

Terms and conditions apply

We made it easy to get a Credit Card

Minimum salary from OMR 250

No need for salary assignment letter

First year annual fee waived

Apply now

بنك ظفار
BankDhofar



Oman’s first-ever EU Film Festival brings 15 movies

Our Correspondent
Muscat

Oman is, for the first time ever, hosting European Film Festival, bringing 15 films from nine EU countries to the silver screen.

Organised by the French Embassy in collaboration with the International Film Foundation of Oman (IFFO), the event was launched at VOX Mall of Oman on Monday with a Dutch documentary *Iceberg Riders*.

Running from September 23 to 30, the festival is going to showcase films from nine countries: France, Germany, the Netherlands, Italy, Romania, Cyprus, Hungary, Austria, and Spain.

The first day movie *Iceberg Riders* is a thought-provoking film on the impact of global warming on the Arctic region. The event offers a diverse range of genres, including drama, documentary, and animation, making it a celebration of European cinema and

culture.

Speaking during the event, Sudha Sha, organising partner and representative of IFFO, said, “This marks a new era for Omani cinema and Arabwood. We are thrilled to be the organising partner in this collaboration.

“For the first time, Oman will host an anthology of films, bringing master filmmakers from around the globe. Our goal is to train and scout Omani talent and create six films in collaboration with foreign film industries.”

Earlier this year, IFFO launched Arabwood, an initiative dedicated to the production of films in Oman and distribution worldwide.

Through these partnerships, Sudha said, Arabwood aims to share stories, artists, and themes of common human interest, while also providing technical expertise. “Let us establish and grow together in creating movies for mankind and conquer individual differences,” she said.

Oman engages in key diplomatic talks at UN General Assembly

New York, US - H E Sayyid Badr Hamad al Busaidi, Oman’s Foreign Minister, attended the Arab Ministerial Consultative Meeting on Monday, held on the sidelines of the 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York.

The meeting focused on regional developments and shared challenges, highlighting the need for unified Arab cooperation to tackle ongoing crises, especially concerning the Palestinian issue.

The ministers reaffirmed their steadfast support for the Palestinian people’s rights, stressing the importance of achieving a just solution. They called for the creation of an independent Palestinian state based on the 1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital. The ministers urged the international community to step up efforts to enforce a ceasefire in Gaza and end the Israeli aggression.

On the sidelines of the UN session, H E Sayyid Badr held several bilateral meetings. One of these was with Venezuela’s Foreign Minister, Ivan Gil Pinto. During their discussions, the two ministers signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to establish political consultations, aiming to strengthen coordination on both regional and inter-



Sayyid Badr with Venezuela’s Foreign Minister Ivan Gil Pinto (left)

On the sidelines of the UN session, H E Sayyid Badr held several bilateral meetings and signed bilateral agreements covering diverse areas of mutual interests

national issues. They also signed an agreement on mutual visa exemptions for holders of diplomatic, special, and service passports.

The two ministers explored ways to boost economic and trade relations between Oman and Venezuela, emphasising the

importance of new partnerships in promising sectors. They also exchanged views on pressing regional and international issues.

In a separate meeting, Oman and Hungary signed an executive programme for cooperation in higher education. This agreement was formalised between



Sayyid Badr after a deal with Hungary’s Foreign Minister Péter Szijjártó

Sayyid Badr and Hungary’s Foreign Minister Péter Szijjártó.

Additionally, Sayyid Badr met with Bulgaria’s Foreign Minister, Ivan Kondov, where the two countries signed a MoU for political consultations and an agreement on mutual visa exemptions for diplomatic, special, and service passports. Both ministers discussed ways to enhance bilateral ties and addressed shared concerns over regional and international matters.

In a meeting with Hans Grundberg, the UN Special Envoy for Yemen, Sayyid Badr

reviewed the latest situation in Yemen. They discussed ongoing international and regional efforts to restore peace and stability in the country. Both sides agreed on the importance of supporting initiatives that could lead to a comprehensive political solution for Yemen’s future.

Sayyid Badr also held talks with Dr Badr Abdel Aati, Egypt’s Foreign Minister. The two diplomats praised the strong ties between Oman and Egypt, expressing their commitment to further expanding cooperation across various sectors.

Recall

2024
Jeep Wrangler(JL)

Recall Date: 25 September 2024

Brand of Commodity	Year of Production	Number of Affected Commodities
Jeep Wrangler (JL)	2024	141

Recall consequence

The owner’s manual on about 800 of the above vehicles may be missing the Arabic language, inability to read the owner’s manual can result in improper vehicle use, which can cause a vehicle crash without prior warning.

Recall Action

Place the bilingual owner’s manual in the glove box.

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

Recall

RECALL CAMPAIGN FOR FUSO TRUCK

Recall Date : 24 September 2024

Brand of Commodity	Year of Production	Number of Affected Commodities
TF Canter EURO V	From 2023 to 2024	151

Recall consequence

The LCD device on ICUC (meter cluster) software is inappropriate for some functions which may cause malfunctions.

Recall Action

Use the latest software package, Ver.SDB_X230701/SDBN_X230801NR onward

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

Rich heritage of perfumes comes alive at cultural club

Muscat - The Cultural Club launched its ‘Perfume in the Sultanate of Oman’ event on Tuesday, under the patronage of H E Sayyid Said bin Sultan al Busaidi, Undersecretary for Culture in the Ministry of Culture, Sports, and Youth.

The two-day event offers a range of activities, from seminars and workshops to exhibitions, all aimed at showcasing Oman’s deep connection with perfumes and incense.

The event includes a seminar on the ‘History of Perfume in Oman’, practical sessions on incense and perfume-making, poetry evenings, a marketing exhibition titled ‘Investing in Perfume in Oman’, and an art exhibition called ‘Perfume of Colours’. These activities aim to celebrate Omani cultural heritage, focusing on the historical and social significance of traditional perfumes.

Dr Mohammed bin Ali al Balushi, a Professor of Archaeology and Heritage Studies at Sultan Qaboos University, delivered a talk on the role of perfumes in Omani history.

60m Ferris wheel, sports arena and zipline planned for Nizwa

Our Correspondent
Muscat

In a move aimed at boosting the economy and enhancing local tourism, Dakhliyah has announced 11 new investment projects. These initiatives are centred around the development of Nizwa Public Park and construction of a 60m Ferris wheel, called Nizwa Eye, on Dakhliyah Boulevard.

The governorate has invited bids for a range of recreational and development projects at

both Nizwa park and Dakhliyah Boulevard. The projects include construction and operating of a sports area spread over 12,924sqm, a skating area covering 1,558sqm and a natural sand play area of 2,068sqm. A 235m zipline, besides the Ferris wheel spread over an area of 260sqm, are key attractions in the plan.

Other projects include a trampoline area of 964sqm, equestrian sports facilities covering 2,785sqm, go-kart tracks over 1,688sqm, and an electronic



games area (Buggies) spanning 1,960sqm. The investment period for these projects will vary from five to 25 years.

According to officials, these initiatives are expected to develop Dakhliyah, create job opportunities and increase domestic tourism. The deadline for submitting bids is November 28, 2024.

Dakhliyah is home to several popular tourist destinations, including Nizwa, Jabal Akhdar and Jabal Shams. The latter, the high-

est peak in the Western Hajar Mountains, stands at nearly 3,000m above sea level. Nizwa, with its historic fort and bustling souq known for traditional handicrafts and silversmiths, remains a major draw for tourists.

Jabal Akhdar, in particular, is a favourite for regional and international visitors, thanks to its cool climate and stunning landscapes. Over 84,800 tourists visited in the first half of 2024, up from 79,000 in the same period last year - a 7.37% increase.

H M directive to boost education sector, construct 80 new schools

Our Correspondent
Muscat

His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik's directive to allocate RO40mn for the education sector will help augment schooling facilities across Oman, according to the Ministry of Education.

The funds will go towards construction of new schools and upgrading educational facilities across the country. The initiative is aimed at addressing the growing student population and ensuring a better learning environment for them.

The Ministry of Education stated that the initiative is crucial in dealing with overcrowded schools in several governorates. Nasser bin Salim al Ghanbousi, Director General of Education in South Batinah, said, "The Royal directive will lead to the construction of over 80 schools, benefiting over 20,000 students. This will help reduce student density and decrease the number of evening schools."

In another move, the ministry has also begun modernising



The Royal directive will lead to the construction of over 80 schools, benefiting over 20,000 students

NASSER AL GHANBOUSI

school transportation. The first batch of new school buses was unveiled at the Karwa Motors factory in Duqm on Monday. This batch comprises five buses, which will be delivered to bus owners in October.

Khamis al Hadidi, Director General of Projects and Services, said, "The ministry is replacing

tinguishing systems. These features will improve school transportation and address the challenges that affect the overall educational experience."

In addition to upgrading the transport fleet, Karwa Motors has announced the launch of after-sales services through Opal Company, which will provide maintenance and technical support for the new buses across all governorates.

The Ministry of Education is also tackling the issue of heavy school bags, particularly for younger students in Grades 1 to 4. A new directive now limits students to use two notebooks of 80 sheets each for their main subjects. Additional booklets and binders are not allowed, and students must use textbooks provided by the ministry. To help with this, lockers have been installed in schools for students to keep their books, so that they don't have to carry these home. The ministry is also promoting the use of e-books through its educational portal, further easing the load on students.

MTCIT promotes National Digital Economy Programme

Our Correspondent
Muscat

The Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology (MTCIT) has launched a campaign to promote the National Digital Economy Programme in Dakhliyah.

In partnership with Central Bank of Oman (CBO), the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion (MoCIIP), and Telecommunications Regu-

latory Authority (TRA), the campaign aims to raise awareness among government employees, individuals and students about the country's plans for digital transformation, e-commerce and infrastructure development.

The programme is a major part of Oman's vision of the digital economy contributing 10% to the gross domestic product by 2040. Key areas include government digital transformation, financial technology, and

improvements in cybersecurity and artificial intelligence.

During the campaign, MoCIIP will stress the importance of regulating online commercial transactions to ensure a safe environment for both consumers and businesses. It's aim is to position Oman as a leading regional hub for e-commerce by 2027.

The campaign will see CBO share details of its efforts to promote financial inclusion and innovation through new electronic

payment solutions. One of its key initiatives is a unified electronic platform called 'Know Your Customer', which streamlines customer verification processes.

Additionally, TRA will highlight its ongoing work to improve Oman's digital infrastructure, focusing on expanding broadband coverage and advancing fifth-generation (5G) networks. These improvements will play a vital role in accelerating digital transformation across various sectors.



Sultan Qaboos University

ANNOUNCEMENT

Sultan Qaboos University announces their desire to sell used furniture in sealed envelopes. Those wishing to enter the auction must adhere to the following conditions:

- Interested parties can view used furniture in auction yard and receive the bidding on Monday & Tuesday (30/09-01/10/2024) from 03:00 pm to 05:00 pm.
- Deposit of (200) Omani riyals in cash as an insurance. This amount will be refunded to the unsuccessful bidders.
- Submitting the offer in a sealed envelope after viewing the used furniture, entitled by the name of the head of the committee for selling used furniture, and put the envelope in bid box.
- The presented offer is binding on its owner if it is placed on it, and in the event that the buyer does not pay the purchase price on time, the insurance amount will be forfeited, and the sale will be awarded to another applicant.
- Those who win the bidding will be contacted. They must pay the remaining sum, and they are responsible for moving their items on Wednesday and Thursday (02-03/10/2024) from 09:00 am to 03:00 pm.
- The Used furniture are sold in their current condition and SQU is not responsible for any loss or damage to the sold material if the moving is not completed after the end of the sale (10) Omani riyals will be imposed for each day after 06/10/2024.

Notes:

- Prices are sorted according to groups and the higher price is taken.
- Funds will be collected electronically through visa cards.
- Entering the auction stores through Hospital Gate No (2).
- For more information contact on 24141272.



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

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



EVERYONE IS A WINNER

(32,000+ SCRATCH & WIN PRIZES)

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

Images shown for illustrative purposes only.

Promotion available only in selected outlets in Oman.

MARKET WATCH

MSX30	4,715.88
Sensex	84,914.04

FOREX RATES
(RO1 equals)

India	217.23
Pakistan	721.90
Bangladesh	310.53
Philippines	145.63
Sri Lanka	787.38

*Rates as on September 24
Source: xe.com

BRIEFS

Eurozone business activity declines

Eurozone business activity saw a renewed decline in September, data provider S&P Global said on Monday.

The fall in output was the first in the last seven months and came amid a sustained reduction in new orders, it noted.

New business fell at the sharpest pace since January, it said.

"With new orders and volumes of outstanding business falling at sharper rates and business confidence at a ten-month low, companies scaled back their workforce numbers for the second month running," it said.

Rex, Helios Aragon to explore natural hydrogen in Oman

Our Correspondent
Muscat

Singapore-based Rex International Holding has announced that it has entered into a joint study agreement with the co-founders of European firm Helios Aragon to explore natural hydrogen in Oman.

Helios Aragon, which aims to grow a high-quality global portfolio of natural hydrogen and helium projects, is the operator of the Monzon Natural Hydrogen Project in Spain, the first such development in Europe. Additionally, the Helios group of companies is conducting exploration activities in Poland and the UK.

In a press statement, John d'Abo, Executive Chairman of Rex International, said, "The Rex Group has been operating in Oman for a decade now, and the prospect of delving into a new form of energy in a geographical area we are familiar with is an exciting opportunity. The joint study will allow us to evaluate whether there are synergies to be gained and for Rex to con-



Oman is widely regarded as one of the most prospective countries for the near-term discovery of commercial quantities of natural hydrogen

IAN MUNRO

tribute to action against climate change in the future."

Ian Munro, CEO of Helios Aragon, said that Oman is widely regarded as one of the most prospective countries for the near-term discovery of commercial quantities of natural hydrogen.

"Oman's geology is considered optimal for large-scale hy-

drogen generation, as evidenced by the multiple surface seeps, some of which are almost pure hydrogen. We plan to leverage exploration learnings from Spain and other parts of Europe, combined with Rex's local operational expertise, to develop a thorough understanding of the hydrogen play system in Oman. Our goal is to produce the clean-

est and lowest-cost hydrogen, enhancing energy security and supporting the transition to a lower carbon future," he said.

Natural hydrogen - also known as white or gold hydrogen - is gaining global momentum as a potential gamechanger in the search for cost-effective, low-carbon energy sources. Global energy research firm Rystad Energy's research indicates that at the end of last year, 40 companies were searching for natural hydrogen deposits globally, up from just 10 in 2020. Currently, exploratory efforts are underway in Australia, the US, Spain, France, Albania, Colombia, South Korea, and Canada.

One of the most promising aspects of natural hydrogen is its cost advantage over other forms of hydrogen due to its natural occurrence, according to Rystad Energy.

Rex International's subsidiary, Masirah Oil, is the operator and holds a 100% interest in offshore Block 50 in the sultanate, an approximately 17,000 sqkm offshore concession located in the Gulf of Masirah, east of Oman.



OQEP to organise 9 IPO roadshows across Oman

Our Correspondent
Muscat

OQ Exploration & Production (OQEP) is collaborating with Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI), as well as the offices of the Governors and Walis, to organise a series of nine IPO roadshows across Oman.

These roadshows are scheduled to run from September 25 and up until October 7, with an aim to familiarise investors, citizens, and residents with the IPO process and the target groups.

OQEP, Oman's government-owned oil and gas exploration and production company, on Sunday 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).

The first roadshow will be held on September 25 in collaboration with the OCCI branch in the Wilayat of Ibra, North Sharqiyah Governorate.

The second event is scheduled on September 26 at the OCCI's branch in the Wilayat of Suhar, North Batinah Governorate.

In Dhofar Governorate, the OCCI Salalah branch will host the third IPO roadshow on September 29, while the Ibra branch in Al Dhahirah Governorate will hold the fourth roadshow on September 30.

Continuing this series, the fifth OQEP IPO roadshow will be conducted in the Wilayat of Nizwa, Dakhiliyah Governorate on October 1, followed by the sixth roadshow event at the Sur branch of the OCCI on October 2.

On October 3, the seventh IPO roadshow will take place in the Wilayat of Rustaq. On October 6, OQEP will organise the eighth event in the Wilayat of Khasab at the OCCI, Musandam Governorate. Finally, the OQEP IPO roadshow in Muscat Governorate is set for October 7.

The subscription period for OQEP IPO opens 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'.

Oman-Saudi trade crosses RO1bn in first half of 2024

Muscat - The volume of trade exchange between Oman and Saudi Arabia reached RO1.014bn in the first half of 2024, according to the data issued by the National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI).

Metal products constituted the largest value of Omani exports to Saudi Arabia with a value of RO160.547mn. This was followed by minerals and related products with a value of RO95.036mn. Moreover, machinery, digital devices and electric equipment and their parts came next with a value of RO33.592mn.

On the other hand, metal products also constituted the largest value of imports from



Saudi Arabia to the sultanate (RO284.941mn), followed by chemicals and related industries with a value of RO137.967mn. The products of food industry, drinks, alcohols, vinegar, tobacco and synthetic alternatives to tobacco reached RO38.882mn.

ONA

OABC, OCCI Salalah branch organise event to explore business opportunities in US

Salalah - The Oman American Business Council (OABC) hosted an engaging event in Salalah, in collaboration with the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI) Salalah branch and the US Embassy Muscat. The event, which was recently held at OCCI Salalah, provided a valuable opportunity for companies interested in exploring business opportunities in or with the United States.

The session featured a presentation from the US Embassy Muscat Consular Section, which offered guidance on US Business Visa services. The team took time to explain each step, and answered all questions from attendees. Additionally, OABC's team gave an overview of the history of the US-Oman Free Trade Agreement, key provisions of the FTA, success stories of Omani companies exporting to the United States and an overview of OABC's trade services.

A significant focus of the event was on untapped potential: ways for Omani companies to take advantage of the US-Oman FTA. The FTA, one of only four such agreements in the entire MENA region, offers unique opportunities for Omani businesses to enter the US market



competitively. The discussion highlighted opportunities to create a more favorable environment for Omani exports. The event also underscored potential growth in exporting medical devices and certain produce items from the Dhofar region to the US market.

"We are delighted with the strong interest shown by the business community in Salalah, and we are grateful to Chairman

Naif and his team at OCCI for welcoming us so warmly," said Rebecca Olson, CEO of OABC. "Their collaboration and support made it clear that there will be many more opportunities for such meetings, as well as longer training sessions and programmes, to be held in the future. The enthusiasm among Omani exporters for leveraging the US-Oman Free Trade Agreement is evident, and we are

committed to supporting our members in maximising these opportunities to access the US market and achieve mutual growth."

The event attracted a diverse group of business leaders and entrepreneurs from across the Dhofar region, who were eager to learn more about practical strategies for accessing the US market and the specific support available from OABC.

AL HAYAT INTERNATIONAL HOSPITAL

Quality Care Without Compromise

NEW VISA MEDICAL SYSTEM "IGRA"

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

SCAN FOR LOCATION

SCAN TO WHATSAPP

طابقه أندر ليكافم - قيرامشاك قيريفلا
Opp. Bank Muscat, Ghubra roundabout

MOH NO. - 1640238/24

2200 4040

9551 0632

9241 3639

ESTABLISHED SINCE 1920

OMAN'S 1st EXCHANGE

WE EXCHANGE TRUST

WE BUY & SELL GOLD & SILVER

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

WORLD WIDE REMITTANCE

Download & NOW!

PURSHOTTAM KANJI EXCHANGE

شركة برشوتم كنجي للمصارفة

+968 91787829 | 99549289
www.pkexchange.com

China unveils biggest stimulus package since pandemic to boost economy

Beijing, China – China’s central bank, the People’s Bank of China (PBOC), on Tuesday announced its biggest economic stimulus package since the pandemic. The aim is to counter deflationary pressures and boost the economy towards the government’s growth target of 5% for the year. However, analysts cautioned that without additional fiscal measures, the package alone might not be sufficient to meet these ambitious goals.

The broader-than-expected package offering more funding and interest rate cuts marks the latest attempt by policymakers to restore confidence in the world’s second-largest economy after a slew of disappointing data raised concerns of a prolonged structural slowdown.

The PBOC’s latest move includes increased funding, interest rate cuts, and efforts to ease mortgage repayment burdens. PBOC Governor Pan Gongsheng announced plans to lower borrowing costs, inject liquidity, and reduce banks’ reserve requirement ratios (RRR) by 50 basis points, releasing about 1tn yuan (\$142bn) for new lending. There’s also potential for a further 0.25-0.5 percentage point RRR cut, depending on liquidity needs later this year.

While these steps represent



The headquarters of the People’s Bank of China in Beijing

PBOC announced plans to lower borrowing costs, inject liquidity, and reduce banks’ reserve requirement ratios by 50 basis points, releasing about 1tn yuan (\$142bn) for new lending

the most significant PBOC action since early 2020, some experts argue it may not be enough to

reignite strong growth. Julian Evans-Pritchard of Capital Economics remarked, “This is the

most significant PBOC stimulus package since the early days of the pandemic,” but added that more fiscal stimulus may be necessary.

In response to the announcement, Chinese stocks and bonds rallied, and Asian markets hit 2-1/2 year highs. The yuan surged to a 16-month high against the

US dollar as expectations grew for lower borrowing costs.

The PBOC will also cut the seven-day reverse repo rate, its new benchmark, by 0.2 percentage points to 1.5%, as well as other interest rates.

While Pan did not specify when these new measures will take effect, analysts noted that

the rate cuts and liquidity injections were overdue.

The Chinese property market support package included a 50 basis points reduction on average interest rates for existing mortgages, and a cut in the minimum down payment requirement to 15% on all types of homes, among other measures.

China’s property market has been in a severe downturn since peaking in 2021. A string of developers has defaulted, leaving behind large inventories of unwanted apartments and a troubling list of uncompleted projects.

Beijing has removed many home purchase restrictions and sharply lowered mortgage rates and down payment requirements in response, but has so far failed to revive demand or arrest slumping home prices, which fell at the sharpest pace in more than nine years in August.

The property crisis has weighed heavily on the economy and crippled consumer confidence, given that 70% of household savings are parked in real estate. Analysts remain unconvinced the latest measures will have a significant impact.

New monetary tools

China’s central bank will create new monetary policy tools to

support the stable development of the stock market, PBOC Governor said Tuesday.

The central bank will establish a swap programme for securities, funds and insurance companies to obtain liquidity from the central bank through asset collateralisation, Pan Gongsheng told a press conference.

The programme will significantly enhance the companies’ ability to acquire funds and increase their stock holdings, he said.

According to Pan, eligible companies could use their assets including bonds, stock ETFs and holdings in constituents of the CSI 300 Index as collateral in exchange for highly liquid assets such as treasury bonds and central bank bills. Funds obtained through this tool can only be used for investment in the stock market.

The initial scale of the swap program will be set at 500bn yuan (about \$70bn), with possible expansions in the future, Pan said.

The central bank will also create a special re-lending facility to guide banks to provide loans to listed companies and their major shareholders for buybacks and increasing shareholdings, Pan said.

Agencies

UAE’s Masdar to acquire Saeta from Brookfield for \$1.4bn

Madrid, Spain – Abu Dhabi Future Energy Company (Masdar) on Tuesday announced the proposed acquisition of Saeta Yield from Brookfield Renewable, together with its institutional partners (Brookfield), for an implied enterprise value of \$1.4bn.

Closing of the transaction is subject to customary approvals and is expected to occur around the end of 2024. Saeta is a leading independent developer, owner and operator of renewable power assets with capabilities across the entire value-chain.

The transaction consists of a portfolio of 745MW of predominantly wind assets – 538MW of wind assets in Spain, 144MW of wind assets in Portugal and 63MW solar PV assets in Spain – and includes a 1.6GW development pipeline. The transaction excludes a regulated portfolio of 350MW of concentrated solar power assets, which Brookfield will continue to operate.

Dr Sultan bin Ahmed al Jaber, UAE’s Minister of Industry and Advanced Technology, Chairman of Masdar, said, “Masdar is committed to accelerating the deliv-



Masdar is accelerating its ambitious growth plans, as well as supporting the delivery of the UAE Consensus ratified at COP28, to triple renewable energy capacity by 2030

ery of clean energy capacity across the Iberian Peninsula and Europe. Representing one of Spain’s largest renewable energy transactions, this landmark deal with Brookfield Renewable builds on Masdar’s strong growth story, demonstrating our commitment to the EU’s wider net zero by 2050 target and unlocking new capacity.”

Matching words with actions, Masdar is further accelerating its ambitious growth plans, as well as supporting the delivery of the UAE Consensus ratified at COP28, to triple renewable energy capacity by 2030, enabling a just, orderly and equitable en-

ergy transition.”

Mark Carney, Chair and Head of Transition Investing at Brookfield, said, “We are thrilled to conclude this important transaction with Masdar. As global leaders in clean energy development, Brookfield and Masdar will continue to be important players to accelerate the journey towards a net-zero economy.”

Since acquiring the business in 2018, Brookfield has worked closely with Saeta’s management team to successfully execute a business plan focused on divesting non-core assets, optimising its capital structure, and positioning the business for growth

through hybridisation, repowering, greenfield development and accretive tuck-in opportunities.

The sale is in line with Brookfield Renewable’s asset rotation strategy to recycle capital to fund growth activities.

Mohamed Jameel al Ramahi, Chief Executive Officer of Masdar, said, “With an operating capacity of 745MW of predominantly wind assets, and a 1.6GW development pipeline in Spain and Portugal, Saeta is a perfect complement to Masdar’s portfolio in Europe, following our recent partnership with Endesa for 2.5GW of solar energy. WAM

US startups raise \$82.2bn venture capital funding in 2024

New York, US – The US secured \$82.2bn in venture capital (VC) funding through 3,102 deals announced during January-August period of 2024. This represents a 1.9% year-on-year improvement in total funding value even though VC deals volume fell by 39% compared to the number of deals announced during the first eight months of 2023, according to GlobalData, a leading data and analytics company.

An analysis of GlobalData’s Deals Database revealed that a total of 5,084 VC deals of worth \$80.7bn were announced in the US during January-August 2023.

Aurojyoti Bose, Lead Analyst at GlobalData, said, “The improvement in the total funding value despite fall in the volume could be attributed to the announcement of some high-value deals during the review period.”

It is noteworthy that the number of VC deals valued more than or equal to \$100mn, which stood at 134 during Jan-



uary-August 2023, jumped significantly to 192 during January-August 2024. In fact, some of the US-based startups also managed to secure billion-dollar investments during the review period.

Some of the notable VC funding deals announced in the US during January-August 2024 include \$6bn worth funding raised by X.AI, \$1.5bn worth fundraising by Anduril Industries, \$1.1bn raised by CoreWeave, \$1bn raised by Scale AI, \$1bn raised by Wiz and \$1bn raised by Xaira Therapeutics.

Bose added, “These big-

ticket deals also testify the investor confidence in the US startup ecosystem. No wonder, the US continues to be the top market for VC funding activity, remaining significantly way ahead of its peers in terms of both deal volume and value. In fact, the US was home to more than half of the VC funding raised globally during January-August 2024.”

The US accounted for 28.9% of the total number of VC deals announced globally during January-August 2024 while its share the corresponding total disclosed funding value stood at 50.5%.

Global banks unprepared for next financial crisis, warns new report

Eleanor Butler

In a newly released report, Finance Watch called on decision makers to heed the lessons of the 2008 crash which, it said, has now “largely faded” from memory.

Amid new challenges, the non-governmental organisation (NGO) warned that “global co-operation has increasingly given way to competition”.

In particular, it highlighted the lack of progress on Basel III, an accord created after the financial crash to protect against future crises.

This complacency, Finance

Watch argued, comes despite recent warning signals.

“A timely wake-up call from the collapse of Crédit Suisse and the series of bank failures in the US, including Silicon Valley Bank, has not been heard,” said Christian M Stiefmüller, Finance Watch’s senior research and advocacy adviser at Finance Watch.

“Instead of making it easier for jurisdictions to buy into a global consensus, the excessive complexity of Basel III seems to have had the opposite effect. Major jurisdictions, including the EU, seem to be moving away from even the modest achievements under the Basel III agreement.”



Basel III, published by the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision (BCBS), seeks to ensure banks have enough money stashed away for emergencies.

Specifically, the accord raised capital, liquidity, and leverage requirements, intending to limit risky banking practices.

In its most recent report, Fi-

nance Watch outlined the shortcomings of the current framework. One complaint relates to a regulatory grey zone, as the accord applies to “internationally active” banks – but does not specify further than this.

The report also questioned whether Basel III has become “too complex to be effective”.

Many institutions seem unsure on the practical use of the Combined Buffer Requirement (CBR), said Finance Watch. The CBR is a cushion of capital that banks must hold on top of their minimum capital requirements.

“When banks were encouraged during the Covid-19 pan-

demic to make use of their buffers a lively debate ensued, revealing much uncertainty about the practical use of these buffers,” noted the NGO.

“It seems that a degree of ambiguity about the real nature and purpose of individual buffers in the Basel III framework, and the absence of a clear distinction between structural and cyclical components, may have raised unrealistic expectations as to their usability.”

Another major concern relates to banks using their own internal models to calculate risk.

While this allows institutions to make risk assessments rele-

vant to their own practices, the flexibility is arguably undermining Basel’s aims.

“Finance Watch calls upon European policymakers, both at the Union and member-state level, to reinforce their commitment to the Basel process and re-engage proactively with their partners, especially in the US, to prevent a regulatory ‘race to the bottom,’” said the NGO in Tuesday’s report.

A key proposal relates to the simplification and harmonisation of rules, which would ensure a level playing field for internationally active banks worldwide.

(Source: Euronews.com)

MoE, Arab Centre conduct training on education during crises, emergencies

The Arab Centre for Educational Research for the Gulf States, in cooperation with the Ministry of Education (MoE) in Oman, organised a two-day training workshop on education during crises and emergencies, at Movenpick Hotel in Muscat.

The workshop targeted 25 specialists from all sectors related to crisis management and assurance of education continuity during emergencies in the ministry, a release stated.

Dr Said bin Saif al Ameri, Head of the Office of the Minister of Education Office, patronised the opening session of the workshop, in the presence of Dr Mohammed Mutair al Sharika, Director of the Arab Centre for Educational Research for the Gulf States.

A team of experts specialising in education during crises, and the resource persons from the Arab Centre for Educational Research for the Gulf States are taking part in this workshop, the release added.

The workshop began with the Ministry of Education's speech delivered by Hamad bin Saeed al Sarhani, Advisor for Administrative Affairs to the Minister of Education.

"This workshop comes at a time in which we are witnessing an increase in crises and disasters that directly affect the continuity of education and the safety of learners and workers in this vital field. In light of these challenges, the importance of the continuity of education and pro-



This workshop comes at a time in which we are witnessing an increase in crises and disasters that directly affect the continuity of education and the safety of learners and workers in this vital field

HAMAD BIN SAEED AL SARHANI

viding a safe and sustainable educational environment, even in the most difficult circumstances, is clearly evident in order to build

a better and safer future for our students and future generations," he said.

"The aim of this workshop is

not only to understand the nature of the challenges facing education during crises, but also to develop innovative strategies and solutions that ensure the continuity of education, adapt to changing circumstances, enhance the ability to deal with crises that our educational institutions may face, discuss strategies for strategic planning and crisis management, prepare effective emergency plans and provide a safe school environment, as well as providing psychosocial

support in times of crises."

The Director of the Arab Centre for Educational Research in the Gulf States then delivered the centre's speech, saying that this training workshop is the culmination of years of efforts, during which the Arab Centre for Educational Research in the Gulf States implemented three programmes on this topic.

During the first programme, a study was prepared on education during crises, identifying educational policies and practices

that can be applied to ensure the provision of good and equitable education for groups at risk of being deprived of education, especially first-grade students, and people with disabilities.

In the second programme, a guide was adopted on managing education during crises in member states, and the third programme focused on preparing a training package on policies and procedures for managing education during crises.

This was followed by the pre-

sentation of the first topic of the workshop entitled 'Strategic Planning and Management of Education during Crises and Emergencies', which included three sessions presented by Dr Wissam al Hasasneh and Dr Firas al Omari from Queen Rania Teacher Academy in Jordan.

The sessions were crafted to identify the concepts related to education during emergencies and crises, strategic planning for leading education during emergencies and crises according to a global model and applying strategic planning tools.

The second day of the workshop covered the topic 'Safe School Environment and Physical and Psychological Protection of Staff and Learners'. The day was divided into three sessions.

These sessions were aimed at applying physical and psychological protection strategies for staff and learners in the context of education during emergencies and crises, describing how comprehensive issues related to child protection, gender, capacity, and context interact with emergencies to increase access to quality education and include all social groups, and implementing a plan to maintain the main comprehensive objectives of education in emergencies.

The training workshop aims to enhance MoE's preparedness and capabilities by providing the workers with the knowledge and skills necessary to manage education during crises and emergencies.

BankDhofar brings Apple Pay for its customers using iPhone

BankDhofar, the second largest networked branches in Oman, on Tuesday brought its customers Apple Pay, a safer, more secure and private way to pay that helps customers avoid handing their payment card to someone else, touching physical buttons or exchanging cash. The payment mode uses the power of iPhone to protect every transaction.

Customers need to simply hold their iPhone or Apple Watch near a payment terminal to make a contactless payment. Every Apple Pay purchase is secure because it is authenticated with Face ID, Touch ID, or device passcode, as well as a one-time unique dynamic security code.

Apple Pay is accepted in grocery stores, pharmacies, restaurants, coffee shops, retail stores, and many more places.

Customers can also use Apple Pay on iPhone, iPad, and Mac to



A safer, more secure and private way to pay with iPhone and Apple Watch

make faster and more convenient purchases in apps or on the web in Safari without having to create accounts or repeatedly type in shipping and billing infor-

mation. Apple Pay makes it easier to pay for food and grocery deliveries, online shopping, transportation, and parking, among other things. Apple Pay

can also be used to make payments in apps on Apple Watch.

Security and privacy are at the core of Apple Pay. When customers use a credit or debit card with Apple Pay, the actual card numbers are not stored on the device, nor on Apple servers. Instead, a unique Device Account Number is assigned, encrypted, and securely stored in the Secure Element, an industry-standard, certified chip designed to store the payment information safely on the device.

To set up Apple Pay on iPhone, one needs to open the Wallet app, tap +, and follow the steps to add BankDhofar credit or debit cards. Once a customer adds a card to iPhone, Apple Watch, iPad, and Mac, they can start using Apple Pay on that device right away. Customers will continue to receive all the rewards and benefits of their cards.

16 Sanad centres violated regulations, three suspended

The Directorate of Sanad Service Centres at the Ministry of Commerce, Industry, and Investment Promotion (MoCIIP) has detected 16 Sanad Service Centres across various governorates in Oman in violation of certain provisions of the regulatory bylaws for service centres.

Three centres were suspended following this revelation, the ministry informed.

The violations and suspensions were due to non-compliance with the regulatory framework, with key issues including the failure to employ national workforce, providing unlisted services, or disregarding the ministry's issued directives.

The ministry emphasised the importance of cooperation and strict adherence to the provisions of the regulatory bylaws



for Sanad Service Centres, as stipulated in the resolution No 2022/244, to avoid any legal actions against violators.

Mohammed bin Salem al Mashaikhi, Director of the Sanad Service Centres in the ministry, stated that the ministry continuously monitors the

services offered at Sanad centres in all provinces of Oman.

The focus is on delivering top-quality services to customers while ensuring efficiency and providing the necessary facilitation. He also noted that the directorate addresses and studies all feedback and complaints from customers, helping the centers streamline and speed up the procedures for the benefit of clients.

Regarding service compliance at Sanad Service Centres, Mashaikhi explained that around 23 government and private institutions provide their services through the Sanad Service Centres' electronic portal, with services tailored to meet customer needs. The number of available services now exceeds 370.

Malabar Gold & Diamonds offers lower making charges on gold chains, bangles

Malabar Gold & Diamonds, the sixth largest jewellery retailer globally with over 355 showrooms across 13 countries, have unveiled a range of gold chains and bangles with making charges starting from 2.5%, guaranteeing customers of the lowest making charges on their favourite jewellery.

Available across all Malabar Gold & Diamonds showrooms in Oman, the selected range of designs is guaranteed with the lowest making charges and comes with the assurance of the Malabar Promise.

The promise includes 100% value on gold exchange, assured lifetime maintenance, guaran-

teed buyback, responsible sourcing, complete transparency and more.

"At Malabar Gold & Diamonds, we are committed to offering our customers high-quality craftsmanship at the best possible value," said Shamlal Ahamed, MD-International Operations, Malabar Gold & Diamonds.

"Price-conscious buyers make up a significant portion of our customer base and by launching collections that offer the most value for money," Ahamed noted.

He pointed out that being superior in design and craftsmanship, "we are reiterating our position as a jeweller for every-



one".

"With making charges starting at 2.5%, we are proud to offer a unique opportunity for customers to indulge in their



favourite designs without compromising on quality or price."

With festive season around the corner, Malabar Gold & Diamonds has made waves in the

market with their 10% advance facility, offering customers the opportunity to leverage the increase gold rates to make incredible savings. With the offers,

customers can block the gold rate till October 29 by paying just 10% as an advance.

"If gold rate increases at the time of purchase, customers can avail the blocked rate and if it reduces, they can still draw mileage of the reduced rate," a release stated.

Customers can also avail a complimentary diamond voucher for first advance bookings made on or before October 10 this year. The offer will be valid across all Malabar Gold & Diamonds showrooms. Customers can either pay the advance directly at the outlet or online, via Malabar Gold & Diamonds' mobile app.

Malabar Gold & Diamonds is renowned globally for offering an unparalleled jewellery buying experience with convenience and customer-friendly policies along with the 'Malabar Promise' of incomparable quality and service assurance.

Apart from this, the Malabar Promise also includes transparent pricing, assured lifetime maintenance from any of the showrooms across 13 countries, guaranteed buyback, tested and certified diamonds, 100% value on diamond and gold jewellery exchange, 916 hallmarked jewellery, responsible sourcing, fair price policy, and fair labour practices.

Governor's office, Marafiq honour students of Duqm

The wilayat of Duqm celebrated the recognition of top-performing students from local schools for the 2023-24 academic year.

The event also included the provision of interactive screens to enhance educational resources, facilitated through a collaboration between the Duqm Governor's Office and Marafiq.

The ceremony was presided over by Sheikh Badr bin Nasser al Farsi, Governor of Duqm, and attended by several senior officials from Al Wusta Governorate, alongside members of Marafiq's Board of Directors and executive leadership.

This initiative underscores the joint efforts of the Duqm Governor's Office, the General Directorate of Education in Al Wusta Governorate, and Marafiq to promote academic excellence and encourage students to strive for higher educational achievement.

Farsi congratulated the distinguished students, saying, "We offer our sincere congratulations to the students for their outstanding academic achievements, which reflect the dedication of both the teaching and administrative staff in fostering a supportive learning environment. The continuous involvement of parents has also been instrumental in these successes."



to their future contributions to Oman's economic and social development."

The Governor also praised Marafiq's initiative to recognise the students, commenting, "Marafiq's involvement is a meaningful acknowledgment of the efforts and dedication these students have demonstrated throughout the past year."

Abdullah bin Mohammed al Hashmi, MD of Marafiq, reaffirmed the company's commitment to education, stating, "At Marafiq, we believe that education is the foundation of sustainable development in Duqm. Since our inception, we have been dedicated to supporting educational advancement and empowering youth to become the leaders of tomorrow. This forms an integral part of our corporate social responsibility."

Marafiq's CSR programmes focus primarily on supporting education by funding various training programmes and initiatives in collaboration with both public and private sector partners.

Bank Muscat begins mission to plant 300 olive trees

Bank Muscat, the leading financial service provider in the Sultanate of Oman, celebrated the inauguration of a mission under which the bank would plant 300 olive trees in the village of Manakhir, Jabal al Akhdhar.

This is part of the bank's sustainable CSR efforts, which aim to serve the community and foster the sultanate's economic growth by launching projects with long-term ecological, social, and economic impact.



Talib Saif al Makhmari

"We are delighted to witness the launch of the 300-olive-tree planting initiative in Al Manakhir village," said Talib Saif al Makhmari, Head of Community & Media Relations, Bank Muscat.

Speaking on the occasion, he said, "The project is part of Bank Muscat's CSR sustainable initiatives, which aim to serve the community and foster the sultanate's economic growth by launching projects that have a positive ecological, social, and financial impact."

Jabal al Akhdhar is a popular tourist attraction and agricultural area in the sultanate, with a temperate climate conducive to agricultural endeavours. This project will benefit the local residents by leveraging the returns realised, Makhmari felt.

Sports, Tadamun and Al Wathbah Academy for small and medium enterprises.

Previously, the bank worked with a number of institutions to complete development projects, including the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism for the old village of Misfat al Abriyeen in Al Hamra and Muscat Municipality for Al Khoudh Park project in Seeb.

Bank Muscat has earlier implemented a number of programmes focusing on financial literacy, including Maliyat programme and Maliyat Academy in partnership with the Ministry of Education.

Bank Muscat also undertakes an action plan to maximise prospects for economic competitiveness as well as enable growth and development in accordance with Oman Vision 2040. As a leading financial institution, the Bank works relentlessly to maintain sustainability in its varied activities while also serving the Omani community through annual programmes that emphasise the importance of sustainability in ensuring a better future for all.

It is a matter of great pride that the Bank has been well recognised both locally and internationally for its sustainability practices. This year, it was recognised at the Oman Sustainability Week Awards and received Euromoney's Best Bank CSR Award.

Sohar International introduces Apple Pay

Sohar International, Oman's best bank, on Tuesday brings its customers Apple Pay, a safer, more secure and private way to pay that helps customers avoid handing their payment card to someone else, touching physical buttons or exchanging cash - and uses the power of iPhone to protect every transaction.

Customers simply double-click the side button and hold their iPhone or Apple Watch near a payment terminal to make a contactless payment.

Every Apple Pay purchase is secure because it is authenticated with Face ID, Touch ID, or device passcode, as well as a one-time unique dynamic security code. Apple Pay is accepted in grocery stores, pharmacies, restaurants, coffee shops, retail stores, and many more places.

Customers can also use Apple



Pay on iPhone, iPad, and Mac to make faster and more convenient purchases in apps or on the web in Safari without having to create accounts or repeatedly type in shipping and billing information.

Every Apple Pay purchase is secure because it is authenticated with Face ID, Touch ID, or device passcode, as well as a one-time unique dynamic security code

Apple Pay makes it easier to pay for food and grocery deliveries, online shopping, transportation, and parking, among other things. Apple Pay can also be used to make payments in apps on Apple Watch.

Security and privacy are at the core of Apple Pay. When customers use a credit or debit card

with Apple Pay, the actual card numbers are not stored on the device, nor on Apple servers.

Instead, a unique Device Account Number is assigned, encrypted, and securely stored in the Secure Element, an industry-standard, certified chip designed to store the payment information safely on the device.

Apple Pay is easy to set up. On iPhone, simply open the Wallet app, tap +, and follow the steps to add Sohar International's credit, debit or prepaid cards.

Once a customer adds a card to iPhone, Apple Watch, iPad, and Mac, they can start using Apple Pay on that device right away.

Customers will continue to receive all of the rewards and benefits offered by Sohar International's cards.

Mazda unveils 'unbeatable' prices in 'best offer' campaign

Mazda Oman has introduced an extraordinary campaign, offering customers the opportunity to acquire premium Mazda vehicles at unprecedented prices.

This exclusive offer not only reflects Mazda's commitment to delivering exceptional value but also showcases the brand's dedication to enhancing the driving experience through innovation, luxury, and performance. As part of this campaign, Mazda is inviting drivers across Oman to experience its lineup.

Mazda has built its reputation on a foundation of precision engineering, elegant design, and a relentless focus on safety and performance. The Mazda 6 exemplifies this philosophy, offering a driving experience that balances luxury and dynamic handling. Starting at just RO8,666, the Mazda 6 is ideal for those who seek sophistication without compromise. From its sleek exterior to its spacious, high-tech interior, the Mazda 6 embodies refinement at every turn, ensuring a smooth and controlled ride whether you're navigating city streets or embarking on long journeys.

Transitioning to the SUV segment, the Mazda CX-5 is a vehicle that combines power and versatility, making it the perfect



choice for drivers who need an SUV that can handle both urban and off-road environments with ease.

Priced from RO8,955, the CX-5 offers an exceptional driving experience, with advanced safety features and a premium interior designed for comfort and control. Its blend of bold design, high

performance, and top-tier safety technology ensures that every drive is as exhilarating as it is secure.

At the pinnacle of Mazda's SUV offerings is the Mazda CX-60, a model that defines luxury and performance. Starting from RO12,999, the CX-60 is the epitome of refinement, equipped

with state-of-the-art safety technology, including Mazda's renowned i-Activsense system. Its spacious, luxurious interior and commanding exterior make it a standout in its class, while its performance on the road speaks to Mazda's unwavering commitment to precision engineering. Whether for city driving or long-

distance journeys, the CX-60 delivers unmatched comfort and control.

For those seeking the ultimate luxury, the Mazda CX-90 offers a seamless blend of eco-friendly innovation and premiumness. Starting at RO15,999, this flagship model features a 3.3L MHEV engine that provides both

power and fuel efficiency, ensuring that drivers can enjoy a dynamic driving experience while minimising their environmental impact.

With its advanced technology and elegant design, the CX-90 is Mazda's most luxurious SUV, offering a driving experience that is truly second to none.

This campaign also presents an exciting opportunity for customers to win exclusive Bose prizes through the "Test-Drive and Win" raffle. By booking a test drive, customers will be automatically entered into a raffle draw for a chance to win high-end Bose products, including the Bose Sound Bar 600, Bose Ultra Open Earbuds, and Bose SoundLink Flex Bluetooth speakers.

The raffle not only adds an element of excitement to the campaign but also underscores Mazda's commitment to offering a complete lifestyle upgrade to its customers.

Central to the success of Mazda in Oman is its five-decade partnership, since 1973, with Towell Auto Centre, the official distributor of Mazda vehicles in the country. This 50-year collaboration is a testament to their shared commitment to delivering excellence in both product and service.

Towell Auto Centre has consistently provided exceptional customer service, ensuring that every Mazda owner enjoys a premium experience from the moment they step into the showroom. This partnership reinforces Mazda's position as a leader in Oman's automotive market.

Severe floods wreak havoc across central, west Africa

Kano, Nigeria - Severe floods have wreaked havoc across central and west African countries, including Nigeria and Niger, affecting hundreds of thousands of people and causing widespread destruction.

In Nigeria, over a million individuals across 15 states have been impacted, with the northern and northeastern regions suffering the most.

Entire communities, health facilities, schools, and farmlands have been submerged. Borno state in the northeast, already known for insurgency, has seen 400,000 people displaced by floods. Residents in Maiduguri now face increased risks of malaria and waterborne diseases, such as cholera.

Heavy rainfall on September 10 caused the Alau Dam in Borno to overflow, leading to widespread flooding. Homes, markets, fields, livestock, and health facilities were heavily affected. Authorities have set up 30 temporary displacement sites, mainly in schools, but they are facing challenges with inadequate sanitation and clean drinking water.

Artificial intelligence (AI) experts like Musa Abdullahi Sufi, from the Maryam Abacha American University of Niger, have emphasised the potential of AI in flood forecasting.

Sufi explained that AI can analyse precipitation and water



In Nigeria, over a million individuals across 15 states have been impacted

level data to predict future floods with high precision, helping mitigate their impact. He added that a model using deep feed-forward neural networks is being developed to predict floods in Nigeria.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has

stepped up its humanitarian efforts, providing increased support to flood victims across West Africa. Flooding has severely impacted countries such as Cameroon, Chad, Niger, and Nigeria, resulting in hundreds of deaths and widespread infrastructure damage.

Patrick Youssef, the ICRC's director for Africa, highlighted the compounded challenges in a region already struggling with conflict and violence.

"These severe floods add a complicating layer to a region where conflict and violence already make life fragile for thousands of families," Youssef said. "Our teams see first-hand how life in vulnerable communities is made so much harder when violence and climate shocks combine."

In Niger, all eight regions have been affected by flooding since May, with the cities of Maradi, Zinder, and Tahoua seeing the most devastation.

At least 265 people have died, and more than 400,000 have been displaced. Rescue officials reported widespread destruction of homes, bridges, and roads, leaving many at risk of waterborne diseases and electrocution from exposed wires.

Government figures show that 85,260 households and 649,184 individuals have been affected.

Anadolu Agency

'Decisive' months ahead, says Zelensky

The Ukrainian President says his country has a 'plan for victory' in the ongoing war against Russia

New York, US - Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said on Monday that the next few months in the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war will be 'decisive'.

"We don't have much time. The next few months will be decisive," Zelensky said in an address at an award ceremony in New York held by the American Academy of Achievement, where he was given a Golden Plate Award.

"Ahead of us in this war - Russia's war against Ukraine and all of you because this is Russia's war against freedom itself, - we are short of time to define what the outcome will be. And we must define it," he said.

"We need to be faster. We need not to lose the next few months in war, so that we don't lose the next decades," the president added.

He said that Ukraine has a 'plan for victory', adding that he will present it to the current US administration, presidential candidates Kamala Harris and Donald Trump, and Kyiv's allies.

"And I believe this must be our shared achievement - victory for freedom, with no compromises at freedom's expense. Right now, we all hold the power to shape the world our children and their children will live in," he added.

On Sunday, Zelensky arrived in the US to attend the 79th session of the UN General Assembly in New York.

Earlier this month, the



An Ukrainian soldier is seen carrying a D-30 artillery shell in the direction of Toretsk, Ukraine

Ukrainian president said in an interview with CNN that the country's 'victory plan' contains four basic points and another point that he said Kyiv will need after the war. "It's about security. It's about the geopolitical place of Ukraine. It's about very strong military support available to us, and that we have to be free in

how to use one or another item. It's about economic support, and decisions, which I think will be interesting," he said.

Zelensky supports Democrats: Trump

Meanwhile, former US President Donald Trump claimed during a rally in Pennsylvania that Zelen-

sky supports the Democratic Party in the upcoming elections.

"He (Zelensky) wants them to win this election so badly," the Republican presidential nominee said, calling Zelensky 'the greatest salesman in history' for securing billions in US aid.

"Every time he (Zelensky) comes into the country, he walks away with US\$60bn," he added.

Trump suggested that the ongoing war could have been avoided, asserting that if he had been in office, a peace deal between Russia and Ukraine would have been negotiated.

The former president said if elected, he would call both Zelensky and Russian President

Ahead of us in this war - Russia's war against Ukraine and all of you because this is Russia's war against freedom itself, - we are short of time to define what the outcome will be

VOLODYMYR ZELENSKY

many would not supply Ukraine with long-range missiles.

Scholz said the German government had already made 'a few decisions' regarding military support for Ukraine 'that are very clear to me'. The German leader also said Germany would keep restrictions that prevent Ukraine from firing missiles deep into Russian territory.

"That is not compatible with my personal stance ... We will not do that. And we have good reasons for it," said Scholz, who is in New York City for the UN Gen-

eral Assembly. Ukraine has asked its allies to supply long-range weapons in order to push back against Russian forces.

But the German government has repeatedly declined to supply Ukraine with Taurus cruise missiles, which has a range greater than 500km (310 miles).

Some opposition figures in Germany have called on Germany to change its position, especially since the US, Britain and France have already supplied Ukraine with cruise missiles.

Agencies

Germany: Police raids target human traffickers

Berlin, Germany - Federal police in southwestern Germany raided properties in the cities of Mannheim, Karlsruhe and Worms early on Tuesday, investigating a suspected human trafficking operation, a spokesperson said.

A total of 400 officers were in action, searching 24 properties, with federal police, the public prosecutor's office and central customs involved.

Police said at least four people had been arrested in the operation, but that a seven-person group including both men and women was under investigation and more arrest warrants were being sought.

What's the case about?

Police said the case pertains to a group of migrants from the Caucasus region, smuggled into Germany to work illegally and for less than the statutory

minimum wage.

A police spokesman said the case involved at least a two-figure number of people, but that he could not yet be more precise.

The investigation into the group was launched this January, but investigators found first indications of the case last July, when one of the migrants was apprehended trying to leave Germany via Frankfurt Airport.

He was able to present a passport and visa but no work permit at departure checks. Investigators then found he had been working in Germany during their inspection.

Similar cases were then noted at future checks at Stuttgart Airport and again at Frankfurt's hub.

Customs then checked several companies, including a cement plant, and found several people working illegally.

DW

Sierra Leone politician bags German Africa Prize 2024

Freetown, Sierra Leone - Yvonne Aki-Sawyer, mayor of Freetown in Sierra Leone, has been described as a power woman. She has improved her city in many ways and made it a pioneer in several areas.

The Sierra Leonean capital now boasts a liquid waste processing system, with 160 water storage tanks and rainwater collection systems installed. Extensive flood protection measures have also been implemented. Waste from toilets is converted into compost, biogas and heating briquettes. These measures also help protect forests, as fewer trees need to be cut down for cooking fuel.

Freetown's water supply has also seen lasting improvements. Water kiosks, equipped with solar-powered purifications systems, now provide many communities with access to clean water for the first time. This initiative not only empowers young women by giving them the opportunity to run their own businesses through the kiosks, but it also reduces their risk of falling



Yvonne Aki-Sawyer (centre), the mayor of Freetown, Sierra Leone, is to receive the German Africa Prize (DW)

56-year-old Yvonne Aki-Sawyer was awarded the prize for her commitment to sustainable urban development and local participation

victim to sexual assault while collecting water.

Vision of a 'capital worth living in'

Remarkable, impressive, and deserving of an award - that's the judgment of the German Africa Foundation (DAS). For this reason, they are awarding Yvonne Aki-Sawyer the 2024 German Africa Prize for her commitment

to sustainable urban development and local participation. Her dedication is described as unwavering. Step by step she has implemented her 'vision of a just, sustainable city worth living in'. The mayor's efforts exceed what her office requires of her by far, says the independent foundation.

Aki-Sawyer was born in Sierra Leone and grew up in

Canada. After completing her studies, the 56-year-old spent over 25 years working as a financial expert and auditor in London. Her involvement in Sierra Leone's public sector began with her commitment during the 2014-2015 Ebola epidemic. In June 2023, the popular politician was reelected for a second term.

Promoting innovative ideas

"With her projects, Aki-Sawyer creates jobs and investment opportunities in sectors such as tourism, waste management, infrastructure development and the green economy," said the German Africa Foundation.

Aki-Sawyer also promotes progress in the traffic sector with her innovative ideas. One such initiative is a feasibility study she commissioned for a ropeway system in Freetown, which will help reduce traffic congestion and air pollution in the city. Poorly connected neighbourhoods could also benefit as residents gain faster access to central districts.

DW

Lebanon: Israel launches new wave of airstrikes, 558 killed

Jerusalem - The Israeli army said on Tuesday it launched a new wave of airstrikes against what it called Hezbollah targets in Lebanon.

A military statement said warplanes hit sites associated with Hezbollah in the Bekaa Valley and other areas of southern Lebanon, including buildings Israel said used for storing weapons, command centres, and other military infrastructure.

"We continue our efforts to weaken and dismantle the military capabilities and infrastructure of Hezbollah," the army said.

The new wave of strikes came one day after the army said that it had hit over 1,100 Hezbollah targets in the last 24 hours in southern and eastern Lebanon, using more than 1,400 different munitions in some 650 sorties of its fighter jets.

At least 558 people have been killed, including 50 children and 95 women, and 1,835 others injured in the Israeli attacks in Lebanon since Monday morning, according to Lebanese Health Minister Firas Abiad.

"The majority of the victims in the Israeli attacks since Monday morning are defenceless civilians in their homes. This refutes the enemy's allegations of targeting fighters," the minister stressed.

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

The international community has warned against the strikes on Lebanon, as they raise the spectre of spreading the Gaza conflict regionally.



At least 558 people have been killed, including 50 children and 95 women, and 1,835 others injured in the Israeli attacks in Lebanon since Monday morning, said the Lebanese health minister

The majority of the victims in the Israeli attacks are defenceless civilians in their homes. This refutes the enemy's allegations of targeting fighters

FIRAS ABIAD

The Israeli attacks have forced thousands of Lebanese to flee their homes in southern Lebanon towards the capital Beirut and northern areas, according to an Anadolu reporter.

'Catastrophic' for children

Meanwhile, UNICEF on Tuesday warned that any further escalation between Israel and Hezbollah would be 'catastrophic' for all

children in Lebanon and called for an immediate de-escalation.

"On Monday alone, at least 35 children were reportedly killed in Lebanon. This is more than the number of children killed in Lebanon in the past 11 months. Eleven months in one day. 35 children, in one day among 492 reportedly killed," UNICEF deputy representative to Lebanon Ettie Higgins told a UN press briefing in Geneva on Israeli airstrikes.

Noting that over 1,645 people

were also injured during those airstrikes, Higgins stressed that 'more children are in danger as I speak, exposed to ongoing attacks, displaced from their homes and unable to rely on an overstretched and under-sourced health system'.

"If we return to a conflict, like those dark days of 2006, I fear this time could be even worse for the children of Lebanon," she said.

She underlined that families in Lebanon are already 'at the

brink' due to economic and political crisis.

"Any further escalation in this conflict would be catastrophic for all children in Lebanon, but especially families from villages and towns in the south and the Bekaa, in Eastern Lebanon, who have been forced to leave their homes," the UNICEF official said.

She noted that these newly displaced add to the 112,000 people who have been displaced since October.

Anadolu Agency



Harini Amarasuriya

Harini Amarasuriya appointed Sri Lanka's PM

Colombo, Sri Lanka - Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Dissanayake appointed Harini Amarasuriya as Sri Lanka's 16th Prime Minister, NewsWire reported.

Amarasuriya of the National People's Power (NPP) party is an academic, rights activist, and university lecturer and is known for her work in education and social justice. Her appointment marks a significant milestone in Sri Lankan politics. She becomes Sri Lanka's third woman Prime Minister after Sirimavo Bandaranaike and Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga.

The new Sri Lankan PM is the first academic-turned-politician to assume office. Harini Amarasuriya entered Parliament through the NPP national list in 2020. On Monday, Marxist-leaning politician Anura Kumara Dissanayake took the oath as Sri Lanka's new president at the Presidential Secretariat building in Colombo after winning the elections held on September 21.

After taking the oath as Sri Lanka's President, he said: "I will do my best to fully restore the people's confidence in politicians," Al Jazeera reported.

He said he understood the complexity of the problems faced by Sri Lanka. Dissanayake stated that he would work hard to realise the hopes of the people and win the confidence of all the people of Sri Lanka.

He further said: "I am not a conjurer, I am not a magician. There are things I know and things I don't know, but I will seek the best advice and do my best. For that, I need the support of everyone." Anura Kumara Dissanayake of the People's Liberation Front (JVP) party and the National People's Power (NPP) alliance won the presidential elections with 42.31 per cent of the vote.

ANI

Hamas confirms death of field commander

Gaza City, Palestine - The military wing of Palestinian resistance group Hamas has announced that one of its field commanders was killed in an Israeli airstrike in Lebanon on Monday.

The Al-Qassam Brigades confirmed in a statement that Hussein Mahmoud al-Nader, a field commander from Marjayoun town in southern Lebanon's Nabatieh Governorate, was killed in an airstrike on Monday evening.

Earlier, Hamas reported that 40 rockets were fired from Lebanese territory into northern Israel, indicating a significant escalation in hostilities between the two sides.

Israeli local news outlets, citing military sources, claimed that



At least 12 more Palestinians were killed in Israeli attacks in the Gaza Strip, taking the overall death toll to 41,467

20 rockets were launched from Lebanon, some of which were intercepted and others landed in open areas.

Gaza death toll nears 41,500

At least 12 more Palestinians were killed in relentless Israeli at-

tacks in the Gaza Strip, taking the overall death toll since last October 7, to 41,467, the Health Ministry in the battered territory said

on Tuesday.

A ministry statement added that some 95,921 others have been injured in the ongoing assault. "Israeli forces killed 12 people and injured 43 others in three 'massacres' of families in the last 24 hours," the ministry said.

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

Meanwhile, the Israeli army detained 25 more Palestinians on Tuesday in military raids in the occupied West Bank, according to prisoners' affairs groups.

The raids targeted the cities of Jenin, Ramallah, Nablus, Hebron and other areas in the territory, the Commission of Detainees' Affairs and the Palestinian Prisoner Society said in a joint statement.

The arrests were marked by attacks on homes and threats against families of the detainees," the statement said.

The new arrests brought the total number of Palestinians rounded up by the Israeli army in the West Bank since October last year to 10,900, including those who were released after being arrested, according to Palestinian figures. The figure does not include those arrested from the Gaza Strip, whose numbers are estimated to be in thousands.

Over the past few years, the Israeli military has conducted regular raids in the West Bank, which have escalated with the beginning of the war on Gaza.

Anadolu Agency

Wars, Security Council reform to dominate 79th UNGA session

New York, US - As global leaders gather for the 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York, an unmistakable cloud hangs over the proceedings: growing frustration with the UN.

In a world rocked by Israel's ongoing war in Gaza, the Russian war on Ukraine and the escalation between Israel and Hezbollah in Lebanon, calls for reform of the Security Council, a body long criticised as outdated, have never been louder.

"The majority of leaders speaking at the UN will say that it is time for Security Council reform," Richard Gowan, the UN director for the International Crisis Group, told Anadolu in an interview.

"No one can pretend now that



Global leaders are gathering for the 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York

According to UN watchers, the situation in Gaza and the escalation in Lebanon will be dominant themes in most leaders' speeches

the Security Council is a well-functioning organisation. So getting to reform, negotiating reform, will be difficult, but there is a growing desire to see change," he said.

The Security Council, dominated by the five veto-wielding permanent members - the US, Russia, China, France and the UK

- has been repeatedly paralysed by their conflicting interests.

Russia's veto has blocked any meaningful response to the wars in Ukraine and Syria, while the US has shielded Israel from international pressure as Tel Aviv's war on Gaza has been ongoing for nearly a year, leaving the council unable to act.

Israel has continued its brutal offensive on Gaza since a cross-border attack by the Palestinian group Hamas on October 7 last year, despite a UN Security Council resolution calling for an immediate ceasefire.

Tensions have also risen between the Hezbollah group and Israel amid escalating cross-border attacks and growing fears of a full-scale war in the region.

According to UN watchers,

the situation in Gaza and the escalation in Lebanon will be dominant themes in most leaders' speeches.

"I think that virtually every leader will call for a ceasefire in Gaza. Most will refer to the need for a two-state solution," Gowan said.

"Sadly, I think events in the region and especially the escalation between Israel and Hezbollah will move quicker than diplomacy at the UN," he added. While the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is poised to take centre stage, the ongoing war in Ukraine remains a crucial concern.

"Ukrainian diplomats have been concerned that their struggle is overshadowed by Gaza," Gowan said.

Anadolu Agency

INDIA

Delhi: Can Kejriwal make a comeback?

Kejriwal stepped down to boost his party's morale, which had waned in the last few months

New Delhi - Arvind Kejriwal, one of India's leading opposition figures, resigned from his post as New Delhi's chief minister last week, days after he was released from prison on bail in a bribery case.

Former Delhi education minister Atishi Marlena Singh has taken over as the new chief minister of national capital territory, Kejriwal's Aam Aadmi Party (Common Man's Party, or AAP) announced last week, two days after the party leader said he was resigning.

Kejriwal, a vocal critic of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, spent six months behind bars on charges related to Delhi's liquor policy.

Kejriwal has consistently denied the accusations and called them a political conspiracy.

"I decided that I will go to the court of my people, who should tell me whether I am honest or not," Arvind Kejriwal said on Sunday, addressing supporters for the first time since stepping down as chief minister of New Delhi.

In an event titled Janta Ki



Kejriwal quit a civil service job to become a national anti-corruption crusader, bringing him national fame

Adalat, or People's Court, Kejriwal took aim at Modi's ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), accusing the government of corruption and using national law enforcement and intelligence bodies to control state governments.

India's Enforcement Directorate, an agency controlled by Modi's government that was established to fight financial crimes, accused Kejriwal's party

of accepting one billion rupees (US\$12mn) in bribes from liquor contractors. He was imprisoned on March 21, just days before India's 2024 general elections.

Opposition parties widely condemned Kejriwal's arrest as politically motivated, accusing Modi's government of misusing federal investigation agencies to harass and weaken its political opponents.

The move also drew interna-

tional condemnation, with a spokesperson for Germany's foreign office saying that Berlin had taken note of the situation.

"We assume and expect that the standards relating to inde-

pendence of judiciary and basic democratic principles will also be applied in this case," said Sebastian Fischer at a press conference in March, adding that Kejriwal is entitled to a fair and impartial trial like anybody else.

Commenting on Berlin's stance, India's Ministry of External Affairs said the remarks were 'interfering in our judicial process and undermining the independence of our judiciary'.

Kejriwal was granted bail for several weeks to campaign for the polls but returned to police custody after voting ended. The opposition leader has maintained his innocence, claiming he is being targeted by the Modi

government.

"He is being portrayed as someone who, despite his anti-corruption stance, is actually corrupt," Sumit Ganguly, senior fellow at the Hoover Institution, Stanford University, told DW. "That is the challenge he faces from the government."

After spending months in New Delhi's Tihar jail, he was granted bail by the Supreme Court of India on September 13 - but with curtailed powers. He was not allowed to visit the chief minister's office or Delhi Secretariat as part of bail conditions, prompting him to step down from his post.

movement in 2011. He launched the AAP with a vow to rid the political system of corruption.

Serving as Delhi's chief minister for over a decade, his reputation as an anti-corruption crusader was dented during this year's general elections, as the BJP won all seven seats in New Delhi, AAP's stronghold.

"Kejriwal campaigned as a victim of BJP's authoritarian regime in the 2024 parliamentary elections when he was out on bail for the election campaign," said Hasan. "However, the 'victim card' did not work."

Despite this setback, Kejriwal has remained a vocal critic of

Many voters still see him as an anti-corruption crusader which helped his rise in politics. That's why the BJP is doing its utmost to undermine his credentials

ZOYA HASAN

"He was in prison for nearly six months in the liquor licensing case, but he did not resign. But he finally resigned to reclaim his image as an anti-corruption crusader which has been dented by the liquor case," Zoya Hasan, a political scientist at Jawaharlal Nehru University, told DW, adding that Kejriwal stepped down to boost his party's morale, which had waned in the last few months.

An anti-corruption crusader?

Kejriwal, a career administrator, began his political career as a leader of India's anti-corruption

the BJP and its leadership, emerging as a prominent voice in India's opposition alliance.

"Many voters still see him as an anti-corruption crusader which helped his dramatic rise in politics," Hasan said. "That's why the BJP is doing its utmost to undermine his anti-corruption credentials."

As he fights the corruption charges, Kejriwal has placed the decision in the hands of the people of Delhi. While the capital is scheduled to hold elections in February 2025, the AAP is pushing for the polls to be held as early as November.

DW



Polling officials leave for their respective polling stations, in Srinagar on Tuesday (ANI)

Security tightened ahead of 2nd phase of J&K polls

Rajouri, Jammu and Kashmir - As Jammu and Kashmir will witness second phase of assembly polls on Wednesday, the security has been tightened in the Rajouri district of the territory.

As safety measures, security personnel have been deployed in the several areas and vehicles are being checked. Elections in the second phase of assembly polls will be conducted on 26 assembly seats in six districts of Jammu and Kashmir.

The seats on which elections will be conducted are Kangan (ST), Ganderbal, Hazratbal, Khanyar, Habbakadal, Lal Chowk, Channapora, Zadibal, Eidgah, Central Shalteng, Budgam, Beerwah, Khansahib, Charar-i-Sharief, Chadoora and Gulabgarh (ST)

It will also be conducted in Reasi, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi, Kalakote - Sunderbani, Nowshera, Rajouri (ST), Budhal (ST), Thannamandi (ST), Surankote (ST), Poonch Haveli and Mend-

har (ST) constituencies.

The second phase of elections will decide the fate of former Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir and NC leader Omar Abdullah, from both Budgam and Ganderbal seats.

Other prominent candidates in the fray include Jammu and Kashmir BJP chief Ravinder Raina from Nowshera assembly seat and Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee president Tariq Hamid Karra from Central-Shalteng seat.

National Conference leader Omar Abdullah on Monday held an election rally in Ganderbal district amid ongoing assembly elections in the territory.

Earlier on Monday, Union Minister Jitendra Singh said that the BJP-led government has already promised to restore the statehood of Jammu and Kashmir, and Congress Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, is only repeating what

the BJP had promised long back.

Attacking Rahul Gandhi, Singh said that the former is repeating the same thing in order to take credit by saying that it happened because he had put pressure on the government.

Addressing a rally in Poonch on Monday, Rahul Gandhi said: "You don't have a say in running your government. The orders are followed from Delhi. We wanted the statehood to return here before the elections, but we will definitely try that it does happen after the polls."

The first phase of voting was completed in Jammu and Kashmir on September 18, with a voter turnout of 61.13 per cent registered across 24 constituencies in seven districts, as per the Election Commission.

Voting for the third phase will be held on October 1, and counting will be conducted on October 8 along with the counting of votes in Haryana.

ANI

G4 to remain committed to UNSC reform

New York, US - External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar met with his counterparts from Brazil, Germany, and Japan in New York to reaffirm the commitment of the G4 grouping of nations to urgent reform of the United Nations Security Council through text-based negotiations.

Jaishankar, who is in the US on an official visit, met with German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock, Japanese Foreign Minister Yoko Kamikawa, and Brazilian Foreign Minister Mauro Vieira on the sidelines of the 79th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).

The G4 countries comprise Brazil, Germany, India and Japan.

The External Affairs Minister shared a picture of the meeting on X and wrote: "Glad to join the traditional #G4 Foreign Ministers Meeting along with colleagues



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar with his counterparts during G4 FMs' Meeting, in New York on Monday (ANI)

@ABaerbock, @Kamikawa_Yoko and Mauro Vieira in New York today. G4 reaffirmed its commitment for an urgent reform of the United Nations Security Council through text-based negotiations."

In addition to the G4 meeting, Jaishankar also held talks with Venezuelan Foreign Minister Yvan Gil, discussing energy,

health, and economic cooperation between India and Venezuela.

On Monday, Jaishankar had met with Bangladesh Foreign Affairs Advisor Md Touhid Hossain and discussed a range of issues related to mutual interests between Bangladesh and India.

On the sidelines of the 79th

UNGA, the two diplomats discussed a range of issues on strengthening the long-standing ties between the neighbouring nations. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Bangladesh, announced the meeting in X, emphasising the ongoing partnership between the two countries.

ANI

'Long endorsed permanent UNSC seat for India'

New York, US - Affirming support for the reformation of United Nations Security Council (UNSC) to better represent the developing world, US Secretary of State, Antony Blinken said that the US has long endorsed permanent seats in the council for India, Japan and Germany.

Speaking at the 'Summit of the Future' at the 79th United Nations General Assembly in New York on Monday, Blinken put forward the US' idea of two permanent seats for Africa, one rotating seat for Small Island Developing States, and permanent representation for Latin America and the Caribbean.

"Reforming the UN Security



Council to better represent the developing world and, more broadly, the world as it is today. The US believes that this should include two permanent seats for Africa, one rotating seat for

Speaking at the 'Summit of the Future' at 79th UN General Assembly, Blinken also put forward the US' idea of two permanent seats for Africa

Small Island Developing States, and permanent representation for Latin America and the Caribbean. In addition to the permanent seats for countries, we've long endorsed Germany,

Japan, and India," he said.

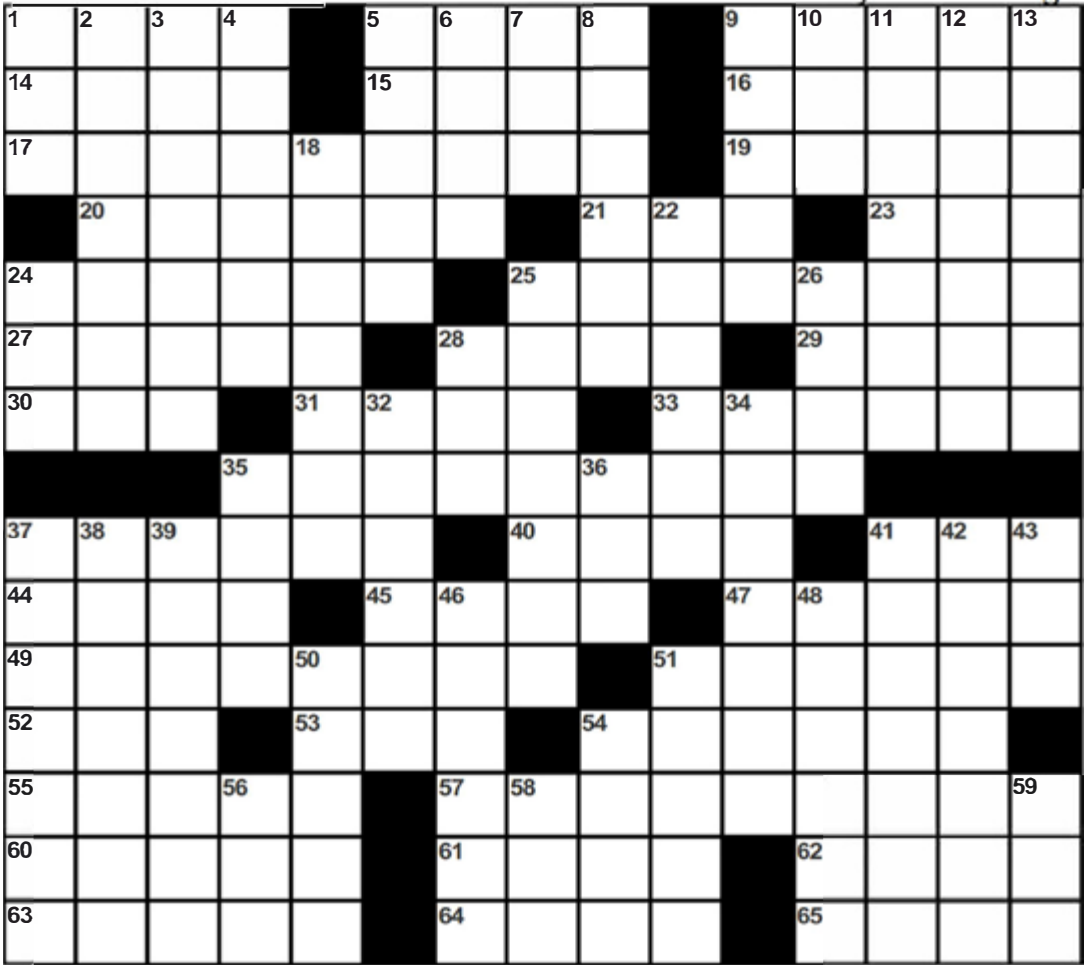
"The United States supports starting negotiations on Council reforms immediately," he added.

Blinken conveyed the US' commitment to adapting the UN system to reflect the current geopolitical situation driving the world. However, he resolutely opposed to any revision of any reformers, which could alter the core principle of the UN Charter.

"The United States is committed to adapting the UN system to reflect this world of today and tomorrow - not the one that existed in 1945 but we are and we will remain resolutely opposed to revisionism."

ANI

DAILY CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- 1) Simple skills
5) On-the-run GI
9) Raced down an icy chute
14) Pile set afire
15) _ fide
16) Atmosphere protector
17) Footwear item for Inspector Gadget?
19) "Chicago" actor Taye
20) Necessitate
21) Chillax
23) Milne young 'un
24) _ d'
25) Ernie's roommate, after gaining lots of weight?
27) About to go under the knife
28) Neighbor of a Malaysian
29) K'Nex alternative
30) Altitudes (Abbr.)
31) Ro Hing rock
33) Chophouse choices
35) Blow up a citadel?
37) Caviar fish
40) "I, Claudius" role
41) NYC hub

- 44) Singer-songwriter
45) Develop
47) Not in the dark
49) Sound from a toddler's toy horn?
51) Actor Brody
52) Highchair wear
53) Put-_ (hoaxes)
54) Twinkling
55) Ferengi, e.g.
57) Stuck-together mass of towel fabric?
60) "Angie" star Davis
61) Latin "Lo!"
62) Classic Welles role
63) Famous car flop
64) Gift for a lover
65) Venue
DOWN
1) Android extra
2) From memory
3) Chums
4) Posted for
5) Activist Hoffman
6) Sheep's clothing?
7) Singer on "Double Fantasy"
8) Land on the Baltic Sea
9) Rustic retreat
10) Commando gun

- 11) Begin recycling, say
12) Fill with blood
13) Antique Chrysler makes
18) Noise blocker
22) Periodical figure
24) Speed abbr.
25) Stuff like that
26) Ink spill result
28) LG products
32) Spanish region
34) For the most part
35) Not at all idle
36) Handful
37) Computing pioneer
Charles
38) Wrote to, without a writing implement
39) Hotel areas
41) Game with cestas
42) San Francisco Bay area city
43) Mattel man
46) List of players
48) Pileups, e.g.
50) Pitch-related
51) Think similarly
54) Parabola parts
56) Chemical suffix
58) Author Umberto
59) Masters prop

NOTE PAD



YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE



ARIES MARCH 21-APRIL 19

If there's a problem happening in your personal life, you're in a good position to take care of it. This almost always starts with asking the other person how they're feeling. Next tell them that you care. Then try to be totally honest with yourself about how you feel and what you're contributing to the problem. Take a little time out. Keep repeating this process until you both feel better. Then hug each other and make up!



LEO JULY 23-AUGUST 22

Why not get started on learning something new today? It could be a new sport or a new language or how to cook if you don't know already. The great thing about learning something new is you don't have to be the one in control. All you have to do is listen to or read the instructions and do your best to follow them. Sure, later it gets harder, but in the beginning you're just taking in information, and that's exactly the right space to be in.



SAGITTARIUS NOVEMBER 22-DECEMBER 21

If you're facing a dilemma right now, turn to someone who has years of experience in the subject that's confusing you. Their insightful intelligence might be greater than their communication skills, so be patient and prepared to ask a lot of questions to clarify what they mean. If nothing is perplexing you at the moment, perhaps you can find someone you can help. Check in with a troubled friend and find out what you can do to cheer them up.



TAURUS APRIL 20-MAY 20

For you, it isn't enough just to get the job done. You want to know that the job you're doing is having a positive impact on the world around you. Take some time to consider whether your effort is meeting this requirement for your happiness. If it isn't, then you might consider a career shift. What about something that involves teaching or community organizing? Or maybe your current job already has or could have these elements.



VIRGO AUGUST 23-SEPTEMBER 22

Blaze your own trail today. Following the rest of the pack will only lead to boredom. No one seems to be up to anything interesting now, so why even pay attention to what they claim is so great? You are the one they should be following. You need to go your own way in order to get any type of stimulation or excitement in your day. Everyone else is too concerned when it comes to risk, and they just don't see things the way you do now.



CAPRICORN DECEMBER 22-JANUARY 19

It never hurts to reexamine how your work helps (or fails to help) your community. After all, you're a very socially sensitive, community-oriented person, and if you are engaged in work that doesn't involve a role in the community, you should probably make some changes. On the other hand, maybe it's a question of perspective. There are few jobs that don't in some way contribute to society as a whole.



GEMINI MAY 21-JUNE 21

Nobody would call you prodigal, but today you might want to focus even more than usual on conservation. Whether it's your energy, your gains, the environment, or all three, today should be dedicated to taking stock and making sure everything is as stable as possible. Later, you can harness this energy for some major moves, but right now, just make sure there aren't any leaks in your bucket.



LIBRA SEPTEMBER 23-OCTOBER 22

You need to stand tall against whatever or whoever intimidates you today. Despite the way they might act from time to time, your boss or some other authority figure in your life isn't any better than you. Equality is something you have the right to assume, so if you're feeling friction with authority figures today, you know something isn't right. Your first urge may be to defend yourself and push back, but you'll get a lot further if you use charm to get them to treat you better.



AQUARIUS JANUARY 20-FEBRUARY 18

The energy today is focused on completion. As things get wrapped up, you'll discover that your upcoming social calendar has a lot of holes in it, but don't fill them up right away. Leave as many gaps as possible, and then call up a friend who's been waiting for a date. While you're at it, get back in touch with a family member who needs an update on your life. It's more important to keep up the connections with the people you love. They are ultimately your rock.



CANCER JUNE 22-JULY 22

Today, you've got to blaze your own trail. Following the rest of the pack will only lead to boredom. No one is up to anything interesting, so why even pay attention to what they claim is so great? You are the one they should be following. You need to go your own way in order to get any type of stimulation or excitement in your day. Everyone else is too concerned when it comes to risk, and they just don't see things the way you do now.



SCORPIO OCTOBER 23-NOVEMBER 21

You've been putting off confronting someone about a difficult issue. It's totally understandable. After all, complicated conversations aren't always fun. But the longer you put it off, the more difficult it will get. Today, don't be wishy-washy. It will be exhilarating and liberating to step up and get this conversation off your chest. It's only once you do that you'll realize just how heavily it was weighing on you.



PISCES FEBRUARY 19-MARCH 20

Keeping secrets might not be one of your strengths. In fact, you might have a serious problem there! You much prefer talking about anything that crosses your mind as soon as it happens by. At the moment, though, one particular secret has gripped your brain and doesn't want to let go. If you feel the need to share it with a close friend, go right ahead. Choose the right friend and you should get the advice of someone smart and caring.



TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

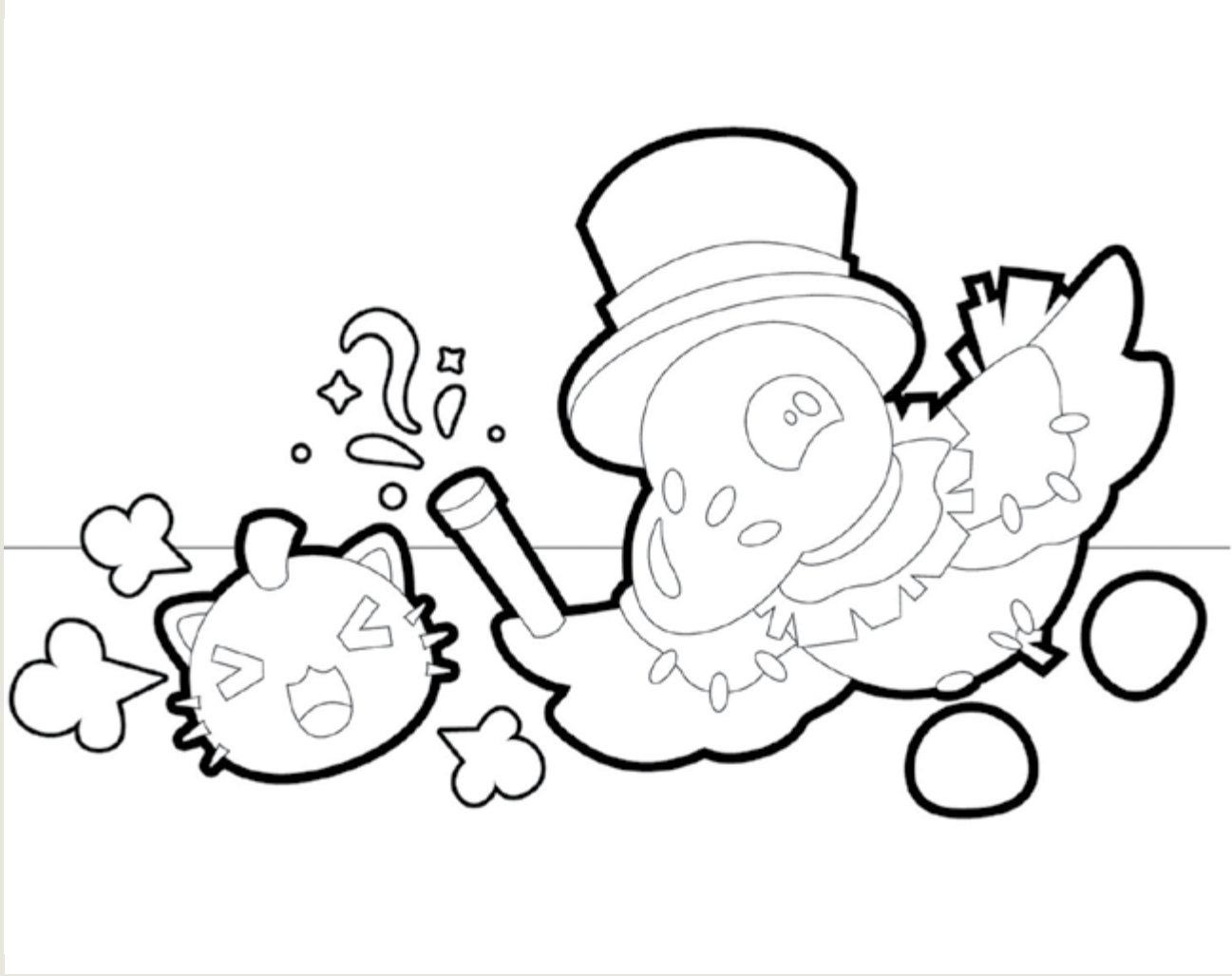
01. Who wrote the influential book "Areopagitica"?
A. Aristotle
B. Plato
C. Sir Philip Sidney
D. John Milton

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

N	T	E	U
R	E	R	O
P	A	E	R
S	E	K	S

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

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

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

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

Coward's move: Wright unhappy as Haaland throws ball at Arsenal's Gabriel

Manchester, England - Former Arsenal great Ian Wright has called Manchester City striker Erling Haaland cowardly for throwing the ball at Gunners' centre back Gabriel Magalhaes during their 2-2 draw in the Premier League at the Etihad Stadium on Sunday.

Haaland threw the ball against the back of Gabriel's head after City's John Stones scored deep in added time to salvage a 2-2 draw with 10-man Arsenal and keep his side top of the table after a rip-roaring battle against their title rivals. An FA spokesperson said the incident involving Haaland and Gabriel was checked by the Video Assistant Referee (VAR) at the time and no further action was deemed necessary.

Arsenal had forward Leandro Trossard sent off for a second yellow card before halftime for kicking the ball away after being penalised for a challenge on Bernardo Silva.

"I just felt like I needed to put something out there which has been bothering me. Because obviously the Trossard sending off - of course, in the



Manchester City's Erling Haaland with Arsenal's Gabriel Magalhaes

moment, you're frustrated," Wright posted on Instagram.

"It's 2-1. And I'm thinking 'Yes, we've got them'. And then we get (a player) sent off for something that, let's face it, is ... foolishness - what they're getting sent off for now. So, in the moment, yeah. Again, you shouldn't be sent off for that."

"But the one thing that boiled me up properly was Haaland's coward's move, bro. I saw it this morning properly. Throwing the ball in Gabi's head when he's not looking. When Gabi's back's turned to him. Real coward's move. Gabi would look him in the eye, you know."

"I'm looking at this as a really good defender vs striker for the years to come, them two. I love watching them two. And then you're doing a coward's move like that ... I thought you was bigger than that, bro. I thought you was bigger than that."

The 24-year-old Norwegian international Haaland, who opened the scoring against Arsenal in the ninth minute, has 10 goals in five league appearances this season.

OMINOUS BLOW

Man City in trouble as Rodri faces lengthy lay-off with knee injury

London, England - Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola is sweating on the next medical bulletin for midfielder Rodri as speculation mounts that the Spaniard faces a lengthy lay-off with a knee injury.

As deep as the quality is within City's squad, some players are just irreplaceable and silky defensive midfielder Rodri fits into that category.

Since joining from Atletico Madrid in 2019, Rodri has played 174 Premier League games for City and has finished on the losing side only 19 times in that period, winning 129.

Tellingly, however, City's chances of losing rise dramatically when he is not anchoring their midfield.

City have lost seven of the 21 Premier League games in which he was absent, a 33 percent loss rate compared to 10.9 percent when he was playing. Last season, City lost three games in the first half of the season without Rodri -- to Wolverhampton Wanderers, Arsenal and Aston Villa -- but none after he returned from injury.

Few players contribute across all areas of the pitch more than



Rodri jarred his knee and fell as he was making a front-post run at a corner while being marshalled by Arsenal's Thomas Partey

City have lost seven of the 21 Premier League games in which he was absent, a 33 percent loss rate compared to 10.9 percent when he was playing. Last season, City lost three games in the first half of the season without Rodri

Rodri, according to the statistics.

Since arriving in England, Rodri has completed more passes in the opposition's half than any other player with only Declan Rice above him in terms of winning back possession.

Put simply, he is the master at winning the ball and then using it quickly to telling effect.

It is a skillset that has made City the dominant force in England and helped Spain rule Europe again.

Only once have a City or Spain national team including Rodri lost in the past 18 months -- City's surprise FA Cup final defeat by Manchester United last season.

No wonder the 28-year-old who scored a healthy 12 goals for club and country last season is being tipped for this year's Ballon d'Or and no wonder why Guardiola looked so fearful when his midfield general limped off in distress early in Sunday's 2-2 draw with title rivals Arsenal.

Rodri had orchestrated a superb opening spell by City in that clash at the Etihad with the hosts dominating and 1-0 ahead when he fell after an innocuous clash with Thomas Partey.

No sooner had he left the field than Arsenal equalised and after going behind City needed a John Stones equaliser eight minutes into stoppage time to avoid a damaging defeat by the 10-man Gunners.

Mateo Kovacic is a like-for-like replacement for Rodri but if, as is feared, Rodri has sustained a potentially season-ending ACL knee injury, the odds on City winning a fifth successive Premier League title will lengthen significantly.

Barca goalkeeper Ter Stegen undergoes surgery, to be out for at least eight months

Barcelona, Spain - Barcelona goalkeeper Marc-Andre ter Stegen has had a successful operation after suffering a rupture of the patella tendon in his right knee, the LaLiga club said on Monday.

The 32-year-old Germany international was injured in Barca's 5-1 LaLiga win at Villarreal on Sunday and is expected to be out for at least eight months, Spanish media reported.

"Ter Stegen has undergone a successful surgical intervention on the patella tendon injury in his right knee by Dr Joan Carles Monllau under the supervision of the Club's Medical Services at Barcelona Hospital," Barcelona said in a statement.

Ter Stegen fell badly after jumping for a ball just before halftime and was visibly in pain as he was carried off the pitch on a stretcher. His weight fell on the right knee on which he had two operations in the 2019-20 and 2020-21 seasons.

Substitute keeper Inaki Pena will fill in for Ter Stegen as Hansi Flick's side face Bayern Munich in the Champions League next month and defending champions Real Madrid in LaLiga. The 25-year-old Pena, who joined Barca's



Marc-Andre ter Stegen is stretchered off the field after suffering a knee injury in Barcelona's 5-1 LaLiga win at Villarreal on Sunday

Substitute keeper Inaki Pena will fill in for Ter Stegen as Hansi Flick's side face Bayern Munich in the Champions League next month

La Masia academy a decade ago, made 17 first-team appearances last season after Ter Stegen sustained another knee injury.

After a promising start deputising last term, with key saves in Barca's 1-0 win over Atletico Madrid and 2-1 victory against Porto, Pena conceded 31

goals in the following 15 matches.

Nagelsmann shocked

Germany head coach Julian Nagelsmann said news of Ter Stegen's serious knee injury came as a major shock.

"The news of Marc's injury was a big shock for us," said Nagelsmann, who has now lost two experienced goalkeepers in a month following Manuel Neuer's international retirement in August. "We will miss him a lot on and off the pitch," Nagelsmann told the German FA (DFB) website on Monday. "We wish Marc all the best ... we will always be there for him on his way back."

Nagelsmann had selected two uncapped keepers, TSG Hoffenheim's Oliver Baumann and VfB Stuttgart's Alexander Nubel, as back-up in Nations League matches against Hungary and Netherlands earlier this month.

De Bruyne should be back from injury soon, says Guardiola

Manchester, England - Manchester City midfielder Kevin De Bruyne should soon return from injury after missing Sunday's Premier League clash at home to Arsenal, manager Pep Guardiola has said.

The 33-year-old suffered a suspected groin problem in the 0-0 draw with Inter Milan in the Champions League on Wednesday.

City next host Championship (second-tier) side Watford in the League Cup third round on Tuesday and travel to Newcastle United in the Premier League at the weekend.

"I don't think it will be long," Guardiola said of De Bruyne's expected return after City's 2-2 draw with Arsenal.

"I cannot say how long for, I don't know for Newcastle but it won't be long. (He has) discomfort in his legs."

De Bruyne was out for four months with a hamstring injury last season but made a memorable comeback at St James' Park with a goal in a 3-2 win over Newcastle in January.

Manchester City top the standings with 13 points after five games.



Kevin De Bruyne suffered a suspected groin problem in Manchester City's 0-0 draw with Inter Milan in the Champions League



Darwin Nunez

'Nunez will always be under pressure to perform'

Liverpool, England - Liverpool's Darwin Nunez must keep his composure and perform consistently as he tries to cope with the pressure of his big money move, captain Virgil van Dijk said ahead of Wednesday's League Cup third round tie at home to West Ham United.

Nunez ended a 14-match goal drought for Liverpool by scoring his first this season in Saturday's

3-0 Premier League home win over Bournemouth, which was his first start of the campaign.

The 25-year-old signed from Benfica two years ago in a club record deal reportedly worth up to 85 million euros (\$94.55 million) and Van Dijk said the pressure is on for the Uruguay international to deliver consistently.

"He started against

Bournemouth and scored a fantastic goal but he might not start the next game," Van Dijk told local media. "We want him to be consistent and keep doing it and doing it when he comes on and (also) when he starts. That's the main thing, don't get dragged into the positivity and then the low of the negativity or you will be dizzy at a certain point."

Last season, Nunez topped

the Premier League for most off-sides (33) and was also the unluckiest in front of goal, hitting the woodwork nine times.

Nunez, who scored 11 goals and had eight assists last term, had the second-highest number of big chances missed (27), trailing only Manchester City's Erling Haaland (34), who won the Golden Boot with 27 goals.

"For him, coming into a club

like Liverpool with the price tag there is always going to be pressure to produce week in, week out and he is trying to do that but it is not always that easy," added Van Dijk. "Now it is time for him to stay calm and I think, in my opinion, he has been doing that much better and the manager is busy with him a lot and us as players and we just have to keep him close to us and keep going."

'ODEGAARD WEEKS AWAY FROM RETURN'

Arsenal manager Arteta does not expect his captain to return before international break in October

London, England - Arsenal captain Martin Odegaard remains weeks away from returning to action after his ankle injury and several other players will also miss Wednesday's League Cup clash at home to Bolton Wanderers, manager Mikel Arteta said on Tuesday.

Odegaard was injured playing for Norway in the international break and Arteta does not expect him to return until October.

"I think it will be a matter of weeks, but how long exactly I cannot tell," the Spaniard said. "We might get a surprise but I think it's unlikely he'll be back before the international break."

The next international window runs from Oct. 7-16 with Arsenal hosting Leicester City and Southampton in the Premier League either side of welcoming Paris St Germain in the Champions League before that.

Arsenal are quickly back in action in their League Cup third-round tie with Bolton after Sunday's gripping 2-2 draw at Manchester City in which they hung on with 10 men for the entire second half but conceded a last-gasp equaliser.

"The team has a desire to compete in any context to win and to adapt. Different competitions and different ways of playing - it is superb," Arteta said on his side's development:

"Happy? No. Because we



Martin Odegaard with Mikel Arteta

wanted to win the three games, but I understand how tough that context is and how difficult it is.

"The things we have to deal with and our own issues with the amount of players we have out. It is a significant improvement and we have to be happy with that."

Several Arsenal players required treatment on the pitch in

the second half with some accusing them of delaying tactics.

"I always prefer the facts to words than supposing things," Arteta said. "Let's see who is available tomorrow and then we can talk about dark arts. Unfortunately, there will be a few players not available. Tomorrow you will find out."

"The team has a desire to compete in any context to win and to adapt. Different competitions and different ways of playing - it is superb"

MIKEL ARTETA

The visit of third-tier Bolton will be an opportunity for some of Arsenal's fringe players to get some playing time with new signing Raheem Sterling likely to start.

"He had a few minutes already. He played in a few games

and Wednesday he has another opportunity," Arteta said of the former Manchester City winger who joined from Chelsea last month. "He is hungry to have more minutes and to impact the team in the way he can."

"We want to win the game," said Arteta. "We have to start with the first game - we have to understand what is the best team we can put out."

It is a "great opportunity for any player to show what they are doing in the games. To transform what they are doing in training and perform on the pitch."



Arne Slot with Trent Alexander-Arnold

Liverpool's Slot grateful for backing of Trent

Liverpool, England - Liverpool coach Arne Slot said it was nice to have the trust of Trent Alexander-Arnold, who has been at the club since he was a child, as he tries to fill the shoes of the beloved former manager Jurgen Klopp.

Alexander-Arnold, who has made 231 Premier League appearances for Liverpool, had praised Slot's coaching at the weekend, saying he welcomed criticism from the Dutchman.

"I think we all remember the day that Jurgen left and what that man meant to him... so to hear him say this about his new manager is always nice," Slot told reporters on Tuesday ahead of Wednesday's League Cup third round clash with West Ham United.

"It's not always easy to come in and replace a manager like (Klopp)," he added. Slot said he wanted to field the strongest team against West Ham as Liverpool look to defend the trophy.

Top players are overloaded with the packed schedule, says Ten Hag

Manchester, England - The best players have been overloaded due to a packed fixture calendar leaving them prone to injury, Manchester United manager Erik ten Hag said ahead of the Old Trafford side's Europa League opener against his boyhood club Twente on Wednesday.

Last season, England recorded the highest number of domestic back-to-back matches, 87, among top European leagues, with Premier League clubs averaging the shortest recovery time between games at 67.3 hours.

Manchester United experienced the shortest turnaround between matches in November



Erik ten Hag

last year, when they beat Fulham in the Premier League 64 hours and 15 minutes after losing to Newcastle United in the League Cup.

"There are too many games - the top players are overloaded. It

is not good for football. Maybe it is good for commercial (reasons)," Dutchman Ten Hag told reporters on Tuesday.

"There is a limit and players are getting injuries. It is almost unavoidable because of the overload of so many games... We are professionals and revenues have to come, but we have to balance this out."

All three European club competitions have been expanded to 36 teams this season with Manchester City midfielder Rodri having said the players could be close to strike action over the amount of games they are required to play.

Inter's Barella out with thigh injury

Milan, Italy - Inter Milan midfielder Nicolò Barella is out with a thigh injury, the Serie A side said on Tuesday, and will miss at least the next two games for the Italian champions.

Inter released a fitness update on the Italian star through their official website: "Nicolò Barella underwent clinical examinations this morning at the Humanitas Institute in Rozzano. The midfielder has a strain in the rectus femoris of his right thigh. His condition will be reassessed next week," the defending Serie A champions said.

Inter, sixth in the standings with eight points from five matches, visit Udinese on Saturday, before hosting Red Star Bel-



Nicolò Barella was the star of the show for Inter in their goalless draw against Manchester City in the Champions League

grade in a Champions League clash on Tuesday.

According to Sky Sport Italia, Barella, who was the star of the show for Inter in their goalless draw against Manchester City in the Champions League, will miss the games against Udinese, Red Star Belgrade and Torino, returning to action after the international break. The 27-year-old Italy international, who has made 175 league appearances for Inter, was subbed off in the second half of Inter's 2-1 loss to Milan on Sunday night.

An EURO 2020 winner with the Italy national team, the ex-Cagliari midfielder has ten goals in 57 international appearances with the Azzurri.

CLASSIFIEDS

SITUATION WANTED

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

SEND YOUR REQUEST FOR

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

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 therapy & 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

BIRTHDAY WISHES

CHRISTTO JOBIN

Wishing our sweet heart a very Happy Birthday!
Jobin & Jiji

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 1 6 8 3 5
Girish Sewani - 93893596

WJ Towell Group Company

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

NO FAIRYTALE ENDING, BUT RICCIARDO PROUD

Singapore Grand Prix may have been the Australian driver’s last appearance in Formula One

Singapore - RB principal Laurent Mekies has fuelled speculation that Sunday’s Singapore Grand Prix was Daniel Ricciardo’s Formula One farewell by saying it was the reason the team gave the Australian a chance to set fastest lap.

“Given this may have been Daniel’s last race, we wanted to give him the chance to savour it and go out with the fastest lap,” he said.

That lap, at the end of the race, was understandable if controversial as it denied McLaren’s title contender and race winner Lando Norris a point in the battle with Red Bull’s Max Verstappen.

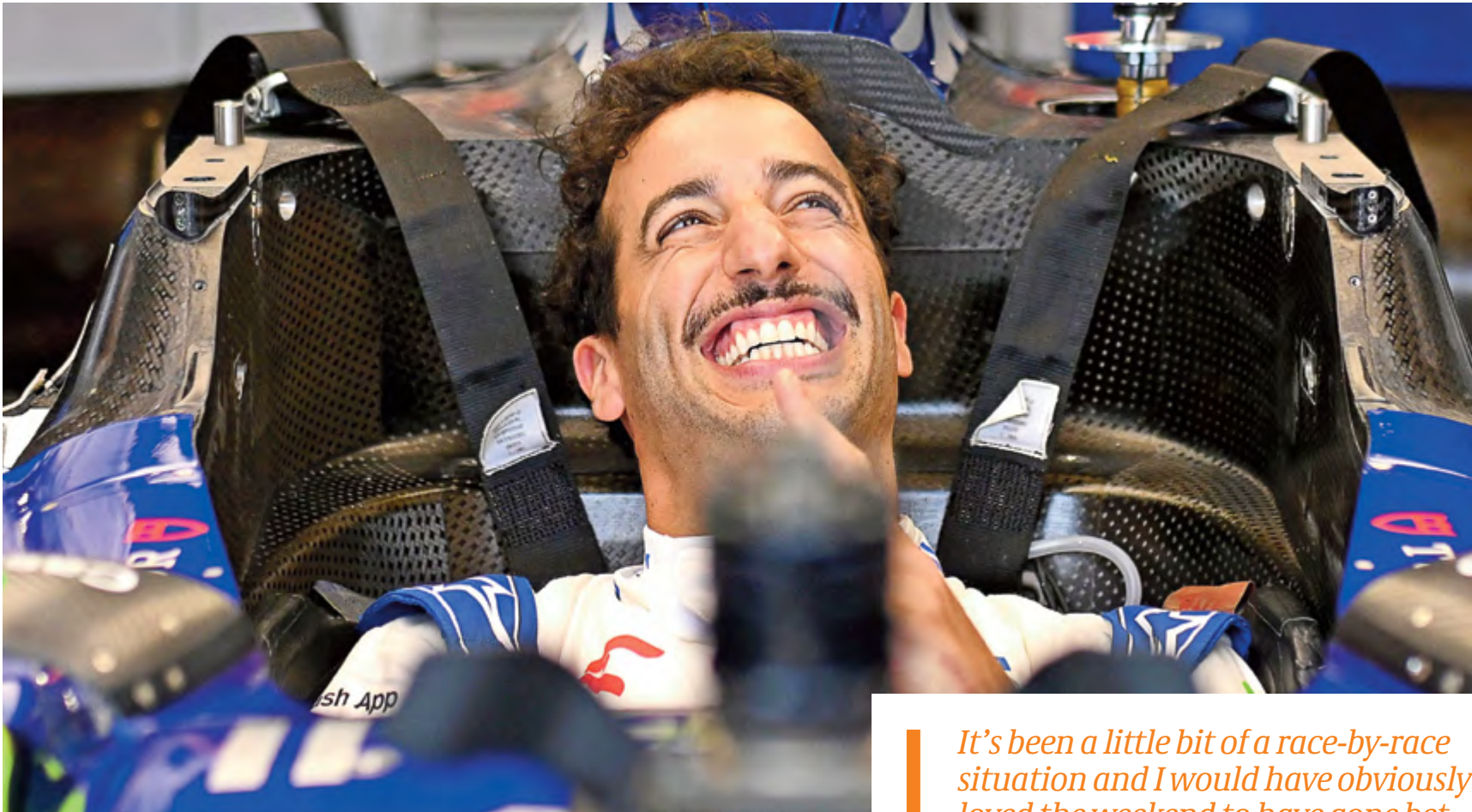
It meant Verstappen left Singapore 52 points ahead rather than 51.

The drivers for Red Bull and sister team RB are all under contract to the energy drink company, owners of both outfits.

Former McLaren driver Ricciardo was 18th so did not benefit from the extra point, which can only be taken by a driver finishing in the top 10.

Referring to his fastest lap attempt, Ricciardo said: “It was maybe just to have one last crack at doing a fast one, if it is to be it.”

Pushed on whether that meant Singapore may have been his last Grand Prix, Ricciardo replied: “Possibly, I have to acknowledge that. It’s been a little bit of a race-by-race situation and I would have obviously loved the weekend to have gone better. It



Daniel Ricciardo

didn’t, so I have to be prepared for this maybe being it.

“I put my best foot forward and maybe the fairytale ending didn’t happen, but I also have to look back on what it’s been, 13 or so years. I’m proud.”

Verstappen thanked Ricciardo after the race for the assistance.

McLaren boss Andrea Stella was clearly unhappy with the sit-

uation but stopped short of accusing rivals of collusion.

“At no point do I have elements now to say Racing Bulls went for the fastest lap to support Red Bull, I just find it a little peculiar. I did not see it coming,” said the Italian.

“I was a little surprised that the highest priority of Racing Bull’s racing in Singapore was to go and

score the fastest lap of the race.

“At the same time, I have so much sympathy, support and friendship with Daniel that I’m just happy that he may add this fastest lap to his track record.”

Red Bull boss Christian Horner said Ricciardo “obviously wanted to finish the race on a high”.

The Australian is now expected to make way for New

It’s been a little bit of a race-by-race situation and I would have obviously loved the weekend to have gone better. It didn’t, so I have to be prepared for this maybe being it.

DANIEL RICCIARDO

Zealander Liam Lawson.

“We’ve now got a period of time where we’ll evaluate all of the relative performances of all of the drivers. It’s a natural break in the season to reflect on that,” said Horner.

“There’s a bigger picture obviously beyond Daniel so he’s just one part of the jigsaw. I think that we know Daniel very well, we know what he’s capable of, how he drives a car so we have that knowledge.”



Christian Horner

We’ve understood some of the issues with the car, says Red Bull’s Horner

London, England - Formula One champions Red Bull hope to pick up the pace over the last six rounds of the season after Max Verstappen emerged stronger than expected from back-to-back street races in Azerbaijan and Singapore, team boss Christian Horner said.

The triple world champion, who will be 27 next week, had his advantage over McLaren’s Lando Norris cut from 62 points after the Italian GP at Monza on Sept. 1 to a current 52.

The season now has a four-week lull before a U.S.-Mexico-Brazil sequence starting in Austin, Texas, on Oct. 20, followed by another final triple-header of Las Vegas-Qatar-Abu Dhabi.

“I think we’ve got a vein of development and I think we’ve understood some of the issues with the car. I think we’re starting to address them,” Horner told reporters after Verstappen finished a distant second to Norris in Singapore.

“We were better in Baku, we were better here.”

Verstappen finished fifth in Baku after sixth at Monza, a result that equalled Monaco in May as his worst of the season so far but could have been far worse.

The Dutch driver won all six of the remaining races last year, the most dominant season the sport has seen, and Horner felt the team were on the right path despite McLaren taking a 41-point lead in the constructors’ standings.

Shang stuns Musetti to win Chengdu title

Chengdu, China - Teenager Shang Juncheng beat Italy’s Olympic bronze medallist Lorenzo Musetti 7-6(4) 6-1 in the Chengdu Open final on Tuesday to become the second ever Chinese player to win an ATP title.

The key to Shang’s victory against Musetti was how quickly he recovered from the disappointment of being broken when serving for the first set at 6-5. He held firm in the subsequent tie-

break to move ahead and then unleashed a series of stunning winners across the second set to accelerate to an ultimately commanding victory.

It is the first ATP Tour title for Shang, who is currently China’s number two and ranked 55 in the world. The former Juniors number one is also the youngest ATP winner of the season at 19-years-old.

Li Na remains China’s most

successful singles player with Grand Slam wins at the French Open in 2011 and the Australian Open in 2014, while there are several women hoping to emulate her including Paris Olympics gold medallist Zheng Qinwen.

But success on the men’s side has largely eluded the nation, and Wu Yibing became the first Chinese player to capture an ATP trophy when he won the Dallas Open last year.

Cilic champion

Marin Cilic overcame Chinese star Zhang Zhizhen 7-6(5), 7-6(5) on Tuesday at the Hangzhou Open to clinch his first tour-level title since 2021.

The 35-year-old wild card arrived in Chengdu at No. 777 in the rankings. However, He looked sharp throughout his run, dropping just two sets to become the lowest-ranked champion since 1990 in the ATP Tour history.



Shang Juncheng



شاليجان أوتو
CHANGAN AUTO

ALSVIN

THE NEW EXQUISITE FAMILY SEDAN



1.5L Engine, 105 hp | 5-speed DCT

Super Warranty - 6 YEARS / 250,000 KMS*



Electric Sunroof



7" Infotainment Touch Screen



Amazing Boot Space



Rear View Camera & Rear Parking Sensors



Cruise Control



Hill Hold Control

*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 : Qarun 94641010, Mawaleh 97888180
Sohar 95351200, Salalah 96629050, Ibril 96628930

Sales Centers : Nizwa 96628940, Berka 96629010, Sur 96628920

800 508009
9662 8909

www.changanoman.com



Emma Raducanu

Raducanu pulls out of China Open

Seoul, South Korea - Former U.S. Open champion Emma Raducanu became the latest high-profile player to withdraw from the China Open after the Briton said she was skipping the WTA 1000 tournament due to a foot injury.

Raducanu has struggled with injuries since capturing the New York title in 2021 and spent most of last season recovering from ankle and wrist surgeries.

The 21-year-old, who has since climbed to 54th in the world, sustained her latest setback in the Korea Open quarter-finals on Saturday while playing Daria Kasatkina.

“I sprained some ligaments in my foot which unfortunately need some more time to heal,” Raducanu said on Monday.

“It means I can’t play in Beijing but I hope to be back competing as soon as I can.”

Preston’s Osmajic faces Ban as FA investigates biting incident

Preston, England - The Football Association (FA) said it will look into allegations that Preston North End forward Milutin Osmajic bit Blackburn Rovers defender Owen Beck during their Championship match on Sunday.

The alleged incident occurred as the players tussled after on-loan Liverpool defender Beck was sent off for kicking out at an opponent in the 89th minute of the goalless draw.

Osmajic received a yellow card following the incident.

“He’s got a big bite mark on the back of his neck,” Blackburn head coach John Eustace said after the match.

“It’s a very serious incident, nobody likes to be bitten. Everyone is angry about it. It’s not a nice situation to be in. I’m sure the right people will see it and deal with it.”

The FA said in an emailed statement: “We’re aware of this incident and will be looking into it.”

Preston manager Paul Heckingbottom said he had not seen the incident.

“All I can say is that there is no place for that and we know we can’t do that,” Heckingbottom



Preston North End’s Milutin Osmajic tussles with Blackburn Rovers’ Owen Beck during their Championship match on Sunday

It’s a very serious incident, nobody likes to be bitten. Everyone is angry about it. It’s not a nice situation to be in. I’m sure the right people will see it and deal with it.

JOHN EUSTACE

added.

“Mistimed tackles, things like that are part and parcel of the game, you accept them.

Anything that is not, we know

how that’s dealt with.”

In 2013 the FA banned Luis Suarez for 10 matches after the Liverpool forward bit Chelsea defender Branislav Ivanovic.

LE CIEL EST BLEU

NOD TO THE 60S

The London Fashion Week (held between September 12-17) accorded a nod to the 'Swinging Sixties' by Irish designer and LFW veteran Paul Costelloe and Turkish designer Bora Aksu.

The 1960s-style Mod dresses and workwear in pastel linens, floral silk jacquards, and understated tweeds abounded in Costelloe's Spring/Summer collection, 'Le ciel est bleu'.

The once-private stylist for Princess Diana presented his 'ode to Paris' - 40 years after showing at the first ever LFW in 1984 - in a call back to his fashion beginnings working as a design assistant in the French capital. In a modern twist to the outfits with his debut hosiery line, Costelloe paired trending long striped socks with stilettos.

Speaking to the Irish Independent newspaper ahead of the show, Costelloe said the hybrid look was 'akin to Emily in Paris', the hit Netflix series starring Lily Collins, whose character Emily Cooper's experimental fashion

choices have split opinions among viewers.

A short walk away from Costelloe's Parisian-inspired runway, models at the Bora Aksu show strutted through a sun-drenched rose garden in a central London churchyard, draped in layers of sheer, delicate fabric. Pastel colourways and floral patterns alongside polka dots and bows recalled the traditional roots of the trendy 'coquette' aesthetic.

Outfits with intricate lacework, tailored jackets, and light knitwear were completed with cat-eye sunglasses and vintage hairdos piled high. The slim, layered silhouettes were a 'nod to the 60s', Aksu said backstage after the show, along with sunglasses and pearl earrings - favourites of his late Turkish mother to whom the show was dedicated.

"You know, they have that femininity, and that coquette look, but they're still quite strong," Aksu explained, describing his mother as an independent working woman who explored her in-



THE LONDON FASHION WEEK 2024 REVISITED THE SOBER OUTFITS OF THE 60S WITH A MODERN TWIST TO FORMALWEAR AND WORKWEAR

dividual style through creating her own clothes.

Greek designer Dimitra Petsa (Di Petsa), meanwhile, travelled further back in time to ancient Greek mythology with her 'My Body is a Labyrinth' collection, inspired by the myth of Theseus and Princess Ariadne and celebrating feminine pleasure and summer nostalgia.

Wet-look dresses and jumpsuits, seen notably on actress Zendaya, hugged the models adorned with barely-there chest jewels and fishing nets. Mermaids and sea gods seemed to emerge from the waters with wet hair and sunburnt skin, in immaculate asymmetrical swimsuits and cut-out tops, mixed with more straightforward red or electric-blue pieces and colourful flip-flops.

For the show's finale, the models linked together with a long red thread, recalling the spool Ariadne gave to Theseus to help him find his way through the labyrinth. (Courtesy: vogue.com)

PRESENTING
THE POTENTIAL
CHAMPIONS...

Are you the one?

The evaluation process for 27 categories is currently on...

Abbas Al Rizaiqi

Abdullah Mohammed Said Salim Al Hamdani

Abdullah Said Al Shereiqi

Abdulrahim Al Balushi

Abdul Rahim Khamis Al Qasmi

Abdulrahman Al Hatmi

Abul Aziz Al Balushi

Adil Al Balushi

Adil Al Saadi

Adnan Al Kalbani

Ahlam Al Hadabi

Ahlam Yousif Al Busaidi

Ahmad Saleh Khalfan Al Hasani

Ahmed Al Balushi

Ahmed Ali Taeab Al Balushi

Ahmed Al Saifi

Ahmed Darweesh Sabeel Al Balushi

Ahmed Khalid Al Busaidi

Ahmed Said Al Hasani

Aiman Al Zadjali

Alaa Auladthani

Alanood Al Salami

Ali Ahmed Abdul Rasool Al Lawati

Ali Al Alawi

Ali Al Wahabi

Amani Al Haddabi

Ammar Yasir Mubarak Al Harthi

Amran Juma Haikal Al Balushi

Anas Al Siyabi

Asad Nasser Salim Al Salti

Azza Al Naamani

Badar Al Saghir Ali Al Amri

Danyal Al Balushi

Esraa Ibrahim Al Raiisi

Fahad Mustafa Haider Al Zadjali

Fahad Rashid Al Fahdi

Faisal Al Balushi

Faisal Al Farsi

Faisal Al Kindi

Faiza Al Balushi

Fareed Al Balushi

Fatma Al Balushi

Ghaida Al Mashari

Hadeel Al Harthy

Halima Al Zadjali

Hamad Khamis Hamad Al Harbi

Hamood Al Balushi

Hani Al Hasani

Hassan Salim Hilal Al Daghari

Hilal Al Husaini

Hood Al Balushi

Huda Abdullah Rabee Al Busaidi

Humaid Khalifa Abdullah Al Fahdi

Hussain Salim Mohammed Al Zakwani

Hussam Ahmed Abdullah Al Nabhani

Ibrahim Al Ajmi

Ibrahim Al Battashi

Israa Mohamed Al Fouri

Issa Al Salhi

Issam Moulla Baksh

Jamila Al Ghammari

Jawaheer Al Shihi

Jawaheer Jallab Ismail Al Balushi

Junaid Al Balushi

Khaled Al Siyabi

Khalfan Al-Bloushi

Khatoon Al Balushi

Khawla Al Shoukri

Khuwaileed Salim Al Qaidhi

Latifa Al Kumzari

Mahfoodha Moosa Al Zedjali

Mahir Al Balushi

Mahmood AL Zadjali

Majad Khalfan Abied Al Suti

Malik Al Kharusi

Malik Saud Saif Al Fahdi

Marwa Ibrahim Moosa Al Balushi

Marwan Saleh Juma Rashid Al Habsi

Maryam Al Nabhani

Masooma Hassan Al Balushi

Mazin Al Balushi

Mithaa Al Gheilani

Mohamed Al Zadjali

Mohammed Al Hasani

Mohammed Al Jabri

Mohammed Al Riyami

Mohammed Al Ruqaishi

Mohammed Humaid Said Al Najadi

Mohammed Suhail Al Busaidi

Mohsin Al Ghabri

Mouaid Al Zadjali

Moza Sulaiman Al Hinai

Muatasam Al Balushi

Muhannad Al Saifi

Muhanned Al Arini

Muhanned Ali Mustafa Khamis Al Bulushi

Mulham Rashid Al Baidi

Mundhir Al Mahrizi

Mustafa Al Owaimar

Nabel Al Balushi

Nabil Juma Najman Al Balushi

Nabil Mohammed Miran Al Zadjali

Nabras Al Balushi

Najwa Thani Al Mushaifri

Nasr Nasser Mohamed Al Nadabi

Nasser Al Saadi

Nassr Said Al Zakwani

Nawaf Al Balushi

Nawras Al Jabri

Omran Abdul Rahman Char Shambah Al Balushi

Ossaid Al Zadjali

Rasheed Al Awadi

Riaz Char Shambah

Salah Darwish Al Balushi

Saleh Al Balushi

Saleh Al Ghatrifi

Salim Al Waheibi

Sami Al Riyami

Samiya Al Muhaidhri

Saud Hilal Abdullah Siddiq Al Uraimi

Saud Mohammed Said Al Mahri

Shahab Shabib Al Zadjali

Sheikha Hilal Said Al Farsi

Sulaiman Al Balushi

Suleyman Hamdani

Talib Al Mamari

Tarik Ziyad Al Riyami

Tariq Mohammed Said Al Khathiri

Waad Ali Saleh Al Ajmi

Warda Saif Al Wardi

Yaqoob Juma Mubarak Al Balushi

Yousef Obaid Al Jafary

Zahir Ali Al Balushi

Zahwa Al Rahbi

Zubair Shaukat Ali Al Balushi

THE OMAN ANNUAL
HOSPITALITY
CHAMPIONS
2024
OMAN HAS
talent

apex media
PRESENTS
HOSPITALITY
Champions
RECOGNISING OMANI TALENT

AN NHI & APEX MEDIA
PARTNERSHIP

AL BALUJAT RESORT
SALALAH
BY HILTON

AL BURJAN PALACE
A REXOS COLLECTION HOTEL

ALILA

aloft
HOTELS

AL SIRAJ
HOSPITALITY & RESORTS

ANANTARA
AL JARAL AL HABSIAN
RESORT

فندق أوتو
OTU HOTEL

بارسلو
Mussanah
Resort

فندق المجدى
Majdi Hotel

CROWNE PLAZA
AL BAHJ
MUSCAT

CROWNE PLAZA
AL BAHJ
MUSCAT

CROWNE PLAZA
AL BAHJ
MUSCAT

DOUBLETREE
by Hilton

AL BALUJAT RESORT
SALALAH
BY HILTON

Hilton
Garden Inn

فندق المجدى
Majdi Hotel

HORMUZ
GRAND
A REXOS COLLECTION HOTEL

INTERCONTINENTAL
MUSCAT

Jumeirah
MUSCAT BAY
OMAN

JW MARRIOTT

Kempinski Hotel
Muscat
MEMBERSHIP BY DESIGN

فندق المجدى
Majdi Hotel

فندق المجدى
Majdi Hotel

ROYAL TULIP
AL BAHJ
MUSCAT

SHERATON
Oman

THE CHEDI
MUSCAT, OMAN

W
MUSCAT

MUSCAT DAILY

Executive Chairman & Editor-in-Chief
Saleh Zakwani
Apex Press and Publishing.
Printed at Apex Printing Press, Jiffnain

PO Box 2616, Ruwi 112, Muscat,
Sultanate of Oman
Tel: +968 24799388.
Toll Free No. 80076000

EDITORIAL
Mohammad Najmuz Zafar
Tel: +968 24799388
Email: muscatdaily@apexmedia.com

ADVERTISING
Sajir CP
Mobile: +968 99474314
Email: sajir@apexmedia.com

SUBSCRIPTION
Toll Free No. 80076000
Email: customercare@apexmedia.com
Annual subscription offer: RO24

DISTRIBUTION
Shamshad Khan
Toll Free No. 80076000
Email: shamshad@apexmedia.com

INTERVIEW

SAJAN JOHN, MANAGING DIRECTOR, DSV AIR & SEA OMAN

Driving logistics innovation and sustainability

Our Correspondent
Muscat

DSV Air & Sea is a global leader in transport and logistics services, providing end-to-end solutions to businesses worldwide. In this interview, Sajan John, Managing Director of DSV Air & Sea Oman, shares insights into the company's journey in Oman, its strategic role in the Middle East, and the company's plans for future expansion in alignment with Oman's long-term economic vision.

How many years has DSV been operating in the Omani market, and how has the journey evolved over time in terms of operations and presence?

DSV has been a key player in the Omani logistics market for several years, with its journey marked by consistent growth and adaptation to the local business environment. Since establishing its presence in Oman, DSV has evolved from offering basic freight forwarding services to providing comprehensive logistics and supply chain solutions.

The company has steadily expanded its operations, including the development of state-of-the-art warehousing facilities and integrated transport services that cater to the dynamic needs of Omani businesses. Over time, DSV has cemented its reputation as a reliable logistics partner, helping to drive efficiency and support the growth of various industries in Oman.

Could you elaborate on DSV's presence across the Middle East? How does Oman fit into your regional strategy?

DSV's footprint extends across the Middle East, with a strong presence in key markets such as the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and Bahrain. Oman plays a strategic role in DSV's regional operations due to its advantageous geographical location, serving as a gateway between the East and the

West. Oman's well-developed port infrastructure, including the Ports of Salalah and Sohar, provides DSV with critical access points for regional and global trade. Within the context of DSV's Middle East strategy, Oman is not just a transit hub but also a vital market with significant growth potential, particularly in sectors like oil and gas, manufacturing, and retail.

Can you outline the range of solutions DSV offers to clients in Oman? Which industries does DSV primarily serve in Oman?

DSV offers a wide array of logistics and supply chain solutions tailored to meet the needs of its clients in Oman. These services include international freight forwarding, customs brokerage, warehousing and distribution, supply chain management, and specialised project logistics. DSV's solutions are designed to be flexible and scalable, catering to both small businesses and large enterprises.

In Oman, DSV primarily serves industries such as oil and gas, retail, manufacturing, automotive, and consumer goods. By providing end-to-end logistics support, DSV helps these industries streamline their operations, reduce costs, and improve supply chain efficiency.

How do you perceive Oman's role in the global logistics landscape, and how does DSV contribute to enhancing this position?

Oman is increasingly becoming a critical player in the global logistics landscape, thanks to its strategic location, world-class infrastructure, and investor-friendly policies. The country's emphasis on developing logistics as a key economic sector aligns perfectly with DSV's global vision. DSV contributes to enhancing Oman's position by leveraging its global network, advanced technology, and industry expertise to offer seamless logistics solutions that connect Oman to major global markets. By facilitating efficient and reliable trade flows, DSV



Oman plays a strategic role in DSV's regional operations due to its advantageous geographical location, serving as a gateway between the East and the West. The sultanate's well-developed port infrastructure provides DSV with critical access points for regional and global trade.

SAJAN JOHN

plays a pivotal role in supporting Oman's aspirations to be a leading logistics hub in the region.

What cutting-edge technologies or systems does DSV utilise to streamline operations and enhance efficiency and customer experience?

At DSV, innovation is at the heart of our operations. A key element of DSV's success in the Middle East is its investment in advanced technologies. Our state-of-the-art systems for real-time tracking, predictive analytics, and IoT-enabled devices enhance visibility and security throughout the

supply chain. By adopting new technologies, DSV streamlines operations, reduces manual labour, and increases efficiency. This commitment ensures that clients receive reliable, timely, and cost-effective logistics solutions. For example, predictive maintenance helps foresee potential equipment failures before they happen, minimising downtime and keeping operations smooth. Additionally, we utilise automated warehousing systems and AI-driven analytics to optimise supply chain efficiency.

How does DSV ensure that its clients in Oman receive

reliable, timely, and cost-effective logistics solutions?

DSV's success in Oman is built on a foundation of reliability, timeliness, and cost-effectiveness. We achieve this through meticulous planning, robust infrastructure, and a deep understanding of the local market. Our operations are supported by a dedicated team of logistics professionals who work closely with clients to tailor solutions that meet their specific requirements. We also leverage our global network to provide competitive pricing and ensure that our services are delivered on time, every time. Through continuous improvement and a customer-centric approach, DSV remains committed to providing unparalleled logistics solutions in Oman.

With Oman's strategy for a sustainable future and its net-zero target by 2050, how is DSV aligning with this vision? Could you share some of the initiatives DSV has undertaken in

sustainability and environmental impact reduction?

As Oman embarks on its journey towards a sustainable future with a net-zero target by 2050, DSV is fully aligned with these ambitions. Sustainability is a core component of DSV's global strategy, and we are actively implementing initiatives to reduce our environmental impact. In Oman, this includes optimising our supply chain operations to minimise carbon emissions, investing in energy-efficient technologies, and adopting sustainable practices in our warehousing and transportation services. We are also exploring partnerships and initiatives that promote green logistics and support Oman's broader environmental goals. By integrating sustainability into our operations, DSV is helping to build a greener future for Oman.

What are DSV's plans for future growth and expansion in Oman? Which factors do you believe will be key drivers for DSV's continued success in this market?

Looking ahead, DSV has ambitious plans for further growth and expansion in Oman. We see significant opportunities in expanding our service offerings, particularly in areas such as e-commerce logistics, cold chain solutions, and value-added services. Key drivers for our continued success in the Omani market include the country's strategic location, ongoing infrastructure developments, and the increasing demand for sophisticated logistics solutions driven by economic diversification. DSV is committed to investing in new technologies, expanding our local presence, and building long-term partnerships to ensure that we remain at the forefront of Oman's logistics industry. As we continue to grow, our focus will be on delivering innovative, efficient, and sustainable solutions that meet the evolving needs of our clients in Oman.

DSV Air & Sea: Shaping the future of logistics

With a history dating back to 1976, DSV Air & Sea has grown to become one of the world's leading players in the transport and logistics industry, delivering excellence through a vast network of offices and logistics facilities in more than 80 countries.

DSV is committed to offering innovative and sustainable logistics solutions, encompassing air, sea, and road freight, as well as warehousing, distribution, and customs services. As part of its unwavering commitment to a greener and more sustainable future, DSV has set an ambitious goal of achieving net-zero emissions by 2050.

The company is investing in eco-friendly technologies, optimising its supply chain, and actively reducing its carbon footprint to contribute to a more sustainable and environmentally responsible world.

As a global leader in the logistics sector, DSV has consistently embraced both sustainability and technological innovation to stay ahead of the evolving demands of the modern supply chain. The company's forward-thinking strategies have positioned it as a pioneer, blending eco-conscious practices with cutting-edge technological solutions to deliver more efficient and environmentally responsible logistics services.



Future of logistics

Looking ahead, DSV's strategic focus on AI-driven automation and sustainable practices will continue to shape the future of logistics. The company's collaboration with tech innovators and startups underscores its mission to remain at the forefront of digital logistics solutions. Through investments in technologies like semi-autonomous trucks, Internet of Things (IoT) devices for tracking, and predictive analytics, DSV is addressing key challenges such as driver shortages, warehouse

efficiency, and emissions reduction.

With its visionary approach, DSV is setting new benchmarks for operational efficiency while ensuring that sustainability is woven into the logistics industry's future. These efforts reaffirm DSV's leadership in creating a smarter, greener, and more resilient global supply chain.

Driving sustainable innovation

With the transport and logistics industry responsible for 23% of

global CO2 emissions, DSV has made it a priority to integrate sustainable practices into every step of its operations. By optimising energy consumption, reducing emissions, and adopting greener transportation options, DSV is leading the charge for sustainability. Its commitment to carbon-neutral operations is supported by initiatives such as eco-friendly warehouses and partnerships with transportation providers who share its commitment to reducing emissions.

One of DSV's most innova-

tive projects involves the use of autonomous drones for warehouse operations. These drones help automate stock-taking, improve operational efficiency, and reduce human error, ultimately contributing to a more streamlined and environmentally friendly logistics process.

Harnessing technology for greater efficiency

At the core of DSV's digital transformation is myDSV, the company's integrated digital platform. myDSV provides cus-

tomers with real-time access to their logistics operations, enabling greater control, visibility, and efficiency across the supply chain. Customers can manage bookings, track shipments, and access critical insights - all within one platform. This not only improves operational transparency but also allows for better decision-making, especially when paired with predictive data analytics tools that help forecast trends and optimise inventory management.

Additionally, EDC (Elec-

tronic Data Capture) plays a pivotal role in ensuring smooth and efficient supply chain operations. EDC enables customers to manage and control their purchase orders effectively, providing real-time updates and ensuring accurate order fulfillment. With such systems in place, DSV empowers its clients to streamline their operations, reduce lead times, and minimise the risks associated with supply chain disruptions.

The company's Innovation Hub further propels digital transformation. The implementation of AI and machine learning has revolutionised DSV's logistics processes by automating routine tasks, analysing real-time data, and optimising routes to reduce unnecessary mileage and resource consumption.

DSV's efforts in innovation are evident in projects like Blockchain integration, cross-border eCommerce, and Ocean Visibility initiatives. These solutions aim to enhance transparency, streamline customs processes, and improve the overall customer experience. Blockchain ensures secure, transparent transactions across the supply chain, while Ocean Visibility solutions give customers real-time insights into shipment locations, estimated arrival times (ETA), and temperature control during transit.

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



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



EVERYONE IS A WINNER

(32,000+ SCRATCH & WIN PRIZES)

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

Images shown for illustrative purposes only.

Promotion available only in selected outlets in Oman.