek the assistance you know you need. Friends who have been there before are waiting for you to ask. They have some wise advice you need to hear. Ask for what you need today. No bad assumptions will be made. Your reputation is stronger than you think! Emotionally, you are on solid ground, so be as affectionate as you want. Expressing your feelings will make you feel good!



**CANCER** JUNE 22-JULY 22

The rat race is getting especially rough right now, and not for the right reasons. If you're getting overwhelmed by the crowds, step out. You won't miss out on any big opportunities, despite what others may say. Pressures are driving you out of a social situation too, and that is a strong indicator that time on your own will give your batteries the recharge they need. No one will question your motivation on any decisions you make, so put yourself first this time.



**SCORPIO** OCTOBER 23-NOVEMBER 21

Memories of an awkward moment still hang in the air. Don't you think it's time one of you reached out and made an effort to reconnect? Make the first move. You'll feel good and will gain extra credit for doing so. It may take a while to get the face-to-face time you need with that special someone, but keep trying. They are not blowing you off! Persistence will pay off in a big way. You'll have them all to yourself for quite a long, cozy time.



**PISCES** FEBRUARY 19-MARCH 20

If you reach too high for your goals, you may end up disappointing yourself. You hold yourself to exceptionally high standards, and it's been working for you to a certain extent. Today, try setting more modest goals and experiment with reduced expectations. It's time you gave yourself a break. Today, just picture where you want to be three months from now, not a decade. An easy plan will pop into your head and get you thinking positively.



TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

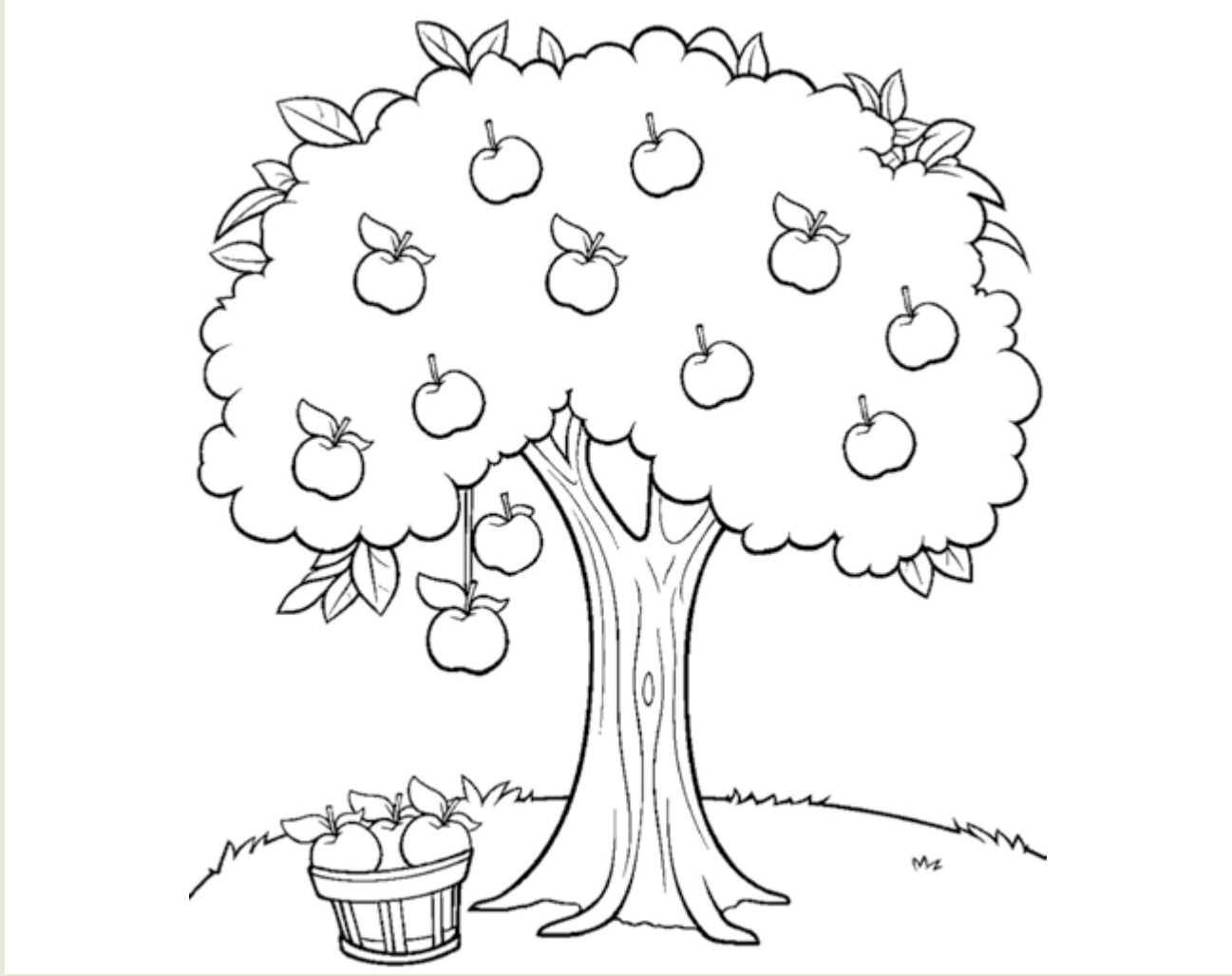
01. Who wrote the influential book "Areopagitica"?  
A. Aristotle  
B. Plato  
C. Sir Philip Sidney  
D. John Milton

02. Where is the opera "Dialogues of the Carmelites" set?  
A. Italy  
B. France  
C. Spain  
D. England

03. When was Berlin's Tegel Airport first given its time-saving hexagonal terminal complex, and substantially increased in capacity, function, international use and runway length?  
A. 1948  
B. 1974  
C. 1919  
D. 1925

Answers: 1. D 2. B 3. A

KIDS COLOURING



BOGGLER

|   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|
| P | L | P | Y |
| A | R | I | L |
| O | N | I | L |
| A | O | T | T |

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

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

WORD BUILDER



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

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

SUDOKU EASY ANSWER

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

# 'ROCK AND ROLL'

Vinicius, Rodrygo, Mbappe on target as Real Madrid rally to beat Espanyol

Madrid, Spain - Vinicius Junior came off the bench to score once and set up another goal to steer champions Real Madrid to a 4-1 fightback victory over Espanyol in LaLiga on Saturday.

Real Madrid dominated proceedings but fell behind in the 54th minute due to a rare blunder by their goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois, who deflected a low cross from Jofre into his own net.

However, Real found the equaliser four minutes later with a close-range strike by Dani Carvajal, taking advantage of a mistake by Espanyol goalkeeper Joan Garcia who let a Jude Bellingham lateral shot from close range squeeze under him, leaving the ball free for Carvajal to smash into an empty net.

Vinicius then worked his magic within three busy minutes, first lifting a brilliant cross with the outside of his foot to Rodrygo, who netted a first-touch effort from the middle of the box in the 75th minute, and then scoring himself with a tidy finish from a counter-attack in the 78th.

Kylian Mbappe finished off the win from the penalty spot after substitute Endrick was fouled inside the box in the 90th minute.



Vinicius Junior and Rodrygo celebrate a Real Madrid goal

"We did well, with combinations inside, even if it didn't all work out, we always kept trying," Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti told a press conference. "In the second half, with the game open... it's a context that suits us. It's clear, tonight was rock & roll. We started well and reacted well after the 0-1. It was complete. Real remained second on 14 points, one

behind leaders Barcelona who have a game in hand and visit Villarreal on Sunday.

"We played a very good game but it's true that it was difficult for us to finish plays. We created a lot of chances but we have a lot of room for improvement," captain Luka Modric told Movistar Plus.

"I don't know if it was our best or not but it was a great game,

*I don't know if it was our best but it was a great game, from start to finish. To have Vinicius, Mbappe, Bellingham and Rodrygo is awesome; they are great.*

LUKA MODRIC

from start to finish. We must continue like today. To have Vinicius, Mbappe, Bellingham and Rodrygo is awesome; they are great.

"They and the whole team are doing everything right but we still can improve; we'll keep going in

the next few games until we feel we reach out true potential. This match can give us confidence."

Real manager Carlo Ancelotti made four changes from the team that beat Stuttgart 3-1 in their Champions League opener on Tuesday but they still were in

commanding form from the start, with Mbappe as the main focus of their efforts up-front.

The France captain was busy and relentlessly trying to connect with his team mates but lacked a final punch, missing several shots and still looking far from the difference-maker Real thought they were getting when they signed him from Paris St Germain.



Carlo Ancelotti

**Little by little we are getting back to our best, says Ancelotti**

Madrid, Spain - Real Madrid manager Carlo Ancelotti said he was delighted with his side's play and resiliency in their LaLiga clash against Espanyol on Saturday, fighting back to win 4-1 after falling behind due to a rare blunder by their goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois.

Ancelotti praised his players poise under pressure as they dominated proceedings, earning a win thanks to goals by Dani Carvajal, Rodrygo, Vinicius

*We played better than in other matches; with more rhythm and generating more chances. It was a good game.*

CARLO ANCELOTTI



Paris St Germain's Ousmane Dembele's celebrates with teammates after scoring against Reims

## Dembele goal helps PSG draw at Reims

Reims, France - Substitute Ousmane Dembele's second-half goal earned Paris St Germain a 1-1 draw at Reims on Saturday to maintain their Ligue 1 unbeaten run.

The home side took an early lead when Junya Ito's clever cross into the box found his Japanese compatriot Keito Nakamura, who struck a superb finish after the ball bounced off PSG captain Marquinhos in the ninth minute.

Luis Enrique's side were desperate to equalise and midfielder Lee Kang-in had the clearest chance after Randal Kolo

Muani's incisive cross, but he could not get his effort past goalkeeper Yehvann Diouf.

PSG were without striker Marco Asensio, who picked up an injury in Wednesday's last-gasp Champions League win over Girona, and they struggled to find their pace but they were more aggressive after the break.

Reims defended well and thanks to Ito's skilful assists even threatened more until Dembele came on for Desire Doue in the 65th and three minutes later latched on to Joao Neves's fierce cross to slot home from a tight angle. "It's a difficult result and I

don't think we deserved a draw," Neves said. "We tried to put things right in the second half. I'm not happy with the result but I'm happy with the way we played.

"I think you have to learn from every game. The next will be better and we'll try to get as many points as possible," he added.

Striker Muani described the match as complicated but said they fought with intensity.

"We were desperate to get back on the scoresheet and win the game... But you have to look on the bright side, we're still unbeaten," he said.

## Valencia stun lacklustre Girona

Valencia, Spain - Girona slumped to a surprise 2-0 defeat at struggling Valencia on Saturday as an own goal by Juanpe and a deflected strike by Dani Gomez within two minutes in the second half gave the hosts a first LaLiga win in six games.

The victory moved Valencia from bottom to 18th on four points, one ahead of Getafe and two ahead of Las Palmas. Last-year's surprise package Girona are 13th on seven points.

Valencia were toothless in a dour first half in which neither side managed to get a shot on target.

Despite controlling possession, Girona were out of ideas up-front and often exposed to counter attacks, after manager Michel made six changes to the team that lost 1-0 in the Champions League at Paris St-Germain on Wednesday, when they conceded a last-minute goal due to a blunder by their goalkeeper Paulo Gazzaniga.

Valencia broke the deadlock in the 56th minute following a bad mistake by the visitors' defence when putting the ball in play. Gomez recovered the loose ball and fired a strike from long range



Valencia's Dani Gomez celebrates his goal against Girona

that was heading wide until it deflected off Girona's Juanpe and wrong-footed Gazzaniga before finding the back of the net.

Two minutes later, another error by Girona's defence helped Valencia to secure the win when

Ladislav Krejci gifted a pass to Gomez who fired a strike from the edge of the box, Valencia's first and only shot on target, which slightly diverted off an opponent before slotting just inside the left post.

Jr and Kylian Mbappe that canceled Courtois' own-goal early in the second-half.

"We played better than in other matches; with more rhythm and generating more chances. It was a good game. At the back, the recovery was good, as was the pressure after a loss. We came out with a good dynamic, little by little we are getting back to our best. I am happy."

Unbeaten in LaLiga for almost an year, Ancelotti said that he is content with his side's performances, finding ways to win despite having several players injured and others struggling to reach peak form.

"We have now gone 38 games unbeaten and that means that we are doing things very well," Ancelotti said.

"However, in this season there is a fact that must be highlighted: we only scored one goal in the first half. It's something to be aware.

"I have talked about it with the players before the game, to see if I could change this dynamic. We couldn't, but we have played with more intensity."

## Olise stars as Bayern thrash Bremen 5-0

Bremen, Germany - Free-scoring Bayern Munich extended their perfect Bundesliga start when Michael Olise scored two goals and set up two more to give them a 5-0 victory over Werder Bremen in a one-sided contest at the Westerstadion on Saturday.

The Bavarians, who suffered a shock 1-0 defeat to Bremen when the sides last met in a league clash in January, ran out comfortable winners to move up to 12 points from four matches.

"(Olise) is a great player. We

understand each other very well, we talk a lot. The more games we play together, the more chemistry we'll have. He's got a lot of quality," Bayern attacker Jamal Musiala told Sky Sports.

Winger Olise, signed from Premier League club Crystal Palace for a reported fee of 60 million euros (\$66.97 million) in July, has quickly established himself in the first team. He once again repaid manager Vincent Kompany's faith as he was heavily involved in Bayern's attack.

Bayern, who have scored 20 goals in three matches across all competitions, opened the scoring in the 23rd minute when Harry Kane seized possession on the edge of the area and played the ball to Olise, who fired his shot past keeper Michael Zetterer.

The French winger then wriggled his way into Bremen's penalty area in the 32nd minute and his cutback was turned home by Musiala.

Bayern continued their onslaught after the break and Olise

teed up Kane for a shot from the edge of the box, which led to the striker's 41st Bundesliga goal -- making him the highest-scoring English player in the German top flight's history.

Olise netted his fifth goal in three matches with a delightful sidefooted finish into the top corner and substitute Serge Gnabry wrapped up the scoring in the 65th minute.

"It's been a great week. Credit to the boys for the attitude and mentality," Kane told Sky Sports.



Bayern Munich's Michael Olise (C) celebrates with teammates after scoring against Werder Bremen

# NORRIS ALL THE WAY IN SINGAPORE

Mclaren driver closes the gap with Verstappen to 52 points

Singapore - McLaren's Lando Norris dominated the Singapore Grand Prix from start to finish on Sunday to take another chunk out of Max Verstappen's Formula One championship lead.

The 24-year-old Briton roared away from pole position at the floodlit Marina Bay circuit and, despite living dangerously at times as he twice brushed the unforgiving walls, led every lap to the chequered flag.

Verstappen finished second for Red Bull, a massive 20.945 seconds behind his main rival, and McLaren's Oscar Piastri was third in a sweltering night race run over 62 laps in exhausting heat and humidity.

Verstappen's 59 point lead over Norris was cut to 52 with six rounds, including three sprints, remaining, while McLaren stretched their lead over Red Bull in the constructors' standings to 41 points.

"It was an amazing race. A few too many close calls, I had a couple of little moments in the middle, but it was well controlled,



Mclaren's Lando Norris celebrates after winning the Singapore Grand Prix

I think," said Norris after his third career victory and third of the season. The car was mega. I could push, we were flying the whole race and at the end could just chill. So it was a nice race, still tough, I'm a bit out of breath, but a very fun one."

Norris could have also had a bonus point for fastest lap but RB's Daniel Ricciardo pitted for a third time for soft tyres and

snatched it at the end of what many suspect could be the Australian's last race.

Extraordinarily for Singapore, there was no safety car deployment in a largely incident-free race with only two retirements.

"On a weekend when we knew that we were going to struggle, to be P2 is a good achievement," said Verstappen after what amounted to a lonely race.

## Bastianini champion

Italian Enea Bastianini won his home Emilia-Romagna Grand Prix on Sunday after a final lap showdown with Pramac Racing's Jorge Martin to give Ducati a 100th MotoGP victory while reigning champion Francesco Bagnaia crashed out while in third place.

Spain's Marc Marquez finished third for Gresini Racing at

the Misano circuit and with three Ducati bikes on the podium, the Italian manufacturer also clinched the constructors' championship with six rounds to spare.

With Spaniard Martin leading the race on the final lap, Bastianini made an aggressive overtake on turn four that elbowed the Pramac Racing rider out of the way before he took the chequered flag.



Weston McKennie of Juventus tries to escape the attention of Napoli's Scott McTominay

## Napoli hold Juve to goalless draw

Turin, Italy - Juventus were held to a goalless draw by Napoli in Serie A on Saturday, their third consecutive match to end scoreless on the domestic front.

Juve are the only side yet to concede a goal in Europe's top five leagues but they now also remain goalless since the beginning of September in their domestic campaign.

Thiago Motta's side were previously held to 0-0 draws against AS Roma and Empoli before they got their Champions League campaign under way with a 3-1 victory over PSV Eindhoven on Tuesday.

Juventus are fourth in the standings on nine points, one point behind third-placed Napoli who have been unbeaten in four games.

The hosts had more possession throughout the game but Napoli came closer to snatching a winner and Juve goalkeeper Michele Di Gregorio saved Scott McTominay's

attempt from outside the box in the first half, before Romelu Lukaku failed to follow up.

Di Gregorio then leaped to deny winger Matteo Politano from a free kick in first-half stoppage time, diverting the shot with the tips of his fingers. Politano had another great chance to put Napoli in front after the break when he went on a solo run but struck slightly above the bar from the edge of the box.

Good defending on both sides nipped many chances in the bud as Juve centre-back Gleison Bremer did well to keep Lukaku under control while Napoli's back line proved a tough nut to crack for Dusan Vlahovic, who was substituted at halftime by Timothy Weah.

Only once previously have they managed to keep a clean sheet in their opening five games of a league campaign, in 2014-15.

Juventus next travel to Genoa on September 28.



Ten Hag

## We ate them alive in the first half: Ten Hag

London, England - Manchester United manager Erik ten Hag was pleased that his team "ate Palace alive" but was ultimately left to lament that his men let what felt like a sure victory slip through their hands in a 0-0 Premier League draw with Crystal Palace on Saturday.

After a 3-0 league win over Southampton and then a 7-0 shellacking of Barnsley in a League Cup third-round game on Tuesday, Ten Hag's side played with swagger on Saturday.

They had numerous near misses in a dominant first half that included two rockets off the crossbar in quick succession from Alejandro Garnacho and Bruno Fernandes.

But they headed home to Manchester ruining the two points lost, rather than the single point earned.

"When we don't win, I'm not content," Ten Hag told Sky Sports. "We should have won."

"I think first half, we ate them alive. Then in the second half it was more in the balance, but first half we should have scored one

or two goals. Probably lose two points because of the first half but the thing is that we don't lose this game in the end."

The draw left United 11th in the table on seven points, with just two wins in five league

*Probably lose two points because of the first half but the thing is that we don't lose this game in the end*

ERIK TEN HAG

matches. Ten Hag called the clean sheet for keeper Andre Onana, who made a spectacular double save in the second half, a positive.

"Unbelievable save, Andre is so explosive, he is such a great stopper. It's twice in one action," the manager said. "We all see now how good he is. His reactions are so good, he's so quick and we saw that with the save in the second half."

## Man United miss chances galore in goalless draw against Palace

London, England - Manchester United had to settle for a single point despite a dominant performance by Erik ten Hag's team in their 0-0 Premier League draw with Crystal Palace at Selhurst Park on Saturday.

The draw - at least a small measure of revenge after United's humiliating 4-0 rout by Palace in May that was their low point last season - left them 11th in the table on seven points. Oliver Glasner's Palace are 16th with three points.

Selhurst Park continues to prove a bafflingly tough place to play for United, who have not won there in their past five games and have just one goal to show for that stretch.

"We didn't win, but I'm happy for the work, for the sacrifices of my teammates, we had so many chances. It's painful to come back home with the one point when we deserved to win," United's keeper Andre Onana told Sky Sports.

Ten Hag's men will rue squandered opportunities, including two agonising near misses in rapid-fire succession in the first half that saw Alejandro Garnacho and then Bruno Fernandes



Manchester United forward Alejandro Garnacho's shot crashes on to the bar

hammer shots off the crossbar within a few seconds, both left to hold their heads in disbelief.

Onana saw almost no action in the first half but was put to work several times in the second against a Palace side who were significantly better after the break. Onana made a fabulous double save, diving to bat away Eddie Nketiah's shot and then leaping into the air to stop Ismaila Sarr volleying home the re-

bound.

"I think we were way better than them, we had the best chances during the game," Onana said. "(But) playing for Manchester United, you have to win. We go home disappointed."

Glasner's halftime message was about his team's lack of intensity, and it showed in the their cranked up second-half performance.

"It was the intensity, the be-

lief, he was obviously frustrated with the way we were playing, he thought we were playing so cautious," Henderson said. "(He said) take the safety cap off and go for it. We have nothing to lose."

Palace had a brilliant chance to secure victory late in the game when Sarr latched onto a cross from Jeffrey Schlupp, but flicked the shot just wide of the near post.



Thiago Motta

## Napoli defended well: Juve coach Motta

Turin, Italy - Napoli showed unexpected courage and defended well, Juventus coach Thiago Motta said after the visitors held his side to another goalless draw in Serie A on Saturday.

Juventus started their campaign with two convincing 3-0 wins against Como and Hellas Verona but have failed to score in the league ever since, recording three 0-0 draws so far in September.

"I expected this attitude (of Napoli), although they played at our home and I didn't expect them to be as courageous as they normally are," Motta told a press conference.

"(Whether it was) their strategy or our merit, we found ourselves with the team with a low defensive block in the penalty area and therefore difficult to attack. It's not a question of filling (the box) but of attacking it at the right time," Motta said.

"Today, however, we faced a team that knows how to defend the penalty area well. When a team closes up, it's not easy to score. Today we didn't make much use of outside shots."

## Fan fury over De Rossi sacking forces Roma CEO to resign

Rome, Italy - AS Roma Chief Executive Lina Souloukou has stepped down, the Serie A club said on Sunday, following fan anger over the sacking of manager Daniele De Rossi last Wednesday.

"We thank Lina for her dedicated service during a critical period for the club and wish her the best in her future endeavours," Roma said in a short statement on their website.



Lina Souloukou

Italian media said police had been assessing whether Souloukou had needed enhanced security after a threatening banner appeared at the club's training ground.

The Greek sports lawyer bore the brunt of fan fury over the dismissal of club stalwart De Rossi following a winless run in Roma's first four Serie A matches of the season.

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 has been replaced by former Torino manager Ivan Juric who will be in charge when Roma host Udinese on Sunday.

Souloukou had been hired in April 2023 by the American Friedkin family, the owners of Roma. She was previously the chief executive of Greek club Olympiakos Piraeus.

# ASHWIN MASTERCLASS

Spinner takes six wickets after first innings ton as India thrash Bangladesh in series opener

Chennai, India - Ravichandran Ashwin completed his fourth double of a hundred and a five-for in the same Test - and his second in successive Tests at Chepauk as India took a little over three days to bring Bangladesh down to earth, dishing out a 280-run hammering in the series opener on Sunday to maintain their formidable home record.

Bangladesh captain Najmul Hossain Shanto kept the probing bowling at bay, spending a wicketless first hour with Shakib Al Hasan.

But Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja broke down the resistance in the second hour. Ashwin's 37th five-wicket haul took him level with the great Shane Warne, behind only Muthiah Muralidaran's 67.

India started the day needing six wickets to win, but were denied at the start. The first hour, although wicketless, featured testing spells from Mohammed Siraj and Jasprit Bumrah. Siraj, in particular, bowled through the hour, kept going past Shanto's bat, and tried to engage him in verbals, but Shanto kept resisting him. Shakib wore a blow on his fingers, but managed to keep Shanto company.

Just after drinks, though, Chennai boy Ashwin and Chennai Super King Jadeja got together in a reminder of how their batting partnership on day one took the game away from Bangladesh. In his first over, Ashwin's drift made Shakib play down the wrong line for Yashasvi



India's Ravichandran Ashwin celebrates with teammates after taking a Bangladeshi wicket in the first Test at Chepauk

*It was a great result, looking at what lies ahead for us. We've been playing after a long time but you're never out of cricket ... It was just about getting together as a group.*

ROHIT SHARMA

Jaiswal to take another sharp catch at short leg. This wicket took him past Courtney Walsh's 519 to No. 8 on the all-time wicket-takers' table.

Jadeja's quick pace and turn soon drew an edge from Litton Das for an easier catch at first slip. Playing at home, Ashwin then received a gift from Mehidy Hasan Miraz, who decided to take the long-on fielder on, and ended up offering Jadeja a simple catch - fitting that Ashwin's five-wicket haul was completed with a Jadeja catch.

Trying to farm the strike, Shanto decided to have a go at Jadeja last ball of an over, but the wily spinner bowled wide to draw a wicket-taking thick edge. It was only a matter of time after that. A minor detail was that what could have been Ashwin's seventh wicket - not given and not reviewed - ended up becoming Jadeja's third in the next over.

Bangladesh arrived fresh from a 2-0 series sweep in Pakistan earlier this month but in India they confronted rivals they had not beaten in their previous 13 at-

tempts.

Winning a test series in India is considered one of the toughest tasks in cricket and Bangladesh are not the only ones to struggle there.

India have not lost a test series at home since 2012 and only four defeats in the last decade underline how formidable they have been as hosts. They have reached the World Test Championship finals and are currently top of the WTC standings.

India captain Rohit Sharma was pleased with the strong start to a season that also includes three home tests against New Zealand and five in Australia.

"I thought it was a great result, looking at what lies ahead for us," Rohit said.

"Yes, we've been playing after a long time but you're never out of cricket ... It was just about getting together as a group, which

we did.

"We came here a week before, we had a good lead up to the test match and then we got the result that we wanted."

Playing a test match after more than six months, the only time India looked in discomfort was when their top order wobbled on a lively red-soil strip at the M.A. Chidambaram Stadium.

India's go-to spinners Ashwin and Jadeja were always going to play a crucial role but few expected it to be with the bat.

Their epic seventh-wicket partnership of 199 in the first innings powered India from a precarious 34-3 to a commanding 376 and control of the game.

In their second innings, Rishabh Pant celebrated his return to Test cricket with a beligerent hundred while Shubman Gill put a first innings duck behind him with an unbeaten century.

## ‘Coming back to Test cricket, where I belong most, is great’

Chennai, India - Nearly two years after being dragged out of a flipped car engulfed in flames, India wicketkeeper Rishabh Pant smashed a typically belligerent hundred in his Test comeback and professed his love for the format.

What was to be a surprise visit to his mother in December 2022 went horribly wrong when the car Pant, was driving on that fateful Friday morning

In his first Test since that horrific accident, Pant made 39 before exploding in the second innings, smashing 109 off 128 balls to equal idol MS Dhoni's record of six Test hundreds by an Indian wicketkeeper. After reaching the mark, Pant looked skywards and blew a kiss in a muted celebration.

"It was emotional because coming back I wanted to score in each and every match, which I couldn't do" in the first innings, Pant said after India beat Bangladesh by 280 runs in the series opener on Sunday.

"But coming back to Test cricket, where I belong most, is great. I enjoyed batting out there and just got a little bit emotional. But at end of the day, just being on the field gives me more pleasure than doing anything else."

Pant's ability to produce match-defining knocks makes him an asset, and it is hardly surprising he boasts unconditional backing of the team.

Before the match against Bangladesh, India head coach Gautam Gambhir made it clear that the likes of Dhruv Jurel, who impressed behind the wickets in the Test series against England, will have to wait for their turn.

India captain Rohit Sharma applauded Pant's return to the long format. "Look, he's been through some really tough times and the way he has managed himself through those tough times was superb to watch," Rohit said.

"This is the format he loves the most. Look, for us, it was never about what is he going to do with the bat. We always knew what he had with the bat and with the gloves as well."



*It was emotional because coming back I wanted to score in each and every match, which I could not do*

RISHABH PANT

hit a central divider, flipped over and caught fire.

He underwent multiple surgeries, wondering if he would ever play the game again before returning to competitive cricket in the Indian Premier League this year.

Now 26, he was part of the India squad that won the T20 World Cup in June, but doubts lingered whether he could cope with the rigour of five-day cricket ahead of the two-test series against Bangladesh.

## Australia ease to win against England

Leeds, England - Australia moved 2-0 ahead in the ODI series against a lacklustre England with a vital half century by wicket keeper Alex Carey paving the way for a 68-run victory at Headingley on Saturday.

Carey struck 74 to bolster an Australia innings that had crumbled to 221-9 with the visitors eventually all out for 270.

It looked like a reachable total but Australia's bowlers, especially Mitchell Starc and Josh Hazlewood, proved too good as Eng-

land were all out for 202 in 40 overs. England slumped to 65 for five but were given some hope with Jamie Smith (49) sharing a stand of 55 with Jacob Bethell.

But wickets continued to tumble all too regularly and some late hitting by Adil Rashid was in vain as England lost soundly to the world champions again.

It had looked as though England could snap Australia's winning run in ODIs, which now extends to 14, as they grabbed control after Australia had

reached 145-3 in the 25th over.

Bethell then removed Marnus Labuschagne (19) and Marsh (60) in successive overs while Rashid claimed his 200th ODI wicket when he snared Glenn Maxwell. Carey and Aaron Hardie added 55 for the seventh wicket but Brydon Carse claimed two wickets in two balls as Australia slumped again. Carey farmed the strike to great effect to frustrate the hosts though, hitting eight fours and three sixes before being last man out.

### Sri Lanka close in on victory

Sri Lanka stayed on course for victory against New Zealand in the opening Test in Galle despite Rachin Ravindra's unbeaten 91.

Chasing 275 for victory, New Zealand got off to a shaky start and kept losing wickets particularly to Sri Lankan spinners Prabath Jayasuriya (3-66) and Romesh Mendis (3-83).

The tourists were 207-8, 68 runs behind their victory target, at stumps.



Alex Carey

## 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.

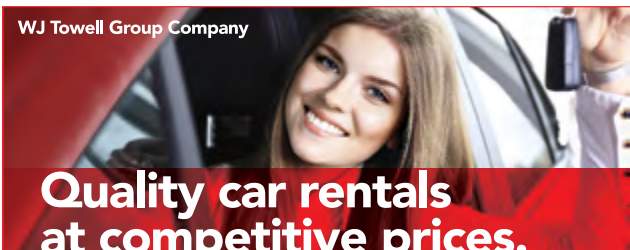
Chief Acct/ Manager: Chief Acct/ Manager (20 yr Exp of Oman) Finalisation of account, MIS, Audit, Tax, VAT, LC, LTR & Oracle ERP, Tally ERP Gsm 92383882



### 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 - 956 16835**  
**Girish Sewani - 93893596**



**Quality car rentals at competitive prices.**

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

- 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](mailto:wish@apexmedia.co.om) with your resident card copy (It's free of cost)



YOU'VE HEARD 'LEAVE NO TRACE' WHEN HIKING - HERE'S THE SCIENCE BEHIND WHY IT'S CRUCIAL TO LEAVE WILD ENVIRONMENTS THE WAY YOU FOUND THEM. IN ADDITION TO PICKING UP TRASH AND WASTE, TRAVELLING WITHIN VISITOR BOUNDARIES ENSURES NO HARMFUL TRACES WILL BE LEFT BEHIND

A dropped bag of Cheetos dramatically disturbed a delicate cave ecosystem in Carlsbad Caverns National Park, New Mexico, according to a Facebook post from park officials on September 6.

This cavern is almost entirely cut off from the outside world so introducing anything alien can be catastrophic.

"The cave has 90 to 100 per cent humidity so things get soggy pretty quickly," says park guide Ashley Parsons. The mushy snack attracts microbes, encouraging mould growth. Soon, critters - like crickets, spiders, and bats - swoop in to feed, spreading contamination.

Rangers found the Cheetos within four or five hours. "But that can be all it takes," says Parsons. "I'm sure some cave crickets got a bit of a snack,"

With more than 500 million people visiting American public lands each year, there are countless opportunities to harm our wild places. "When you look at the scale, it's incredible," says Dana Watts, executive director of the Leave No Trace Center in Colorado.

Visiting a park without leaving a trace isn't just about keeping nature clean - it's about contributing towards protecting wildlife.

While the discarded chips were quickly removed from Carlsbad Caverns, food waste can take a long time to decompose, especially in certain environments.

"It takes much longer for an apple core or banana peel to decompose in a desert versus a wetland area or boreal forest," says Clara-Jane Blye, assistant professor of sustainable tourism at the University of Utah and board member of Leave No Trace Canada.

Packaging is even worse. "If we drop things like plastic bags or metal cans or other trash into the ocean, the decay times might be centuries to millennia," says Carlos Duarte, professor of marine science at King Abdullah University of Science and Technology in Saudi Arabia.

Leaving waste introduces animals to an unnatural diet and changes their behaviour with sometimes catastrophic consequences. When birds or fish mistake plastic for food, it fills up their stomachs so they can't eat. "They basically starve to death," says Blye.



It takes much longer for an apple core or banana peel to decompose in a desert versus a wetland area or boreal forest

Clara-Jane Blye

Bears who get a taste for garbage and become a 'nuisance' to humans may have to be put down. "Bears can become habituated to human food in three weeks," says Watts. "Everybody loses in that case."

Biological waste is also problematic. Dog feces introduce new pathogens into the ecosystem and the trace of this predator disturbs ungulate species, like deer and elk. Meanwhile, human excrement and toilet paper introduces e-coli into water sources. "It can make us very, very sick," says Blye.

Experts recommend relieving yourself into a 'WAG bag' and taking it with you when you leave. "I know it sounds really strange to poo into a bag," she says. "But it's weird to go into a hole, too."

Stay on the designated trail

In national parks, designated trails are carefully designed to avoid sensitive areas. Stepping off the trail, even for a quick photo, can scare wildlife away. "They stop foraging, they leave really good nesting and denning sites, they're less likely to return," says Blye.

Cumulative impacts from many visitors results in long-term damage to nature and wildlife. But people don't think of that when they see the perfect photo opportunity. "It's just such a hard thing to resist," she says. The risk to sensitive ecosystems, like desert crust, can't be seen with the naked eye.

"It's pretty easy for us to be like, oh, there's wildflowers over there. I shouldn't step on that," says Blye, but these inconspicuous biocrusts are full of microscopic organisms essential to desert life.

These tiny ecosystems provide many benefits, including reducing the risk of erosion and helping absorb rainfall, and can take hundreds of years to return to its original state.

Leave souvenirs behind

When visiting ocean environments, it's important to consider "how do we get there? How do we depart?" says Duarte. Boats can leach oil or toxic chemicals into the water and dropping anchor can smash up coral reefs.

Tourists themselves can introduce harmful chemicals - "We cover ourselves in a sunscreen lotion that has also been proven to be toxic, not just to the corals but to ourselves," says Duarte - or damage corals by kicking or touching them. "Accidentally breaking a tiny piece of coral can do damage that will last for decades."

"Probably the most challenging principle for a lot of people, is leaving what you find," says Watts, because people love to keep souvenirs. But taking a memento strips the ecosystem of its resources. For example, mass tourism has made it harder to find seashells.

For Watts, experiencing nature is good for people's mental and physical health but the Cheetos' incident illustrates the need for people to understand their own impacts. (Courtesy: nationalgeographic.com)

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

الغبرة الشمالية - مقابل بنك مسقط  
Opp. Bank Muscat, Ghubra roundabout

For Report, kindly Whatsapp us

WE EXCHANGE TRUST

**WE BUY & SELL GOLD & SILVER**

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

**WORLD WIDE REMITTANCE**

PURSHOTTAM KANJI EXCHANGE

شركة برشوت  
كانجي للمصارفة

Download & NOW!

+968 91757829 | 99640289

www.pkexchange.com



# THE CALLING

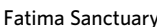
Over the years, local bishops and Vatican officials have cast doubt on the reliability and motivations of the 'seers' at Medjugorje because of concerns that economic interests may have been driving their reports of continued visions.

## The Basilica of Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception, Lourdes



It is the same story in Fatima and Lourdes, where faith “stimulates the migration of millions of people each year and with that, substantial commercial enterprise,” Vanessa J Panaligan writes in her paper ‘Pilgrims, Prayers, and Profits: Assessing the Cultural Significance and Economic Value of Lourdes’.

Around the religious sites and throughout the surrounding urban centres of Fatima and Lourdes, there are hundreds of souvenir shops selling memorabilia like Virgin Mary statues or containers for holy water.



(Courtesy: euronews.com)



**شانجان أوتو**  
**CHANGAN AUTO**  
 Driving Forward With You | قيادة متقدمة معك

**CS95**  
**7 SEATER**  
**4WD SUV**

**THE ALL-NEW 2024MY CS95**  
**HIGH-PERFORMANCE INTELLIGENT 7 SEATER FAMILY SUV**

**2.0L Turbo Engine, 224 hp | 8 Speed AT**

**Manufacturer's Warranty - 6 YEARS / 250,000 KMS\***

\*Terms and Conditions Apply

\*Easy Monthly Installment is calculated based on 20% down payment for 6 years loan tenure. Subject to credit approvals from Banks only. Images shown are for illustrative purpose only. Specification may vary as per the model variant. To know more, please visit the CHANGAN AUTO Showroom.

**Arabian Gulf Automobiles  
 and Equipment LLC**

Showrooms : **Qurum 94641010, Mawaleh 97888180**  
**Schar 93351200, Salalah 96629050, Irbil 96628930**  
 Sales Centers : **Nizwa 96628940, Barka 96629030, Sur 96628920**

**800 50800**  
**9662 8909**  
 **changanman**  
[www.changanman.com](http://www.changanman.com)

© 2024 CHANGAN

# LYNK & CO

## EXCLUSIVE OFFERS ON PREMIUM RANGE

09



03+



03



01



05



SERVICE\* 5 Years/  
100,000 KMs | FREE FUEL\*\* 200  
Ltrs.

 **1 Year  
Free  
Registration**

 **6 Years/  
Unlimited  
Kms Warranty#**

 **6 Years AAA  
Roadside  
Assistance##**

 **Trade-in  
Benefits\*\*\***

  
MOBILITY AUTO  
التنقل للسيارات

**Showroom - Ghala Heights, Muscat**

Offer valid during 23rd September to 25th September, 2024 only, on all models. \*Conditions apply

 71611137  [lynkcooman.com](https://lynkcooman.com)     [lynkcooman](https://lynkcooman)

